

Panora TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2024

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FREE!



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

A TOTAL OF 471 READERS PARTICIPATED
IN OUR INAUGURAL BEST OF GUTHRIE
COUNTY POLL. LOOK INSIDE FOR
DETAILS FROM ALL 82 CATEGORIES.

PAGE 6

EDWARD JONES PARTNERS WITH
CLIENTS TO WORK TOWARD GOALS

PAGE 24

LINDA BURGESS' HISTORY
COLLECTION IS PERSONAL

PAGE 26

SPICY CHIPOTLE
CHICKEN PASTA

PAGE 38

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FROM THE COVER:

Jade Irlmeier was voted Best Massage Therapist. Photo by Rich Wicks

THANK YOU

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**BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

THE VOTES HAVE BEEN TALLIED!



People like lists. Not the “honey-do” lists so much, but records, compilations and collections seem to be a hit. I guess we naturally want to know where we — or the people, places and events we like — rank with everything else.

I have been gathering this type of information and celebrating the results for quite some time. Our company also publishes CITYVIEW magazine, and you are likely familiar with the Best Of Des Moines readers’ poll. It was the first of its kind in the metro area and continues to be the primary source of central Iowans’ favorites. So, I thought, if it works for Des Moines, then why not Guthrie County?

With that in mind, I bring you our in-

augural Best of Guthrie County readers’ poll. We invited residents in the area to vote by answering 82 questions with open-ended responses, and a total of 471 of you replied. We didn’t, like some polls do, rig the poll by “suggesting” choices of businesses that pay to be on the ballot. That is unethical in our eyes, and it doesn’t give a true snapshot of what the locals really like.

I had one person tell me this poll was nothing more than a popularity contest. That is exactly what it is. Because, when



Shane Goodman

you are looking for a plumber or a pastor or a pizza, you want to know who others like the most.

With that in mind, please remember that the results listed in these pages are chosen by our readers, not by us. I explain this each time we do one of these polls, but, inevitably, I have someone who says, “I can’t believe YOU named (fill in the blank) as the best...” We didn’t.

Surely you will agree with many of the results, and you will likely disagree with some, too. Hopefully, you took the time to cast your vote. If not, be sure to do so next year. Look to the pages of this magazine for full details as the time draws nearer.

In the meantime, take a gander at

the favorites of your friends and neighbors, as we published the top three vote-getters in each of the categories inside these pages. Be sure to congratulate all the people, places and events that were selected as the best and let them know how much you appreciate them being in Guthrie County.

Thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY 2024

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

America loves a contest. The Super Bowl. The World Series. March Madness. The Daytona 500. The Fourth of July hot-dog-eating competition. We simply love seeing who comes out on top.

On a local scale, Big Green Umbrella Media launched its first ever “Best of Guthrie County” poll to gather the opinions of our readers as to which individuals, businesses, events and organizations stand out from the crowd.

A total of 471 votes were cast, and that is a large number — more than some city council or school board elections. Much like those elections, this is not a scientific poll. Rather, it’s more of a popularity contest among those who take the time to vote. Readers may prefer one business over another for any reason(s), such as location, quality of the service or product, prices, nostalgia, personal friendship with the owner, etc. But, regardless of the reasons, we each have our preferences, and that’s simply what we asked readers to tell us.

You’ll likely agree with some of the results but not with others. That’s to be expected. If you took the time to vote, we thank you. If not, watch for your next opportunity. This poll had 82 categories, but there was nothing sacred or comprehensive about the list. Categories may be added or deleted based on interest. So, if you have a category to suggest, we’re all ears. For purposes of this poll, we defined “Guthrie County” slightly more broadly than the exact county borders, because some communities straddle the county line. For any city that is partially in Guthrie County, we recognize the entire city as a part of this poll.

Runners-up are listed alphabetically in each category. In a few instances, someone listed may no longer be in the role where he or she garnered so many accolades. The person may have moved away or simply changed jobs. We view this poll as a “snapshot” of the time when the poll was used, so we have listed winners and runners-up even when some may have moved on.

We encourage you to use this list to try something new and see why voters named certain businesses, venues and/or individuals as the best.

It’s clear that Guthrie County has many outstanding people, businesses, places,



Panorama students celebrate being voted No. 1 school.

events and services. Please join us in congratulating all of those listed here. Keep in mind that, in many cases, only a few votes separated first place from third place or others that did not make the top three.

With all that in mind, and without further ado, here are the winners and runners-up in the various categories of our Best of Guthrie County poll for 2024.

CAMPING SPOT

- **Springbrook State Park**
- Runners up: Lenon Mill Park, Nations Bridge Park

DINNER SPOT

- **Prime Time Restaurant**
- Runners up: Pioneers Pub & Grub, Ruby’s Pub & Grill

ATTORNEY OR LAW FIRM

- **Bump & Bump Law Offices**
- Runners up: Eric Reinhart, Varley Law Office

AUTO PARTS STORE

- **NAPA Panora**
- Runners up: NAPA Guthrie Center, NAPA Stuart

AUTO SERVICE CENTER

- **Leonard Automotive**
- Runners up: M & L Service, Panorama Tire

BANK

- **Guthrie County State Bank**
- Runners up: Farmers State Bank of Yale, First State Bank

BAR

- **Tin Lizzie’s Sports Bar**
- Runners up: Owl’s Nest, Ruby’s Pub & Grill

BARGE SERVICE

- **Lake Panorama Barge Service**
- Runners up: Deluxe Docks & Lifts, Van Houten Barge Service

BARTENDER OR SERVER

- **Amanda Carl at Ruby’s Pub & Grill**
- Runners up: Amber Godwin at Just One More, Stacy Nelson at Owl’s Nest

