



IOWA LAKES CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUENA VISTA, CLAY, DICKINSON & EMMET COUNTIES

Balloons Galore opens in Spirit Lake

Decorations for holiday parties, birthdays, weddings and more

SPIRIT LAKE – When Michelle Stephens decided to start her own business, she looked for something that the area was missing. That’s when she came upon balloon decorating. She took a nine-day balloon decorating course in Florida and started Balloons Galore out of her home in Lake Park.

On Halloween of this year, Stephens opened the doors of her new store downtown Spirit Lake. Balloon decorating is much more than just putting a few balloons out. Stephens makes arches, columns and bouquets. Balloons releases are becoming popular, both at weddings and as memorials. For releases, she uses biodegradable balloons with kite string instead of ribbon.



Michelle Stephens started Balloons Galore out of her home in Lake Park, and recently opened a store location downtown Spirit Lake.

To build arches and columns, she uses a machine that blows up the balloons to a uniform size. She then uses fishing line to create the arches and columns. Recently, a new line of balloons have been made that tie together; Stephens uses these to create single strand arches.

Stephens has done the balloon decorations for Christmas parties and Harris-Lake Park’s prom. She hopes that New Years will bring some business as well. Children’s birthdays, as well as milestone birthdays, are a popular occasion for her, too. Valentine’s Day is Stephens’ busiest day. She already told her husband to take the day off to help with deliveries.

New trends in balloons Stephens noted includes clear balloons with designs, bright colors, patterns and designs, and animal prints such as zebra and cheetah. A trend that Stephens didn’t expect was giving balloon bouquets to the actors after high school plays. She noted that it was mostly male actors receiving the bouquets, as female performers generally get flowers.

Taking balloons to friends and family in the hospital and nursing homes is still a big part of Stephens’ business. Most hospitals and nursing homes don’t allow latex balloons because of allergies, but Stephens has a way around that: foil balloons!

Balloons Galore is located at 1717 Hill Avenue in Spirit Lake. Contact Michelle Stephens at 712-331-1301, balloonsgalore4u@hotmail.com, and visit her online at www.balloonsgalore4u.com.

Entrepreneur Networking

The Iowa Lakes Corridor has combined the Women in Business Club with the Entrepreneur Networking group called Club E. Business owners meet every other month to share ideas, challenges, successes, and grow professional relationships. Those interested in attending should

contact Brian Dalziel at the Corridor office at 712-264-3474 or bdalziel@lakescorridor.com.
Entrepreneurs throughout the Corridor region are encouraged to attend.

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The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation is the regional economic development agency for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson and Emmet counties. Its mission is to foster, encourage, aid, promote or otherwise assist in the economic growth and development of the region. For more information about the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, call 712-264-3474 or visit www.lakescorridor.com.