

# Lake Mills Graphic

VOL. 145, No. 49

LAKE MILLS, IOWA 50450

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

\$1.00



## Area briefs

### Library to welcome Santa & Mrs. Claus

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the Lake Mills Public Library this Thursday, Dec. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the library to tell Santa their Christmas wishes.

### Free movies at The Mills Theatre

The Mills Theater will be showing free Christmas movies this holiday season, courtesy of area sponsors. The schedule is as follows:

- "The Polar Express," (G) Saturday, Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m.
- "Beethoven's Xmas Adventure," (PG) Saturday, Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m.
- "It's a Wonderful Life," (PG) Saturday, Dec. 23, 1:30 p.m.
- "Ice Age," (PG) Saturday, Dec. 30, 1:30 p.m.
- "New in Town," (PG) Wednesday, Jan. 17, 4:30 p.m.
- "The Princess Bride," (PG) Wednesday, Feb. 14, 4:30 p.m.
- "All Dogs Go To Heaven," (G) Wednesday, March 14, 4:30 p.m.

### Hospice tree lighting, Dec. 14

The local Hospice tree lighting ceremony will be held at Salem Lutheran Church, Thursday, Dec. 14, beginning at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

## Weather

THURSDAY			
Mostly Sunny	25°	17°	
FRIDAY			
Cloudy	29°	12°	
SATURDAY			
Cloudy	28°	19°	
SUNDAY			
Mostly Sunny	42°	23°	
MONDAY			
Cloudy	35°	16°	

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

Date	Hi	Low	Prec.
Nov. 28	51°	22°	—
Nov. 29	46°	22°	—
Nov. 30	50°	28°	—
Dec. 1	55°	25°	—
Dec. 2	49°	27°	—
Dec. 3	58°	32°	—
Dec. 4	64°	18°	Trc. S

## Markets

Prices reported by Five Star Co-op., at the Scarville location, as of Tuesday. Prices subject to change.

	2016	2017
Corn	\$3.15	\$2.98
Soybeans	\$9.66	\$9.19

## Inside

EDITORIAL.....	2
COMMUNITY.....	3, 5, 7
SOCIETY.....	4
OBITS/RELIGION.....	6
LEGALS.....	8
CLASSIFIEDS.....	9
SPORTS.....	5, 7, 10

# Tour of Homes kicks off Holiday Festival



BRUCE ADAMS



STEPHANIE AND BRANDON STEVENS



DOROTHY NEUBAUER

BY BONNIE KAY BALDWIN AND TERRY GASPER  
LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

As we head into the final weeks of the holiday season, the City of Lake Mills is putting on their holiday finest for citizens and visitors to enjoy this weekend, as the annual Holiday Festival opens Friday evening and continues all-day Saturday with events and fun.

A free movie will be available at the Mills Theater on Saturday, and that will include an appearance by Santa, listening to the wishes of all who come out to see him. This will follow a busy morning, featuring the return of the Ethnic Kitchen, where guests can sample and purchase holiday favorites from around the world. There will also be a home-based business show both Friday night and Saturday, in the upper level of the civic center, as well as several downtown businesses. During this event, all businesses will also be open, to allow local shopping opportunities.

Christmas crafts will be available Saturday for children to explore at the Lake Mills Public Library, and the day caps off with the opening of the holiday light judging. Maps of houses signed up to participate can be found on the LMCDC website and Facebook page, as well as on page 5 of this issue of the Lake Mills Graphic.

In a new twist, the weekend kicks off with an evening tour of homes, that will allow both interior and exterior lighting to shine. A brief overview of each stop is below:

#### Brandon and Stephanie Stevens—706 S. Winnebago

Brandon and Stephanie, and 10-year-old daughter Bailey, moved to Lake Mills just four years ago. Brandon is a supervisor at Cargill, Albert Lea, Minn., and Stephanie is the Lake Mills Library director.

Their ranch home on Winnebago, will be showcasing decorations outside of their house, and in their living room, dining room and kitchen.

Two full size Christmas trees, grace the living room, and one smaller tree in the kitchen, is adorned with Bailey's ornaments.

Some of the ornaments on one of the full-size trees were

made by Stephanie's mom, some Brandon made as a kid, and some are from Bailey's childhood—a mix of special ornaments.

