


# Village Voice

## of Spencer, WI

 **From the Editor** A school bus. All good. Never really had a bad ride. Course, never really rode one that wasn't a Burnett bus. In Alaska, where I taught school, the "busses" that took us to games drove anywhere from about 1,000 to 5,000 feet above the ground, had propellers and carried between 6 and 12 of us depending on the winter temps. Here in town, it was Rue Burnett and co. and when I returned sometime later, Burnett Transit. I was a town kid so didn't ride the bus in the AM. Played sports so had to go to games. We won a lot, so that helped. Best bus experience? Church camp. Mrs. (Marge) Schulz drove. We were like 7th, 8th grade. Went for a few years. Mrs. Schulz had the best homemade dill pickles and we drank gallons of pink lemonade. Way too much fun for a church camp. Good bus rides. I interviewed Joe Burnett a couple weeks ago. Minus the title, here's what he had to say:

### BUSIN' BLUES!

Years ago, we were always able to find drivers and if we got short one or two, we'd make a call and find a driver. But the situation now is different. Certainly, the pandemic has contributed to that whereby we have a lot of semi-retired or retired folks that are driving for us that are doing a great job but, with the pandemic, people in that age category are already pre-disposed because of their age. So, they're thinking, do I really want to be inside of a school bus with all those human beings? They may already have an extenuating health circumstance that played into their thinking.

In general, the school bus industry always does better hiring drivers when unemployment rates go up. Let's say the economy is struggling a little bit, it's not doing real well, people are getting laid off but they still have bills to pay so they're like, oh yeah, I can drive bus, and I'll get a second job to get us through this. So, when unemployment rates plummet, it makes it harder for school bus companies. That has contributed to our problem now.

There's some folks that would say, the fact that we have the unemployment benefits, that the levels have been raised to pretty high numbers and then extended, like even until next September. Is that a contributing factor? I would say yes but I would say that in general that's more applicable across everybody who is looking for employees. I mean, you look at the WANT ADS for help and everybody's looking for help. That's not a school bus related issue, that's an overall thing.

I think some people are still hesitant about going back to work because of the pandemic. No question about that. Vaccinations have helped greatly but I think that there are still some folks, and I have no idea what the number is, that if they're getting the higher unemployment that has been offered through the federal government, until next September, it's human nature to say, if we can stay home and make the same money or more than I can going back to work, then why would I go back to work? Is that an impact? Yes, but I'm not sure that it's super impactful in the school bus industry. I think we're just one of the many players looking for people. But, that has made it really interesting.

Under normal circumstances; let's set aside the pandemic and let's set aside if there is a contributing factor of the unemployment benefits that are out there for folks. Let's set all of that aside what our industry contends with just on a daily basis.

The two big things that prevent people from driving a school bus are 1) size of the vehicle (it's like, whoa man, I don't think I could even drive something that big) and 2) the kids. (I don't want to deal with the kids.)

Our circumstance has always been, we've always had these flat-nose buses. My Dad started with those back in 1976. They are more maneuverable than a standard school bus so they're easier to handle and they have much better vision because you're up there without anything in front of you. You can see everything. When there are fatalities related to school buses, flat-nose busses have fewer fatalities. Yes, they're more expensive but you get what you pay for. Typically, when they're safer and they're built better and last longer it kind of comes out in the wash.

See BUSIN' page 3.



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BUSIN' form page 1

That's always been the philosophy. That's what I grew up with and I believe in it.

In terms of handling the bus; in all the years of doing this, this is the number one thing we found with new drivers. If you can get them to apply and actually start the process, they're like "Oh, wow. This isn't that difficult to handle." The one thing that virtually every new driver struggles with is the placement of the bus in their lane of operation.. We know why they feel that way and we train for it. When they get into a flat-nose bus, the hood of the vehicle, like we're all used to, is gone and now they don't have anything to use as a reference point and it may feel very much like you're hugging the center line when in reality you're not. It may take 20 or 30 minutes to get over that but then you're good to go. It's that simple.