BOUTIQUE

- **Tribe Boutique LLC**
- Runners up: B & B Marketplace, Pearls & Lace

BOWLING ALLEY

- **Incredi-Bowl**
- Runners up: Coon Bowl III, Stuart Bowl & Lounge

CAR WASH

- **All Seasons Car Wash**
- Runners up: Guthrie Center Car Wash, Karl’s Chevrolet

CATERER

- **Café on the Hill**
- Runners up: Cabbage Rose Restaurant, Lidderdale Country Store

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- **Panora**
- Runners up: Guthrie Center, Stuart

CHIROPRACTOR (PERSON)

- **Josh Calmer**
- Runners up: Bailey Schreiber, Jodi Bassett

CHURCH

- **Faith Bible Church**
- Runners up: Guthrie Center United Methodist, Lutheran Church of Hope Panora

COACH

- **Cody Matthewson, ACGC football**
- Runners up: Colin Shawgo, Kylee Boettcher

COFFEE SHOP

- **Crafty's Coffee & Gifts**
- Runners up: Casey Creamery, The Cup on 2nd

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

- **Panorama Days**
- Runners up: Guthrie County Fair, Yale 4th of July

CPA (PERSON)

- **Lisa Calvert**
- Runners up: Janet Dickson, Sarah

Langgaard

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- **Panora Fiber**
- Runners up: Dowd Drug, The Cup on 2nd

DANCE STUDIO

- **Main Street Dance Studio**
- Runner up: Adair Dance Academy

DAYCARE

- **Little Panther Daycare & Preschool**
- Runners up: Exploration & Learning Station, Little Charger Early Learning

DENTIST (PERSON)

- **Dr. Larry Spray**
- Runners up: Dr. Ames Cross, Dr. Daniel Nelson

DOCTOR (PERSON)

- **Dr. Joshua Strehle**
- Runners up: Dr. Eric Ash, Dr. Steven Bascom

DOG BOARDING FACILITY

- **Mitzie Rue's Canine Corral**
- Runners up: Guthrie County Veterinary Services, Pretty Paws Pet Grooming



Panorama schools earned two awards for Best Teacher. Laurie Behrends, right, was voted Best Teacher, and runner-up was Aly Dahlhauser, left.

ELECTED OFFICIAL

- **Maggie Armstrong**
- Runners up: Marty Arganbright, Steve Smith

ELECTRICIAN (BUSINESS)

- **Berger Electric**
- Runners up: Kane Powell Electric, Miller Plumbing & Electric



Sunset Realty
Voted **Best Real Estate Company**
in Guthrie County
2024



Laura Kemble
Voted **Best Real Estate Agent**
in Guthrie County
2024



Dave Wagler
Voted **Real Estate Agent Runner Up**
in Guthrie County
2024



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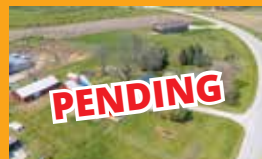
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EMPLOYER

- **Guthrie County Hospital**
- Runners up: Panora Fiber, The Cup on 2nd

ESTHETICIAN (SKIN CARE PROFESSIONAL)

- **Lexi Blakely**
- Runners up: Amy Bassett, Courtney Claussen

EYE DOCTOR (PERSON)

- **Cassie Martinson**
- Runner up: Kyle Stalder

FINANCIAL PLANNER

- **Dave Grove**
- Runners up: Melissa Loest, Russ Wagner

FLORIST

- **Panorama Gardens**
- Runners up: B & B Marketplace, Stuart Flower & Gifts

GOLF COURSE

- **Lake Panorama National**
- Runners up: Guthrie Center Golf Course, Panorama West Golf Course

GROCERY STORE

- **Hometown-Guthrie Center**
- Runners up: Hometown-Panora, Hometown-Stuart

HAIR SALON



Landon and Lindsey Loftsgard, along with their children, Annie and Brooks, are the owners of Panorama Gardens, voted Best Florist.

- **Main Street Hair Design**
- Runners up: Britt's Family Hair Care, Revel Salon & Boutique

HAPPY HOUR

- **Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar**
- Runners up: Owl's Nest, Ruby's Pub & Grill

HARDWARE STORE

- **Lake Lumber**
- Runners up: Stuart True Value



The staff of Lake Lumber, which won Best Hardware Store.

Hardware & Lumber, Tractor Supply Co.

HEALTH CLUB/GYM

- **Reshape Fitness Studio**
- Runners up: Active Health Solutions, Guthrie County Hospital

HOME BUILDER

- **Donovan Construction**
- Runners up: Dave Arganbright Construction, DL Customs LLC

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR

- **Donovan Construction**
- Runners up: Dave Arganbright Construction, Kevin Laughery Construction

HOME PAINTER

- **Kunkle Painting**
- Runners up: Baker Painting, Jeremy Riggen Painting

HVAC COMPANY

- **Doug's Plumbing & Heating**
- Runners up: Controlled Environments, Miller Plumbing & Electric

INSURANCE AGENT (PERSON)

- **Chris Arganbright**
- Runners up: Carrie Sloss, Robert Carr

LANDSCAPING COMPANY

- **Wood Duck Landscapes**
- Runners up: Schwinger Lawn Service, Wood Brothers Landscaping

LAWN CARE BUSINESS

- **Schwinger Lawn Service**
- Runners up: D & S Lawn & Handyman Service, Hansen Lawn Services

LIBRARY

- **Panora Public Library**
- Runners up: Mary Barnett Memorial Library, Stuart Public Library



Lacey Heinz shows why The Stuart Scoop was voted Best Parent/Child Date Spot.