In front of the red, green and gold tree, is a beautiful horsedrawn carriage holding two of Bailey's American Girl dolls, although wearing apparel made by Stephanie's mom.

By the night of the tour, Brandon's cousin, Kendall Kirschbaum, will have set up the dining room table with special dishes and other decorations, as decorating is one of her talents.

The Stevens are awaiting the arrival of a son, expected in April.

#### Angie and Brian Thompson—401 S. 4th Ave. E

Even though this couple just recently moved into Lake Mills from Lincoln, Neb., they look like they have been settled in for quite a while.

Returning to their hometown, these 1996 LMHS grads now live in this two-story, four-square home built in 1914. It was previously owned by Brian's grandparents (the late Marge and Arvid Thompson) and before that, it was the former Salem Lutheran Church parsonage.

Most of the first floor will be open for viewing. This includes the dining room, living room, family room and entry, which are all tastefully decorated

with furniture and special holiday features.

Angie's mom's Santa collection adorns the dining room buffet; an Iowa Hawkeyes ornament tree stands in a Hawkeye-themed family room; and atop an antique ice box is Angie's favorite scene—a Willow Tree Nativity.

Angie is an account rep at WCTA and Brian does design work for steel buildings. Married in 2005, they have two children: Hayden, 10, and Hadlee, 8.

#### Bruce Adams—803 S. Western

Possibly for the first time in the history of the tour of homes, a single male said yes to being on the list of homes. This recent retiree who has always loved to decorate for Christmas, keeps up a very neat home showcasing numerous, family-owned antiques.

This two bedroom, two bath ranch has a newer addition on the back made into a large living room, and a functional sun-room on the south side.

One unusual conversation piece he puts out at Christmas, is a potato wreath—yes, a wreath made of greenery, faux potatoes, some glitz and a bow. There is a good humor story behind it (along with Santa Spud), that sprouted when the neighbors (the Dykstras) ran out of mashed potatoes, and asked to borrow some extra spuds on a Thanksgiving holiday.

Most of the Christmas tree ornaments and trimmings that embellish the living room were handmade either by his late wife, Mary, or their sons (as kids), or other extended family members.

A definite highlight is a Nativity scene that was purchased in pieces from the former Woolworth store in Albert Lea, and is over 50 years old.

#### Dorothy Neubauer—510 S. 1st Ave. E

Outside this newer condo before visitors enter, they will observe an inviting scene of a white table surrounded by four matching adirondack chairs wrapped with bows like presents, and placed on a small patio. Lighted garland and greenery bedeck this charming scene.

Just a few of the other enticing scenes at this stop include: a faux fireplace and mantel in a cozy corner; a gorgeous wall hanging embroidered by Dorothy; a traditional Christmas tree; and a beautiful display of acrylic and glass snowmen with lighted trees atop an antique heirloom—Dorothy's late husband, Tim, grandmother's buffet.

Dorothy, formerly of Clear Lake, moved to Lake Mills four years ago, and works at Winnebago. She has two adult children and three grandchildren.

#### Sprecher Mill House—203 W. Main St.

What used to house the Federated Store and then later, The Shops, is now called The Sprecher Mill House, which celebrated their Grand Opening during the 2017 July Jubilee. Owner Kyle Sprecher, Houston, Texas, (formerly of Lake Mills) said his goal for the business is to provide the area with "a community house for intimate gatherings in a safe and healthy environment."

Manager Jason Sprecher runs the business with the help of wine expert, Wendy Jo Goranson and candymaker and decorator, Lesia Fure, Kiester.

Regular hours are Fridays and Saturdays, 6-10 p.m., serving wine and beer, appetizers and candy. The room out front by the bar can seat about 20-30 with standing room available. There is a family room in back, which can seat approximately the same, for small family or groups for dining as well. The atmosphere is cozy comfortable. There is a display of the Sprecher family history, as well as a collection of museum quality old time photos of an earlier Lake Mills and it's history from Diane Brackey.

On the night of the tour, from 6-7 p.m., Jason will be serving Glögg and a few Norwegian desserts. Harris Honsey, former owner and editor of the Graphic, will be on hand to answer questions regarding Lake Mills photos and history.