The lovely part of the flat-nose buses is they are far easier to maneuver and give you far better visibility. It just makes it easier to train and drive. Very few companies have the flat-nose because they're way expensive. A prospective driver might say, can I sit in one? Of course. Many of them drive and find out it's really not that difficult and it really isn't.

The second thing is the kids. We are one of the very few companies that have our own on-staff person to handle all discipline driving issues. Most companies turn that over to the school. In our case, we have Jon (brother). He's our safety director so he does all the training and disciplinary issues are handled internally by him.

This allows the bus driver to be empowered to give the student (bus rider) consequences. Whatever it is, the bus driver is in control of the consequences. We want drivers to do that. If things escalate, a disciplinary referral can be filled out and Jon contacts students and parents as need be. We also have training for this.

It's been very effective because we support our drivers. They are empowered to give consequences as they see fit. When it gets beyond what they're comfortable with, they can lay it on our doorstep, so to speak. We will then act on it quickly.

We have a surprisingly low number of referrals because we've been doing this awhile and it has shown to be effective. It's small, rural America and most of the kids will have consequences when the get home as well, which is the last thing they want, so it's worked. Referrals are acted upon and documented within 24 hours so everyone knows where they stand and there is no extra burden on the school. The drivers need to do their job by not being overly passive but mostly it's worked well. See BUSIN' page 6



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**What's Rockin' in Rocketville!**

By Mike Endreas

District Admin./School District of Spencer



After a deep, long breath or better put, a sigh of relief, all I can say is what a year! I have always heard true character comes out in times of trouble. As a whole, I am extremely proud of the work our students and staff have put in to stay the course in a time of such high anxiety and change. The ever-optimist in me is certain we will all come through the pandemic in a positive way. I would be lying if I would say that everything was wonderful and easy. The year was fraught with disagreements and controversy. To me these are good things. I think good, respectful debate is mandatory in becoming a better person and in this case, a better school district.

I want to congratulate the 40 students in the Class of 2021 that walked across the stage on Saturday May 22, 2021. I wish them luck in their next endeavor and are proud of their many accomplishments. Please remember that "Once a Rocket Always a Rocket" and we will always be here to support you whenever needed.

Another important congratulations needs to be given to Sheryl Guenther, Pat Klimmer and Tammi Miller. After 35, 35 and 34 years respectively they have decided to retire. I cannot think of three more dedicated and deserving individuals. They have done an outstanding job for our students and school and the combined 104 years of experience will surely be missed. Good luck to all of you in your new careers!

At our Board meeting on May 21, the board selected James Kelnhofer to fill our vacant Village board seat. I look forward to working with Jim to determine the future of our District.

Due to the pandemic all of our Spring sport tournaments will begin in June. Please check out our school pages for schedules. I want to wish all of them luck as they begin the postseason.

The building project continues at a steady pace. We anticipate opening in September. As of right now the two areas that may hold us up are the bleachers and lockers. Backorder is a bad word for timelines. The still camera has been placed inside the dome and can be accessed from our webpage along with other videos and pictures documenting the progress.

Lastly, summer school will begin June 1 and will progress throughout the summer so please be on the lookout for our kids traveling back and forth to school out of their regular times.

I wish all of you a great summer and want to thank you for the support of our students and school.

**at the TACK**

To be perfectly honest, we are really tired! Tired of talking about it, tired of hearing about it, tired of thinking about it. (The pandemic, that is.) The reality remains, however, that we still don't have all the answers, and we do not know what the future of gathering large numbers in close proximity will look like.

If we've learned anything in the past year, it's that carefully laid plans can be made, revised and adapted and still be subject to change on a moments notice. Rather than fight this undesirable truth, we're determined to embrace uncertainty and ask you to do the same. We'll go with the flow and roll with the punches because the Tack - and YOU - are resilient!

In a few weeks, the Tack will be rolling out its 25th Anniversary Season, and the public is likely wondering what they can expect. Certainly, CHANGE can be expected, though we'll keep our fingers crossed that the changes encountered will be significantly less daunting than in 2020. Here's what the current "plan" for the Tack's silver anniversary of programming looks like.

