

Lake Mills Graphic



VOL. 153, No. 26

LAKE MILLS, IOWA 50450

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

\$1.25



Area briefs

Lake Mills Farmers Market

The Lake Mills Farmers Market is held every Monday, from 4-6 p.m., in the city parking lot on N. Mill St. (next to the Graphic office).

Scarville on the Fourth

The City of Scarville will hold their annual Fourth of July celebration, Friday, July 4. The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Other events include the breakfast at the Scarville Lutheran School, Scarville Fire Dept. lunch, ice cream, bars pizza, vendors and entertainment in the park, egg toss, pedal pull, waterball, and fireworks at dusk.

Stones Cry at Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church

Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church, rural Joice, will host Stones Cry, Sunday, July 6, at 9 a.m. Come for a time of worship and reflection. Music will include inspirational songs in an easy listening style. The family will be sharing with a variety of instruments and singing. A free-will offering will be taken.

Weather

THURSDAY			
T-Storms, 70%	79°	61°	
FRIDAY			
AM Clouds/PM Sun	82°	67°	
SATURDAY			
Mostly Sunny	89°	70°	
SUNDAY			
PM T-Storms, 50%	83°	64°	
MONDAY			
Partly Cloudy	83°	61°	
TUESDAY			
Mostly Sunny	83°	62°	
WEDNESDAY			
Mostly Sunny	82°	64°	

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

Date	Hi	Low	Prec.
June 17	77°	63°	3.25"
June 18	79°	61°	.11"
June 19	82°	55°	—
June 20	82°	63°	.40"
June 21	91°	77°	—
June 22	90°	75°	—
June 23	81°	70°	—

Markets

Prices reported as of Tuesday. Prices subject to change.

	2024	2025
Five Star		
Corn	\$ 4.28	\$3.97
Soybeans	\$11.24	\$9.86
Viterra		
Corn	\$ 4.43	\$3.99
Soybeans	\$11.19	\$9.92

Inside

EDITORIALS	2
COMMUNITY	3-4
OBITS/RELIGION	5
SPOTLIGHT ON NI	6
LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS	3, 7
SPORTS	8



Worth County Fair held last week

The Worth County Fair was held last week in Northwood. Pictured above: Lloyd Heggstad received Grand Champion Senior Showman and Kaleb Rogstad received Reserve Champion Senior Showman, Reserve Champion Market Lamb, and Grand Champion Market Goat in the Sheep and Goat Show. Katelyn Rogstad was awarded Grand Champion Dairy Goat, and Sarah Heggstad received Grand Champion Senior Showman in the Beef Show.



Art Farm Iowa to host Arts Festival

Art Farm Iowa encourages the public to an unforgettable weekend of art, music, and celebration with its ARTFARMAGANZA! Arts Festival taking place Friday, July 4, through Sunday, July 6. The festival will bring together internationally acclaimed felt artist Lucy Sparrow, celebrated singer-songwriter Dan Bern, and Australian folk-noir musician Nigel Wearne for a one-of-a-kind event in the heart of the Iowa countryside.

The family-friendly festival offers and immersive cultural experience that blends creative expression with community celebration. Highlights include:

• **Lucy Sparrow's Felt Installation**—Known worldwide for her hand-sewn, full-scale environments, British artist Lucy Sparrow brings her playful and poignant soft-sculpture work to Iowa and the Midwest for the first time, including what may be the world's largest felt SPAM sculpture. Lucy developed an exhibition for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

• **Live Concerts**—Iowa's own **Dan Bern** returns for homecoming performances—July 4 and July 6—filled with storytelling and Americana charm. Dan has recently toured with Roger Daltrey and The Who and is a member of the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Australian Nigel Wearne is an award-winning musician who has played at The Kennedy Center. Nigel's music spans folk, blues, and outlaw country, and he will be performing July 4.

• **Art Exhibitions & Installations**—In addition to the installation from Lucy Sparrow,

the Art Farm Iowa gallery will feature paintings from Dan Bern. The paintings are portraits of well-known Iowans or individuals from the region. Other artworks are featured in the gallery and on site from local and international artists.

• **Food, Family Activities & Fireworks**—Enjoy food trucks, open-air art stations, kids' crafts, and a nearby fireworks display at dusk.

"This festival is about celebrating creativity and community in one of the most inspiring rural settings in the Midwest," said Art Farm Iowa co-founder Steve Hanson, "Bringing together independent voices like Lucy Sparrow, Dan Bern, and Nigel Wearne makes this a truly special way to celebrate the Fourth of July weekend."