LOCAL BAND OR MUSICIAN

- **Dale Menning – Stardusters**
- Runners up: Chancey Hill, Kile Jackson

MASSAGE THERAPIST (PERSON)

- **Jade Irlmeier**
- Runners up: Amy Bassett, Madison Berger

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

- **Los Altos-Panora**
- Runners up: Fuego, Los Altos-Stuart

NURSERY OR GARDEN CENTER

- **Panorama Gardens**
- Runners up: Grandma Marie's Greenhouse, Red Maple Greenhouse

PARENT/CHILD DATE SPOT

- **The Stuart Scoop**
- Runners up: Casey Creamery, Pedal-In

PARK

- **Springbrook State Park**
- Runners up: Mitchell Park, Nations Bridge Park



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Josh Calmer won Best Chiropractor (person) & runner-up for Best Health Club/Gym.

PASTOR (PERSON)

- **Trevor Nunn**
- Runners up: Fr. Ray Higgins, Jenny Knutter

PEST CONTROL COMPANY

- **Cyclone Pest Management**
- Runners up: Colin's Pest Control, Paul's Pest Control

PHARMACY

- **Dowd Drug**
- Runners up: Medicap-Panora, Wright Pharmacy-Stuart

PHOTOGRAPHER

- **Betty Cooper**
- Runners up: Ketelsen Photography, Serenity & Bliss Photography

FIRST DATE SPOT

- **The Port on Lake Panorama**
- Runners up: Pioneers Pub & Grub, Prime Time Restaurant

PLACE FOR A FIELD TRIP

- **Springbrook State Park**
- Runners up: Guthrie County Historical Village, Nation's Bridge Park

PLACE FOR GUESTS TO STAY

- **Lakeside Inn**
- Runners up: Lake Panorama National Resort, Midway Motel



Guthrie County Supervisor, Maggie Armstrong, was voted Best Elected Official.

PLACE FOR PIZZA

- **Casey's**
- Runners up: The Stuart Scoop, Zipp's Pizzeria food truck

PLACE TO BUY MEAT

- **Guthrie County Quality Meats**
- Runners up: Downing's Farm to Fork, Hometown Foods

PLACE TO HOLD AN EVENT

- **Guthrie County Event Center-Fairgrounds**
- Runners up: Saints Center for Culture and the Arts, Twin Vines Winery

PLACE TO BUY GIFTS FOR HER

- **Tribe Boutique LLC**
- Runners up: B & B Marketplace, Dowd Drug

PLACE TO TAKE KIDS OR GRANDKIDS

- **Guthrie Center Aquatic Center**
- Runners up: Guthrie County Historical Village & Museum, Springbrook State Park

PLACE TO TAKE YOUR DOG

- **Springbrook State Park**
- Runners up: Lake Panorama Dog Park, Mitzie Rue's Canine Corral

PLUMBER (BUSINESS)

- **Doug's Plumbing & Heating**

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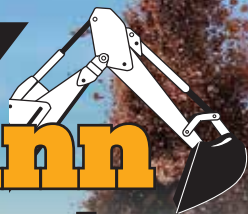
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Sarah Carstens at Tribe Boutique, winner of the Best Boutique, winner of Best Place to Buy Gifts for Her, and runner-up for Best Retail Store.

- Runners up: J5 Plumbing, Miller Plumbing & Heating

REAL ESTATE COMPANY

- **Sunset Realty**
- Runners up: Lake Panorama Realty, Stuart Realty

REALTOR (PERSON)

- **Laura Kemble**
- Runners up: Dave Wagler, Vicki Crannell

RETAIL STORE

- **Dowd Drug**
- Runners up: Doe A Deer, Tribe Boutique LLC

SCHOOL

- **Panorama Schools**
- Runners up: ACGC, West Central Valley

SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

- **New Homestead**
- Runners up: Lakeside Village, Stuart Community Care Center

TEACHER

- **Laurie Behrends**
- Runners up: Aly Dahlhauser, Bob Bolton

VEHICLE DETAILING BUSINESS

- **Detailer's Eye**
- Runners up: Collision Concepts of Bagley, Karl's Chevrolet

VETERINARIAN (PERSON)

- **Doug Frels**
- Runners up: Donna Frels, Shawn Nicholson

WINE SELECTION

- **Twin Vines**
- Runners up: Hometown Foods, Local Liquor

ICE CREAM PLACE

- **Casey Creamery**
- Runners up: Pedal-In, The Stuart Scoop

LUNCH SPOT

- **Prime Time Restaurant**
- Runners up: Café on the Hill, Pedal-In

PLACE TO TAKE MOM & DAD

- **Prime Time Restaurant**
- Runners up: Pioneers Pub & Grub, The Cup on 2nd

BREAKFAST SPOT

- **Café on the Hill**
- Runners up: Crafty's Coffee & Gifts, The Cup on 2nd

DESSERT SPOT

- **Casey Creamery**
- Runners up: Crafty's Coffee & Gifts, The Stuart Scoop

COLDEST BEER

- **Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar**
- Runners up: Owl's Nest, Ruby's Pub & Grill

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

A CRAYON, AN ALIEN, A CROW, A PENGUIN AND MORE

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

Panora Times

“DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE”

(still in theaters)

Ryan Reynolds teams with Hugh Jackman in what will undoubtedly be not only the highest grossing film of the year but one of the wildest movies of this year or any other! It is a crazy and irreverent romp through the Marvel Universe with many characters you haven't seen, or thought about, in years. It is fun and funny at the same time, but it never... never... takes itself seriously. If you catch even half of the jokes, you are lucky, as they come in rapid fire succession. Creative, engaging and just pretty damned fun.