Early in the summer, you should have in your hands a glossy paper brochure that highlights a variety of events that offers something for everyone. Many of this coming seasons shows were rescheduled from the past year, but there are a few new surprises, as well.

Give the brochure a look-see and then head over to the website to enjoy video clips of performers before making your decision. While online you can purchase tickets to your selected event(s) and either print or download to your smart phone for touchless ticketing and scanning at the door. If you prefer to go old-school, complete the enclosed order form and mail it with your check - there's no stigma in doing so! Or call the ticket office and leave a message. A volunteer will return your call and get you all set up. If you still have tickets to a

See TACK page 6





BUSIN' from page 3

We tell our drivers: You start their day and you end their day. Some of those drivers have been driving a long time and they develop relationships with these kids. They may know their problems and then some. They know what some of them are going through and a kind word to get them through a tough time can help. Those are the drivers that can maybe make a difference.

Our situation is pretty severe today. We are already trying to get ready for next year. We're going to embark on an ad campaign. You're going to see billboards advertising for drivers and yard signs. We need drivers!. We need route drivers. We need trip drivers. We need a whole other group of drivers for all the extra curricular activities that all our schools provide. We need cross-over drivers to cover both of those worlds. Some people like routes; some only do trips. The reason we got through this year is because our coach drivers didn't have their regular work due to the pandemic so we were able to get them to fill our routes and trips. That will not always be the case.

The school administrators and athletic directors that I typically work with have been outstanding; very understanding. They get it! It's been difficult for them to fill positions as well. We did something we've never had to do before and that was to say no. We couldn't fill a spot for a Jr. Hi baseball game and that's something we wish we wouldn't have had to do.

Every mechanic is driving, every office staff member. We're all driving. All employees. Again. Small town America.

We've been so fortunate. Being a school bus driver may be thankless, BUT, if we do it properly, nobody thinks about us, there's no worries about us, or maybe even cares about us but hopefully because it's going so well. Seamless is good.



\*Thanks a lot Joe for telling your story. More on Burnett Transit 2021 School Bus Driver Benefit Package in next month's Village Voice!

TACK from page 5

rescheduled performance, have no worries. Your tickets are still good and the ticket office will be in contact with you to reassure and confirm.

Patrons may also be wondering if the Tack will have to limit the seating capacity of the theatre. The answer that's hoped for, of course, is NO. Rather than giving a definite answer just yet, we hope you'll give us the grace to make that determination closer to the general public on-sale date which is expected to be in July.

On the bright side, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued guidance stating that: fully vaccinated people can resume activities they did before the pandemic, including participating in indoor and outdoor activities - large or small - without wearing a mask or physically distancing. According to the CDC, multiple studies have shown the COVID-19 vaccines to be more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 disease, hospitalization and death, confirming that they are indeed working in the real world.

Here's where we really need your help. In order for the Tack to remain financially solvent, it MUST sell enough seats to break even over the course of the season. We can continue to do that if local levels of infection remain low. If any number of variables cause the number of cases in Central Wisconsin to rise, the Tack may need to limit capacity or reschedule shows. When that happens, the chance of reaching the season's break-even point is diminished, and with it, the ability to continue bringing arts and entertainment to all of Central Wisconsin.

So what can you do? Please make every effort to comply with the CDC guidelines and whatever policies are set forth by the theatre. We look forward with great anticipation to seeing you for the 25th Anniversary Season...at the Tack.

**Hey Young Ladies of Spencer....**

Visit the links below to learn more!

Miss Spencerama:

2020-2021 Freshmen-Juniors eligible

<https://form.jotform.com/211088172903150>

Junior Miss Spencerama:

2020-2021 4th-6th grade eligible.

<https://form.jotform.com/211087453299159>

Lil' Miss Spencerama:

2020-2021 4K-2nd grade eligible

<https://form.jotform.com/211087663565158>

Entry forms due July 31st. Miss Spencerama coronation will take place during Music in the Park on August 18th!

