

Lake Mills Graphic



VOL. 153, No. 24

LAKE MILLS, IOWA 50450

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

\$1.25



Winnebago County Extension kicks off with summer workshops



Winnebago County ISU Extension kicked off their summer workshops with a Barn Quilt workshop, June 1.



The Extension held a flower bucket workshop, June 3. 4-H members learned how to plant flowers, decorate buckets, and care for the finished projects.



A flower wreath workshop was held at the Extension Office, June 4. Laurie Rygh volunteered her time and creative talents for these 4-H members.

This is just the beginning of an exciting summer full of creativity and community. Upcoming workshops include a Yarn Workshop and a Patriotic Workshop, Tuesday, June 17; Crochet for Beginners, Wednesday, June 18; Doormat Workshop, June 26; and Exploring Art, June 30. Contact the Extension Office at 641-584-2261 for more information on how to sign up.



LMHS Music Awards presented in May

The LMHS Band and Chorus presented awards at their concert held early in May. The LMHS Band and Chorus programs award students for involvement in classroom ensembles and special events beyond the classroom. Earning a letter is the entry-level award given for eight semesters of participation, or the equivalent number of points and additional involvement, such as leadership roles, honor bands, and honor choirs. 2025 Music Letter Award winners are pictured above, front row (L-R): Brynna Mannes, Gabby Brandenburg, Alondra Perez-Rentas, Reagan Ham, and Alise Wallin. Back row: Christopher Bloedel, Damian Villela, Jaeron Bendickson, Aher Reese, and Kaden Lee.

Fine Arts Guild Awards—This year the Lake Mills Fine Arts Guild awarded four students \$250 each to pursue their interests in the fine arts. The Fine Arts Guild strives to encourage students in their artistic pursuits including music, visual art, and drama. 2025 Fine Arts Guild Award winners are pictured below (L-R): Lane Rygh, Gracie Pederson, Gabby Brandenburg, and Kaylie Sylvara.



Lake Mills Public Library Reader of the Month

BY KIM BRACKEY, DIRECTOR
LAKE MILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Lake Mills Graphic, The Globe Gazette, The Albert Lea Tribune, The Des Moines Register . . . you name it, this month's "Reader of the Month" reads it. I'm honored to introduce you to, not only our June Reader of the Month, but also my mother-in-law, Shirley Brackey.

I've tried to highlight various offerings through the Lake Mills Public Library in my previous articles: Large Print books, the Libby app for electronic users, books on CD, children's materials, and much more. Newspaper and magazine offerings are other popular items here at the Lake Mills Public Library as well. If you walk through the doors at any given moment, chances are you will probably find someone sitting at the back table with a newspaper in front of them. Shirley is one of those people.

Not only does Shirley enjoy reading the newspapers, but she is also an avid fiction reader. She especially enjoys reading the works of Dorothy Garlock, an author who was born in Texas, lived in Oklahoma, and moved to Clear Lake, Iowa in 1955. Garlock has over 20 million books in print in over 36 countries and 18 different languages. Shirley enjoys Garlock's romance novels and books in the historical fiction genre. Nora Roberts and Dean Koontz are other favorite authors of Shirley's.

Shirley and a couple of her friends enjoy sharing books purchased from our Book Sale in September/October. If you've never been to the Book Sale, it's worth a visit. We "weed" books during the month of August that haven't been read in four to five years, delete them

from our system, and prepare them for sale during September and October. As the weeks progress, the prices drop. By the end of the sale, you can buy whatever fits in a bag for a donation. I suggest you follow Shirley's lead and stop in during the book sale to see if there are any good books you can share with your friends, too.

I know it's not polite to address a person's age, but I'm telling you, this woman really is a marvel. Let me just politely say, Shirley is closer to a centenarian than she is to a Gen Alpha. (How's that for diplomatic?) She's up before the sun, has walked a minimum of two miles before the 6 a.m. news, washes her own windows (in a split-level house) and could probably beat all of her great-grandkids in a race around the track. Like I said, a marvel. Even though she may not be a person who might benefit from a new initiative we are considering at the library, I ran it by her for some input anyway.