Grade: A



“Deadpool & Wolverine”

“HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON”

(in theaters)

This film is based on a children's book (in case the title didn't already tell you that). Harold lives in an animated world with two good friends, a porcupine and a moose. When the three of them



“Harold and the Purple Crayon”

head into “our” world, crazy hijinks ensue. This is a clever film that the entire family can enjoy, and Zachary Levi proves once again (as he showed in “Shazam”) that he is a master of these types of family action movies. **Grade: B**

“ALIEN: ROMULUS”

(in theaters)

If you turn the “Alien” franchise over to



“Alien: Romulus”

a talented horror director, you are moving in the right direction. A group of scavengers board an abandoned ship to see what they can salvage. Since it is an “Alien” film, the scavengers find more on the ship than they ever could have imagined. This is about as effective of a horror film as I've seen in a while. I



Thank You Guthrie County for voting us

Best GC Employer

Best GC Doctor - Dr. Josh Strehle

and Runner-up for

Best GC Health Club/Gym



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"The Instigators"



"The Crow"



"My Penguin Friend"



"It Ends With Us"

would put this right behind the original "Alien" film on the horror level, and that is high, high praise. **Grade: A**

"THE INSTIGATORS"
(Apple TV)

Matt Damon and Casey Affleck star as two damaged men trying to pull off a heist way above their pay grade. It's a crazy mix of comedy and action that manages to rise a bit above average. The story holds them back, but both actors (two of our best) get moments to shine. **Grade: B**



I might be the only film critic in America who really enjoyed this movie, but I thought it was well-made, well-acted and it does a nice job fixing the problems with the troubled first version of this film. That being said, it is absolutely the most bloody and violent film I have ever seen. You have been warned.

Grade: B+

"MY PENGUIN FRIEND"
(in theaters)

This family film is based on a true story of a man who befriends a penguin. Or maybe it is the other way around? French



film legend Jean Reno stars in this PG-rated family film that manages to be humorous, heartwarming and really fun. **Grade: B+**

"IT ENDS WITH US"
(in theaters)

This would fit firmly into the category of "chick flick," and I tried to avoid it. But people continued to flock to it, and the reviews have been good, so Sue and I caught a Sunday afternoon matinee. It was also more than 100 F, so I had even more incentive to hide in a dark theater. You know what? It wasn't a bad movie at all — romantic with many shades of darkness and excellent perfor-



mances all around. Blake Lively does a nice job as the lead character with a conflicted past. Expect a sequel. **Grade: B**

These movies scored pretty good grades for the month of August — way above average compared with the typical August fare. Look for news next month on the return of the "Murph & Andy Show" and their Wednesday companion, Mr Movie. Until then, stay cool. ■

Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Guthrie County.



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GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS ‘RESPECTFULLY OBJECT’ TO EMINENT DOMAIN IN CO2 PIPELINE PLAN

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

AUG. 20 - “COUNTIES DO NOT HAVE JURISDICTION” ON PIPELINE

The Aug. 20 meeting was held in the courtroom to accommodate the anticipated large attendance. The audience was estimated at 50 or more individuals, including those participating via remote technology.

The bulk of the meeting involved discussion about the proposed CO2 pipeline to be built by Summit Carbon Solutions. County Attorney Dana Minter provided a brief statement.

“The decision was primarily made by the Iowa Utilities Board (Iowa Utilities Commission),” Minter said. “It’s already been determined that counties do not have jurisdiction.”

She added that, in her opinion, there is not much the county can do other than pass a resolution in opposition, but she said that could result in the county being sued and possibly paying damages to Summit.

Fourteen local citizens individually spoke to express concerns and opposition to the pipeline. None spoke in favor of the pipeline. The two main objections centered on eminent domain and safety.

When asked to give their opinions, the supervisors individually responded, with objection to eminent domain use being the most consistent comment.

Local citizen Lyle Wilson read aloud from Iowa Code Chapter 331 regarding the county supervisors’ duties regarding rights, property, safety and health of residents. He also voiced his opinion as to what the local supervisors’ duty is on this issue.

“That’s your job, gentlemen and lady, so step up,” Wilson said.

Riley Gibson from Summit Carbon Solutions gave information about the project and its status. He explained that while a general “corridor” for the pipeline has been approved, the exact route is not yet determined. He said Summit hopes to come to individual easement agreements with landowners so that eminent domain will not have to be used.

Gibson shared that a public meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Guthrie Activity Center, 209 State St. The public is invited, and Gibson said Summit representatives will share information and answer questions. He added that such meetings generally may last up the three hours.

The supervisors discussed agenda item No. 6, which was listed as “Review Resolution Objecting to the Iowa Utilities Board’s Authority to Enact Eminent Domain Authority Within Guthrie County for Privately Owned and Operated Carbon Dioxide Pipelines.” Supervisor Mike Dickson suggested using a lengthy resolution that had been passed in Shelby County for a similar, but not identical, situation. After discussion about using Shelby County’s resolution as an aid but shortening it significantly, the supervisors agreed that Guthrie County’s proposed resolution’s exact wording should be reviewed by Minter. Supervisor Steve Smith agreed to help work on developing proposed wording.

AUG. 27 - SUPERVISORS ‘RESPECTFULLY OBJECT’ TO PIPELINE

The supervisors reviewed a resolution

regarding objection to the use of eminent domain in Guthrie County as part of the Summit Carbon Solutions proposed pipeline. Supervisor Brian Johnson shared that he was not comfortable with the tone of the wording, since he felt it could be read as disrespectful.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong shared his concern.

“I agree. Can we combine the two parts and say ‘respectfully object’.. I feel like ‘object’

is a stronger term, but we can still be respectful,” Armstrong said.

The supervisors agreed to change the wording slightly, to add that the supervisors “respectfully object” instead of just “object.”

After discussion, the supervisors unanimously approved the draft of the resolution.