The Spencer Area Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) will be joining with over 150 other chapters on June 12th to build beds during the Bunks Across America Build (BAA). The goal is to build 10,000 beds nationwide. We will be building 50 of them in Spencer. Volunteers are needed to help from 9-11 or 11-1pm. The build will take place during the Spencerama event at the village park. No experience is necessary and all tools are provided. Volunteers should wear comfortable clothing that they don't mind getting a little sawdust on. Following the build day, the beds will be delivered to children ages 3-17 that do not have a bed of their own. Monetary donations for bed sponsorship, to help with mattress costs, and bedding donations of new twin size bedding will all be accepted at the event. For more information email [Joleen.schade@shpbeds.org](mailto:Joleen.schade@shpbeds.org), call 715-613-3140, or look us up on Facebook- @SHPSpencer. Follow this link to sign up to volunteer. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844afac2da4fd0-bunks>

Get your weekend wristband by June 10th and save!

To get your wristband, contact any 2020-2021 Spencerama Royalty: Kaelyn Schreiner, Kaydence Plaskey, Jadyn Schober, or visit the Spencer Village Office, Citizens Bank or Partners Bank in Spencer.

\$10 for the whole weekend! -advance purchase price only-



Youth Tournament June dates at ARC Park

- Sat. June 5th 12U Baseball
- Sun. June 6th 8U Baseball
- Sat. June 26th 10U Softball
- Sun. June 27th 8U Softball



Spencer Area Historical Society  
 117 E. Clark Str. Spencer Olde Hall  
 Open: Third Sunday of the month, 11am-2pm  
 Next: June 20.  
 Also: By appointment. Call 659-5182 or 659-5577.  
 Groups of 10 or less are the most manageable.

Still looking for Organizations or Businesses to be part of the Spencerama Parade on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. This years theme "Fun in the Sun in Spencer" Please contact Linda Hinrichsen at Partners Bank 715-659-2430 , [lindah@partnersbankwi.com](mailto:lindah@partnersbankwi.com) or Erica Schober at Spencer Kids Group 715-659-4969 for additional information and Parade entry forms.

**CATHOLIC**

**Christ the King**

Father Barry Saylor  
 306 S. LaSalle  
 659-4480  
 4:00PM Saturday Evening Mass  
 8:00AM & 10:00AM Sunday Mass  
[office@ctkspencer.net](mailto:office@ctkspencer.net)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Church of Christ,**  
 211571 State Hwy 13  
 Evangelist Todd Storks  
 770-500-6577  
 9:00AM Sunday Bible Study  
 10:00AM Sunday Worship  
 7:00PM Wednesday Bible Study

**METHODIST**

**Spencer United Methodist Church**

108 Burnett Street  
 Rev. Kerry Wilson  
 715-659-5551  
 9:30AM Sunday Worship  
 Christmas Eve Service 4:30 + 9pm  
 Club 3:16 Wed. 3:30- 5:30pm  
[sumcs@spencerum.church](mailto:sumcs@spencerum.church)

**Spencer Churches**



**LUTHERAN**

**St. John's Church (ELCA)**

Interim Pastor Lowell Bolstad  
 210167 State Hwy 13  
 659-5158. [stjohnsspencer.com](http://stjohnsspencer.com)  
 Handicap accessible  
 Sunday 9am. Masks optional  
 Sunday 6:30pm. Masks required  
 Monday evening worship 6:30pm  
 Starting on June 7.  
 St. John's Riplinger. Sunday 11am  
 For more info. see website

**Trinity Lutheran(LCMS)**

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Chris Schwanz  
 109 W. Clark Street  
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 Sunday Worship Service 10:30am.



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**Community Monthly Newsletter for Spencer Residents**

**JUNE**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 7		1 Legion 7pm Village Hall	2	3 Spencer Woman's Club mtg. 6:30pm	4	5 12U Baseball Tourney. ARC Park
6 8U Baseball Tourney ARC Park	7	8	9	10 4H 7pm Village Hall.	11	12
13	14 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm. Village Hall.	15	16 School Board Meeting 6:30pm. H.S. Distance Learning Room. Enter door #22.	17	18	19
20	21	22 COME Meal St. John's 5 pm . Carry Out only	23	24	25	26 10U Softball Tourney ARC Park
27 8U Softball Tourney ARC Park	28	29	30			