The event will be held at Art Farm Iowa, located just outside of Northwood, with festivities beginning at Noon, Friday, July 4, and continuing through Sunday until 6 p.m. Event times are listed on the Art Farm Iowa website. Attendees are encouraged to bring picnic blankets, lawn chairs, and an open mind.

Attendance is free. Tickets are only required for the Sunday, July 6, Dan Bern performance.

Art Farm Iowa is a unique rural arts venue, working farm, and creative space nestled outside Northwood at 4953 Olive Ave. Dedicated to cultivating creativity through exhibitions, performances, workshops, and residencies, Art Farm Iowa is a hub for artists, thinkers, and dreamers.

For more information visit www.art-farmiowa.com/events.

NIACC Pappajohn Center and SBDC recognizes Hallie Erdahl as the June 2025 Entrepreneur of the Month

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and North Iowa Area SBDC are proud to announce Hallie Erdahl of Georgette in Clear Lake, as the June 2025 Entrepreneur of the Month.

Georgette is a pop-up bridal shop in Clear Lake, offering luxury bridal gowns at accessible prices. Hallie Erdahl founded Georgette in 2025 and the business reflects her lifelong passion for fashion and bridal elegance.

"I wanted to piece together certain parts of my life that really interest me, and that would be both bridal and thrifting designer luxury goods," Hallie says. "As a woman interested in fashion, I want access to the best possible and I want to make sure other women have that access as well."

Hallie works with bridal boutiques in Iowa and Minnesota to source sample gowns, only selecting dresses in pristine condition. Many of the gowns come from designers with original price tags between \$4,000 and \$8,000 and are sold at Georgette for 20 percent to 80 percent off.

"It's directly off the rack, directly to the customer, directly to the bride," she says. "There's no six-month wait. You get the gown. It's one of a kind. You take it home."

Rather than launching immediately into a traditional storefront, Hallie chose to begin with a pop-up model to test the market. From June to September, Georgette will appear one weekend a month on the top floor of the Surf Ballroom Music Enrichment Center.

"I started with the idea of a retail location, but I wanted to test the market here in Clear Lake," she says. "It's appointment only—because I truly value one-on-one attention with brides and also privacy."

The idea behind Georgette has deep roots in Hallie's upbringing.

"I grew up with bridal magazines in my house," she says. "My mom has always been obsessed. We still have magazines from 1995 when I was born."

Hallie studied apparel merchan-



dising and design at Iowa State University, and though she began her career in wedding photography, her dream was always to offer a unique bridal experience centered on fashion history, glamour, and accessibility.

That dream began to take shape when Hallie enrolled in Venture School, a statewide entrepreneurial program hosted in North Iowa by the NIACC Pappajohn Center.

"After talking to other women entrepreneurs in the area, they pointed me toward the Pappajohn Center," she says. "I found out everything I could about Brook [Boehmler], emailed him long emails, and ended up getting connected with Ashley Page and enrolled in Venture School."

Hallie credits Venture School with helping her shape the vision for Georgette.

"Those three months really helped me develop my strategy, my image, my business model," she says. "They thought no idea is dumb—no question is dumb. But they also helped me con-

clude that I should test the idea out before financially committing to a three-year lease in a very expensive town. They were really great at guiding the path."

For now, Hallie's focus is on Clear

Lake, but she has plans to grow. "I would love to do a retail location starting this fall or winter. That going well, I'd love to do a secondary location in another touristy town in the Midwest," she says. "And maybe five to 10 years down the road, open up some franchising possibilities."

Hallie says her entrepreneurial drive comes from passion.

"You have to be obsessed with the idea," she says. "Georgette to me doesn't feel like work. Even though it is a ton of work, it's nonstop, but I'm obsessed with it."

Her motivation comes from giving others the chance to experience something beautiful.

"Luxury bridal wear is crafted beautifully. And to be able to give this beauty to somebody else that also wants that and deserves that, even if they can't afford it, that's what keeps me going."

Hallie is a graduate of Lake Mills High School and is the daughter of Ramon and Kaylene Erdahl, Lake Mills.

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center is the expert in rural business innovation and success. In partnership with North Iowa's Small Business Development Center, together we provide tools, support, and resources to Iowa's entrepreneurs. They counsel both new and existing local businesses, from Main Street to industry leaders. They're growing Iowa's entrepreneurial culture through grade school initiatives, college and community programs, and business training and development.

Contact the NIACC Pappajohn Center at 641-422-4111 or pappajohn@niacc.edu. Visit the NIACC Pappajohn Center online at www.pappajohncenter.com.