The supervisors heard recommendation from the Assessor’s Office regarding applications for 2024 credits and exemptions. The supervisors approved those recommended, in four categories (Homestead Tax Credit applications, Homestead Tax Exemption 65-plus applications, Military Exemption applications, and Disabled Veterans Homestead Tax Credit applications).

Quinten Pote and Ryan Recker were appointed as Medical Examiner Investigators.

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved a payroll; change notice regarding the hiring of Christopher Simmons at the transfer station.

SEPT. 3 - EMS COMMUNICATIONS PLAN DISCUSSED

During the Sept. 3 regular meeting, the

supervisors again heard from citizens concerned about the proposed CO2 pipeline. After listening to the public’s comments, the supervisors unanimously approved Resolution 25-05: Resolution Objecting to the Use of Eminent Domain by the Iowa Utilities Commission.

Next, the supervisors discussed the communications plan related to the county-wide EMS plan, which will be put to vote in the Nov. 5 election. The plan will include a number of small group meetings. Wixted Communications is helping the county develop consistent talking points to roll out the plan to citizens.

“I don’t want to leave any groups out... sometimes we get more out of, and people can ask their questions better, in a room of 15 or 20 people versus a town hall of 200 people,” Supervisor Steve Smith said. “That’s my perspective.”

Brian Johnson and JD Kuster voiced comments about the success of the Guthrie County Fair. Johnson said attendance was good, and he stated appreciation to the Guthrie County Fair Board.

SEPT. 10 - COUNTY WEBSITE WILL BE “SUPER CUSTOMIZABLE”

On Sept. 10, the supervisors met in regular session. During the Public Comments portion of the meeting, Jill Albright asked the status of the resolution that the supervisors voted on regarding eminent domain and the proposed CO2 pipeline. She was informed that the resolution was filed with the Iowa Utilities Commission on Sept. 9.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong provided an update on progress regarding the

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county's new website. Armstrong showed the preliminary look of the website and said it is still on track for a full rollout later this month.

"It's super customizable," Armstrong said.

At 9:23 a.m., the supervisors voted to go into a special closed session as allowed by Iowa Code. The supervisors also had a scheduled tour at 1 p.m. of the Herndon Trail, from Herndon to Bagley. No county business was to be discussed during the tour, and no formal action was scheduled during the tour.

SEPT. 17 - ABSORBING WORK OF GUTHRIE COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD

During the "Public Comments" portion of the Sept. 17 meeting, several citizens voiced concerns regarding the supervisors' actions related to the planned CO2 pipeline. Citizens spoke about feeling misled regarding the filing of the county's letter objecting to the use of imminent domain. Brian Johnson explained that he hand-delivered the resolution, and it was verified as received on Monday, Sept. 9.

Citizens also complained about their perceptions that the public has not been promptly and thoroughly informed about the planned pipeline.

The supervisors discussed the possibil-

ity of absorbing the work that has previously been done by the Guthrie County Compensation Board. The supervisors will look further into what work this would entail. No formal decision was made at this time.

County Auditor Dani Fink asked the supervisors to consider setting a date for an election regarding the Lake Panorama and Diamondhead Lake Rural Improvement Zone. The supervisors unanimously approved the plan for a special election on Dec. 10.

The supervisors discussed plans and scheduling of communication efforts related to the proposal for countywide EMS services.

Supervisor Brian Johnson shared his recent efforts.

"I was able to attend both the Jamaica and Yale city council meetings to talk about EMS, and it went very well," he said.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong told of an event she has scheduled.

"I scheduled a Panora community meeting for Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at Panorama School, in the auditorium," Armstrong said.

The supervisors regularly meet each Tuesday at 9 a.m. The public is welcome to attend in person or via remote technology. To join remotely, call 323-792-6123, then use meeting code 547029216#. ■

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PANORA CITY COUNCIL BANS PORTABLE STORAGE CONTAINERS

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

During the Aug. 26 regular meeting of the Panora City Council, the councilmembers heard from the city's building inspector, Jason Van Ausdall, regarding the issue of large shipping containers being kept in the city.

"I came to the P&Z (Planning & Zoning commission) a while back to talk about the ever-present discussion of shipping containers, which is what they are. They are built as such, they are used as such ... and people acquire them, and they show up everywhere. Small-town America, metro areas, commercial areas, industrial areas, you name it," Van Ausdall said. "Even though they show up, they're still a shipping container. They are not, by definition, any kind of a building."

Van Ausdall said he serves as building inspector for 30 other cities besides Panora, and he has seen this issue arise almost everywhere. He explained the difference between the issues cities face when allowing large shipping containers versus temporarily allowing small "moving pods."

"Moving pods are in and out. They are priced accordingly, so if you had it sitting in your driveway, you're paying for it dearly. If they're there for a day, that's excessive. So those are kind of a non-issue," Van Ausdall said. "You're not going to keep a pod in your driveway for three months. You would be broke if you did."

Van Ausdall strongly encouraged the council to enact an ordinance to prohibit shipping containers from being brought

into the city and to give notice that any shipping containers already in the city will have to be removed.

"I would advise a clear boilerplate letter, from and through the city attorney, that some weight behind it, that has a timeline that is adequate (for removing shipping containers)," Van Ausdall said.

After discussion, although Brian Sheeder said his position hasn't changed, the consensus of the council was to allow 90 days for removal once such property owners are notified. No formal action was taken, but City Administrator Lisa Grossman said she will revise the proposed ordinance per the council consensus so a first reading can occur at the next council meeting.

The council approved three appointments to the city's library board. Alli Halsey and Deb Rockwell were reappointed, and Erin Bendickson was newly appointed. All three have terms that will run through June 30, 2028.

As part of the consent agenda, the council approved a Class B Retail Alcohol license for Dollar General.