**FATHERS DAY**  






# JUNE 11, 12, 13 SPENCERAMA & DAYS

**FAMILY FUN**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 11th**

**June Dairy Breakfast**  
5 am-10 am



Boy Scout Troop & Cub Scout Pack 387

**Opening Flag Ceremony**  
5:30 pm

**Movie TBA**

at Spencer Kid's Group 7 pm

Sponsored by



**Nick Hickman**

8 pm-Midnight

Sponsored by



**ALL WEEKEND**

**Bounce Houses**

Sponsored by



**Games**

Benefiting the Spencer Girl Scouts and Christ the King Catholic Youth

Prizes Donated by



**A&W Floats & Ice Cream**

Available All Weekend

Spencer Fire Department

**Ring Toss**  
All Weekend

**Dunk Tank**  
All Weekend

**Wagon Rides**  
with Bill Hoes  
All Weekend

**CRAFTERS**

**VENDORS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH**

Boy Scout Troop 387  
**Potato & Buttermilk  
Pancake Breakfast**

7 am-11 am



**Rib Cook-off**

Beginning Early Morning

Judging 5 pm

Sponsored by



Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
Bunks Across America

**Bed Build \***

9 am-2 pm

Sponsored by



Volunteer Sign-up:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844afac2da4fd0-bunks](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844afac2da4fd0-bunks)

**Universal Dance  
Performance 11 am**

**Coin Find**

10:30 am

Sponsored by



**Cake Walk**

12 Noon

Sponsored by



**Cornhole Tournament**

Preregistration 12 Noon

Event Begins 1 pm

Sponsored by



**The Foxfire Affair**

1 pm-4 pm

Sponsored by



**SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH**

Trailblazer campers will be camping on grounds

**Open House**  
2 pm-6:30 pm



**The Dweebs**

7 pm-11 pm

Sponsored by



**SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH**

**Lions Club Breakfast**

7 am-11 am



**FOOD**

**Cup A Joe and a Prayer**

7:30 am

**Community  
Worship with  
Breaking  
Chains**



8:30 am-10 am

**Queen Tea 10 am**

Sponsored by



**Parade 12 Noon**

Clark St. from Madison - S. LaSalle St.



**Moon Dogs**

1:30 pm-4 pm



Sponsored by



**Universal Dance & Teach 2 pm**





**FRIDAY, JUNE 11th**

- June Dairy Breakfast - Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce ..... 5 - 10 AM
- Opening Flag Ceremony - Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 387 ..... 5:30 PM
- Hay Rides - Bill Hoes ..... 5 - 7 PM
- Legion Dinner - American Legion Post 298 ..... 5 PM - 7 PM or Until Gone
- Food Vendors ..... 5 - 8 PM
- Craft and Product Vendors ..... 5 - 8 PM
- Bounce Houses, Games - Spencer Girl Scouts, Christ the King Catholic Youth ..... 5 - 8 PM
- Dunk Tank and Water Ball ..... 5 - 8 PM
- Fireman Ring Toss - Spencer Fire Department ..... 5 - 8 PM
- A&W Floats and Ice Cream for Spencer Food Pantry - Trinity Lutheran ... 5 - 8:30 PM
- Beer Tent - Supporting SPENCERAMA DAYS ..... 5 PM - 12 AM  
*Ice and Water Donated by Kwik Trip*
- Movie - Sponsored by and Inside Spencer Kids Group ..... 7 PM
- Nick Hickman - Sponsored by Spencer Community Boosters ..... 8 PM - 12 AM

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH**

- Universal Dance Performance - Pavilion or Shelter ..... 11 AM
- Cake Walk Spencer Woman's Club - Shelter ..... 12 Noon
- Corn Hole Tournament ..... PREREGISTRATION 12 Noon, 1 PM Start
- The Foxfire Affair - Pavilion ..... 1 - 4 PM
- Trailblazer Vintage Campers Open House ..... 2 - 6:30 PM
- Rib Cookoff - Ray's Market - Judging ... 5 PM
- The DWEEBS ..... 7 - 11 PM