The Lake Mills Public Library proposed offering a delivery service the second and fourth Thursdays of every month to better serve those in our community who may find it challenging to get to the library. According to iowa-datacenter.org, Lake Mills currently has 490 people over the age of 65. Of those, 235 are 80 years of age or older. That is nearly 1/4 of our population. While many of these patrons still frequent the library on their own, one can only assume that some are unable to.

Our mission statement reads as follows: *The Lake Mills Public Library is dedicated to excellence in service. All city and rural citizens will have free and equal access to recreational materials, patron programming for all ages, information and up-to-date technology in a*

wide variety of formats.

Two things pop out to me while reading this statement: 1) "excellence in service" and 2) "free and equal access." Offering home delivery two times each month addresses both points. Why not do all we can to provide materials for people in our community as a way of providing excellent service?

I asked Shirley her thoughts regarding this idea. She was more than supportive. Reading is an important part of her life, and she feels that the more we can help older adults get books in their hands the better off they will be. As I said, Shirley may not need home delivery of books yet, but if it would help others access reading materials, she is all for it.

The City Council asked that we conduct a survey to gauge the need and/or interest level of this initiative. Please watch Facebook for a simple, short survey to help gather data, as well as a paper/pencil copy available in the library as well. We know, however, that the population we are looking to serve may not use Facebook nor may they be able to come into the library to complete a paper/pencil survey either. We would welcome any phone calls (641-592-0092) regarding need/interest in home delivery for either yourself or someone important in your life. We will then decide whether to pursue this service or not based upon the response received.

Whether it is a great novel, an interesting nonfiction, a sweet picture book with a grand (or even great-grand) child, or every newspaper on the shelf . . . Read. Read. Read. Just ask Shirley—reading keeps you young.



Area briefs

Iowa Beef Summer Coloring Contest

School is out for summer. What better way to kick off the season of sunshine, baseball games, and backyard BBQs than with a fun, beef-inspired activity for the kids?

Between T-ball games, grilling your favorite recipe, and prepping those last-minute county fair projects, you may be searching for something relaxing and easy to keep your children entertained.

The Iowa Beef Industry Council is excited to launch a summer coloring contest—a perfect opportunity for your child to get creative while celebrating Iowa's beef industry. Joining the fun is simple.

- Download the coloring page from the website: <https://www.iabeef.org/Media/IABeef2018/Images/coloringpage.jpg>

- Let your child color their masterpiece using crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

- Upload a high-quality photo of their finished artwork using the form provided online: <https://www.iabeef.org/events/kids-coloring-contest>.

This contest is open to children ages two through eight, winners will be selected in age-appropriate groups. One winner from each group will receive a \$50 beef certificate and a beef swag item just right for their age.

Weather

THURSDAY			
AM T-Storms, 40%	74°	60°	
FRIDAY			
Scattered T-Storms, 40%	72°	56°	
SATURDAY			
Mostly Cloudy	71°	60°	
SUNDAY			
Partly Cloudy	77°	60°	
MONDAY			
Iso. T-Storms, 30%	81°	62°	
TUESDAY			
Scattered T-storms, 60%	77°	59°	
WEDNESDAY			
Partly Cloudy	79°	60°	

Official temperatures and precipitation as recorded by the Lake Mills Power Plant are as follows:

Date	Hi	Low	Prec.
June 3	70°	50°	.42"
June 4	73°	46°	1.04"
June 5	77°	46°	.07"
June 6	72°	59°	.04"
June 7	68°	55°	—
June 8	73°	55°	.03"
June 9	65°	50°	—

Markets

Prices reported as of Tuesday. Prices subject to change.

Five Star	2024	2025
Corn	\$ 4.64	\$ 4.10
Soybeans	\$11.33	\$10.10

Viterra	2024	2025
Corn	\$ 4.41	\$ 4.11
Soybeans	\$11.23	\$10.06

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