The council approved having two new street lights installed at the intersection of Highway 4 and Highway 44 (the "Casey's intersection"). If the new lights are satisfactory, more may be installed elsewhere.

SEPT. 9

During the regular meeting on Sept. 9, the council held the first reading of Ordinance 354, adding Chapter 149, regarding portable storage containers (also known as shipping containers). The ordinance states, in part, that portable storage containers are

prohibited on a property used for residential purposes and are also prohibited on a property used for commercial purposes. Any such containers within the city that are not in compliance will need to be moved within 90 days.

The council approved the first reading on a 4-1 vote with councilmember Mark Sheeder opposed. The council waived the second and third readings also on a 4-1 vote, with Sheeder opposed.

During the Public Forum portion of the meeting, citizens addressed the council on two matters. Alli Halsey and Tricia Small asked the council to consider putting in a sidewalk on East South Street to enhance safety of the many children they see walking or bicycling there. Halsey explained they are requesting a sidewalk on the south side of the street between Highway 4 and the museum.

"There's a lot of kids and a big hill, so it's a really big safety concern," Halsey said.

Marshall and Linda Burgess addressed the council regarding the tap water in their home. They explained that they've been dealing with rusty-colored water for a year and were told by city staff that the problem must be on their property. They said the problem remains even after they had new water lines installed on their property. Marshall showed one of the water filters he has used. They asked if the city could have the situation resolved sooner than the spring of 2025.

Since matters discussed in the Public Forum are not on the agenda for action, the council did not take any formal action but said the city would look into both concerns.

Police Chief Matt Reising addressed the council regarding his written request regarding staffing for police coverage, following the resignation of Officer Porsch. Reising's memo to the council said, in part, "We are utilizing part-time employees as much as possible... Officer Armstrong and I are requesting compensation for the shifts that we need to cover until a third officer is on their own." The memo asked for Armstrong and Reising to split the third officer's hourly rate in the meantime. The council unanimously approved the request, effective immediately.

The council asked Reising about a concern regarding a house in the city that's had several law enforcement visits.

"It is being rented out or purchased by an organization that assists individuals with mental health issues. There have been some concerns with their interactions with neighbors... at least at this point, from a city standpoint, there isn't really anything that we can do," Reising said. "Unless there's an actual crime, which I hope there isn't."

When asked if this is part of a "jail diversion program," Reising said the home in question is not a part of such a program. He added that the residents have a caretaker on hand to provide assistance to the individuals as needed.

The Panora City Council meets regularly on the second and fourth Mondays each month at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Interested persons may attend in person or electronically by visiting the website <https://meet.goto.com/cityofpanora> or by phone 1-312-757-3121 (Access Code 295-099-701, Audio PIN 220#). ■

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EDUCATION

PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSES ABSENTEEISM/TRUANCY POLICY REVISION

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

During the Sept. 9 regular meeting of the Panorama School Board, Superintendent Kasey Huebner reported on the school district's professional development plan and district goals. The board approved the district and building goals.

The board held a first reading of the proposed Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy Policy Revision - Policy 501.15. It will again be on the agenda during the Sept. 18 work session. Superintendent Huebner explained the proposed revision.

"The biggest change is that all excused absences are not exempted from the chronic absenteeism calculation. We will continue working with the families when situations arise. This policy, directed by the

state, is intended to make school and attendance a priority," Huebner said.

The board discussed the Juvenile Justice Agency Sharing Agreement, which would allow school personnel to collaborate and have conversations with local agencies who are working with students. Agencies include the District Juvenile Court, Panora Police and Guthrie County Sheriff's Department. The board approved the agreement.

The board noted several upcoming dates, including Homecoming Friday on Sept. 27. The school board has scheduled a work session for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

The next regular board meeting is set for Monday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all meetings other than special closed sessions as allowed by Iowa Code. ■

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HEALTH

GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL PAYS \$52,000 IN STAFF BONUSES

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

During the Aug. 22 regular meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, CEO Chris Stipe asked the trustees to consider approving employee bonuses for all staff. Stipe explained how, following feedback from employees, the hospital is now considering employee performance reviews (and any possible related pay increases) separately from consideration of possible employee bonuses.

“Last year, we included whether or not the organization achieved its goals as a part of the individual review for each employee. Twenty percent of your review was dictated by the organization’s performance,” Stipe said. “No longer is that the case.”

Stipe said any potential bonuses are now based on the overall performance of the organization.

“We rise or fall as a team,” Stipe said.

Stipe suggested a bonus of \$512 for each full-time and part-time employee, and \$256 for each “as needed” employee. He said any bonuses would be taxed, so employees would get a somewhat

smaller take-home amount. The total budgetary impact to the organization would be roughly \$52,000. The board voted to approve the bonuses as proposed. The timing of the bonuses was not yet determined.

Danielle Lauzon provided a summary of recent quality measurement data. She said there were 41 medication errors in fiscal year 2024, up slightly from the 39 medication errors in fiscal year 2023. She also shared data on employee injuries.

Stipe shared that regarding Workers Compensation, the hospital was tied for the lowest claims of any hospitals in Iowa, which he said is excellent.

“Even though we have some injuries, they’re not serious, and we’re not missing a lot of work days, so we’re doing better than almost all the hospitals in the state,” Stipe said.

Upon completion of the other agenda items, the board went into a special closed session as allowed by law.