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH**

- Breakfast - Spencer Lions Club ..... 7 - 11 AM
- Cup A Joe and a Prayer - United Methodist Church ..... 7:30 AM
- Community Church with Breaking Chains ..... 8:30 - 10 AM
- A&W Floats and Ice Cream for Spencer Food Pantry - Trinity Lutheran.. 9 AM - 4 PM
- Trinity Lutheran Church - Bake Sale for Trinity's Seminary Fund ..... 9 AM - 4 PM
- Queen Tea - Meeting Room - Spencer Girl Scouts and Woman's Club ..... 10 AM
- Parade Line-Up - Check-In at Spencer Cold Storage (S. LaSalle St.) ..... 10:30 AM
- Beer Tent - Supporting SPENCERAMA DAYS ..... 11 AM - 4 PM  
*Ice and Water Donated by Kwik Trip*
- Food Vendors ..... 11 AM - 4 PM
- Parade Organized by Linda Hinrichsen and Erica Schober ..... 12 NOON
- Craft and Product Vendors ..... Starting after the Parade - 3:30 PM
- Hay Rides - Bill Hoes ..... Starting after the Parade - 3:30 PM
- Dunk Tank and Water Ball ..... Starting after the Parade - 3:30 PM
- Ring Toss - Fire Department ..... Starting after the Parade - 3:30 PM
- Bounce Houses, Games - Spencer Girl Scouts, Christ the King Catholic Youth ..... Starting after the Parade - 3:30 PM
- Moon Dogs ..... 1:30 PM - 4 PM
- Universal Dance Performance Dance and Teach - Shelter or Pavilion ..... 2 PM
- Miss Spencerama, Lil' Miss Spencerama and Jr. Miss Spencerama will be selected on August 18th at Music in the Park.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH**

- Rib, Brisket, Pulled Pork Cookoff ..... Smoking Begins Early AM
- Boy Scout Troop 387  
Potato and Buttermilk Pancakes .... 7 - 11 AM
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Bunks Across America - Bed Build ..... 9 AM - 2 PM
- A&W Floats and Ice Cream for Spencer Food Pantry - Trinity Lutheran.. 9 AM - 6 PM
- Trailblazer Presentation by Ron Draeger - Meeting Room ..... 10 AM
- Bounce Houses, Games - Spencer Girl Scouts, Christ the King Catholic Youth... 10 AM - 7 PM
- Craft and Product Vendors ..... 10 AM - 7 PM
- Hay Rides - Bill Hoes ..... 10 AM - 7 PM
- Dunk Tank and Water Ball ..... 10 AM - 7 PM
- Fireman Ring Toss - Spencer Fire Department ..... 10 AM - 7 PM
- Beer Tent - Supporting SPENCERAMA DAYS ..... 10 AM - 11 PM  
*Ice and Water Donated by Kwik Trip*
- Coin Find - Citizens State Bank of Loyal ..... 10:30 AM
- Food Vendors ..... 11 AM - 8 PM

*Sponsored by Partners Bank and the Spencer Woman's Club*

**Food Provided By**

**Spencer Swamp Stompers**

Brats, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Fries, Cheese Curds, Pulled Pork, Soda

**Jamaican Kitchens**

Jamaican Chicken, Pork, Beef, Shrimp in Coconut Sauce (Meals and Sandwiches), Jamaican Beverages, Soda, Water

**Razor J's**

Kettle Corn, Caramel Corn, Gyros, Lemonade, Iced Tea

**Severt's Fine Foods**

Philly Steak and Chicken Sandwiches, Fries, Deep Fried Pickles, Mozzarella Sticks, Mushrooms, Mini Corn Dogs

**Spencer Legion Post 298**

Rib Dinner - Friday Only

**Universal Dance**

Tacos, Taco Salad, Nachos, Soda - Saturday and Sunday Only

**A&W/Trinity Lutheran**

Root Beer Floats/Ice Cream

**Breakfast**

**Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce**

June Dairy Breakfast - Friday

**Spencer Scout Troup 387**

Potato and Buttermilk Pancakes - Saturday

**Spencer Lions Club**

Pancakes, Eggs and Sausage - Sunday