The next regular meeting of the board is set for Thursday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. For more information, including how to view remotely, visit www.guthriecountyhospital.org. ■

CLUBS

50-YEAR MEMBERS OF LINDEN CHAPTER, PANORA, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR RECOGNIZED

Special to Panora Times

Linden Chapter, Panora, Order of the Eastern Star, hosted its 50-year luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 8 at the Masonic Lodge in Panora. Eighteen members enjoyed the pot luck meal followed by a program by Joyce Keeran. She greeted all with a reading “Hugs” and told the history

of Linden Chapter before noting the current 50-year members, Nina Cole and Mona Sellman, who were unable to attend. She also introduced the 50-year members attending: Virginia Armstrong, Jean Cornish, Dottie Hill, Shirley Hughes, Frank and Joyce Keeran, Mary Jo Laughery, Kathy Smith, Myrna Whetstone and Janice Whitehead. ■

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DONNA JOHNSON
1947-2024

Donna Jean Johnson, 77, daughter of Albert and Inez Nelson, was born May 19, 1947, in Lohrville. She passed away Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at UnityPoint Health-Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines.

She married Francis "Frank" Johnson on Nov. 7, 1964, at the Morrisburg Church. They lived near Dexter and then moved to Redfield. In 1970,

they purchased a farm south of Panorama. She worked road construction as a flag person and made sandwiches for the road crew before purchasing the farm. She farmed with Frank and then went to work at Stetson Building Products with accounts payable in the 1980s and worked there for 25-plus years. When they moved to Panorama, she helped out at the Panorama Ben Franklin Store and then worked at Panorama State Bank until she had to retire due to health reasons.

She was active in the Guthrie County Pork Producers alongside Frank and was a Master Pork Producer in the State of Iowa in 1991. They traveled to other states to promote pork in big city grocery stores. They hosted more than a dozen foreign exchange students and traveled to Brazil to visit them as well. She also volunteered at the 3C's in Panorama.

She loved Frank so much that she went to be with him just one day before his passing nine years ago.

Donna is survived by her son, John (Margo) Johnson; daughter, Sheila (Andy) Allen; grandsons, Dalton (Dakota) Allen and Levi (Maddie) Johnson; granddaughters, Jaden Johnson, Bridgette (Luke) Skalla, and Beth (Jeremy) Gregory; five great-grandchildren; and sister, Marilyn Bettis of Missouri. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank; sisters, Sharon Daisy and Edna Anderson; and brother, Bill Nelson.

Funeral services were Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024, at the Panorama United Methodist Church. Burial was in Morrisburg Cemetery, rural Stuart. Visitation was Monday, Aug. 26, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama.

Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family. ■



NANCY ANN TURNER
1931-2024

Nancy Ann Turner, 92, of Linden, daughter of James "Bert" and Helen (Wasson) Kerr, was born Dec. 17, 1931, in Panorama. She passed away Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024, at the Community Care Center, Stuart.

Nancy was a 1949 graduate of Panorama High School. Upon completion of high school, she attended Mercy Nursing school in Des Moines until her marriage to Harold Turner. Nancy and Harold began their courtship after standing up for Harold's older brother (Forrest) and Nancy's cousin (Barbara) at their wedding.

Nancy and Harold were married the following year on Aug. 11, 1951, at the Panorama United Methodist Church. Close relatives did not believe the marriage would last, as they were both so darn stubborn.

After their marriage, Nancy moved to Georgia where Harold was stationed in the Army. When Harold was assigned overseas for the Korean War, Nancy moved back to Panorama to live with her folks until Harold's return and discharge from the army. Upon Harold's discharge, they made their home on the family farm north of Linden. Nancy loved the farm life. She could be found tending large vegetable and flower gardens in the summer and canning produce to enjoy in the winter. There were always cookies and coffee available whenever anyone stopped by. She and Harold raised purebred Hereford cattle for many years and enjoyed going to cattle sales and shows. Nancy lived 72 years on the beloved family farm.

Besides farm work, Nancy also served as a school cook in Linden for several years in the 1960s, and, later in life, she worked several more

years at the nursing home in Panorama.

In retirement, Nancy had several hobbies that kept her busy, her favorite being quilting. She and her husband were fond of camping with friends and spending winters in Arizona during this time. They enjoyed 20 winters in Apache Junction, where they made many friends. They also loved to host their children and grandchildren over the holidays there.

Nancy was a member of the Iowa Hereford Auxiliary and the Linden United Methodist Church.

Nancy is survived by her son, Mike Turner of Panorama; daughters, Kathy (Rick) Frees of Riverside and Karen (Jeff) Kennedy of Stuart; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harold; and son, James.

Cremation has taken place. The family invites those who knew Nancy for an open house at the Linden Methodist Church on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, from 1-4 p.m. Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama, is entrusted with her services.

Memorials may be directed to St. Croix Hospice. ■

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrian, Sept. 2, 1974

IT'S A MISS: Scott Horman, 11, tries his luck at one of the many games on the Midway at the Guthrie County Fair. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Horman, own a "place" at Lake Panorama.

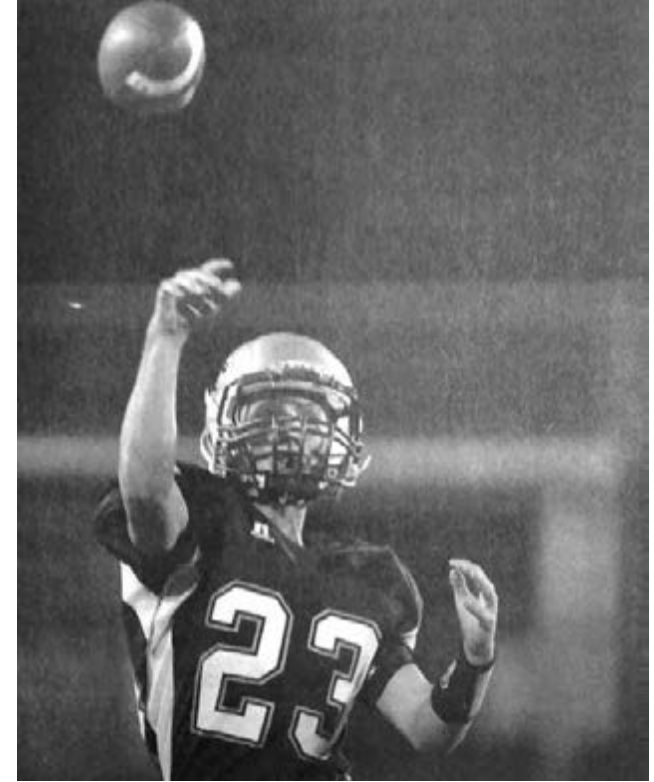
30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 15, 1994

STEP ON IT: This pooch is used to chasing his little friend in the car and likes the view from up front. Giving his puppy a ride around the block is Tommy Gaylord.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 11, 2014

LETTING IT LOOSE: Panorama's Aaron Klinge in third-quarter play action during the Panthers' 35-2 loss to No. 8 Manson Northwest Webster Friday.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 27, 1984

PUFF, PUFF: Winded after running the two-mile course at the Panorama National Golf Course, Hawkette senior Kimberly Teale accepts congratulations from friends.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 16, 2004

JAMAICA LIONS CLUB TRACTOR RIDE: Participants in the Jamaica Lions Club Tractor Ride included, left to right, Ed McCartney, Bagley; Vernon Van Gundy, Jamaica; Dean Van Gundy, Lacona; Jan Van Gundy, Jamaica; Ken Pederson, Jefferson; Jean Higgins, Bagley; Gordon Van Gundy (kneeling) Jamaica; Charles and Roxy Haden, Panora; Jim Hogge, Jamaica; Doyle Carlson, Paton; Phil Lansing, Rippey; Bob Van Gundy, Jamaica; Bernard Volz, Stuart. Not pictured: "Chop" Gibson and Matt McDonald, Scranton; Gary McDonald, Jefferson; Don Overton, St. Charles; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mills, Panora.

5 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, Sept. 19, 2019

PSB CHANGES NAME: Concrete is poured as workers hustle to complete renovations of the 60-year-old Panora State Bank. On Sept. 23 the bank officially becomes an Iowa Trust and Savings Bank facility, having merged with an Emmetsburg bank of that name. ■

THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS

FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER | CROSS COUNTRY PHOTOS BY GREG THOMPSON



No. 23 Sawyer Simmons evades a tackler in a game against IKM-Manning Sept. 6.



No. 19 Reed Draper prepares to stiff arm an ACGC defender on Sept. 13.



No. 13 AJ Draper getting wrapped up by West Central Valley defense on Aug. 30.



No. 14 Gracie Recker goes for the spike against West Central Valley Aug. 27.



No. 27 Jessica Randol winds up vs. West Central Valley Aug. 27.



Panorama football comes together before its scrimmage



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Noah Poldberg is currently ranked 21st among 1A boys cross country runners.



Laicey Lutz is currently ranked 28th among 1A girls cross country runners.



Zach Hayden competing at the Southeast Valley meet on Aug. 29.



against Martensdale - St. Marys Aug. 23.



No. 11 Cayden Iredale setting up one of her teammates in a game against ACGC Sept. 12.



No. 8 Madelyn Carstens celebrates a point against ACGC Sept. 12.

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EDWARD JONES IN PANORA PARTNERS WITH CLIENTS TO WORK TOWARD GOALS

Dave Grove has been leading the Panora branch since 2011.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

Edward Jones has been providing financial advice and guidance in Guthrie County for more than 30 years. Dave Grove has been leading the Panora branch since 2011 and says he likes what the community has to offer. He and his wife, Sara, moved to Panora in 2012, and their three children, Norah, 11; Gracie, 9; and Leo, 7, attend Panorama Community Schools. The Grove family enjoys participating and being involved in the community.

“It was a nice move from the metro area of Des Moines to a smaller community where we wanted to raise our children. It’s a great place to run a business and build a business. It’s nice to go to the office each day and hang out with our clients who have become our friends,” Grove said.

Edward Jones is a Fortune 500 company and employs more than 50,000 people in the United States and Canada. The company recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Despite the size of Edward Jones, by placing its offices in the communities it serves, it provides the small-town touch with the backing of a large firm. The branch office staff includes Mandy Norman, branch office administrator. Norman brought more than 20 years of industry experience when she joined the team three years ago. She has been part of the community for more than 25 years and lives in Panora with her husband, Cory, and son, Avery.

Talking personal finance is an intimate subject, and Grove said it is key to understand what is important to each investor.

“We use what we call the five-step process at Edward Jones: 1) understanding where you are at, then 2) understand where you’re trying to get to, 3) developing a plan



Dave Grove and Mandy Norman of Edward Jones in Panora.

to accomplish that objective, 4) implementing the plan and, finally, 5) regularly following up on the plan,” Grove said. “We focus on each individual client and that person’s unique situation and goals. This isn’t rocket science; there is a lot that goes into understanding a person’s situation and making a recommendation. The variables are many, from Social Security, pension plans, 401Ks, taxes, 529 college savings plans and many more considerations. We try to sift

through all the data, and making sense of it all takes perspective.”

Looking to the future, Grove expects to see continued change in the industry, and he plans to keep learning the ways to help his clients.

“We’ve seen some pretty substantial growth over the last 12 years, and that keeps us busy each day,” Grove said. “The industry is always evolving, so we need to stay on our toes and keep up with the evolution of the financial industry.” ■



The Edward Jones office in Panora is located at 611 East Main.

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HOBBIES

HISTORY COLLECTION IS PERSONAL

Linda Burgess has learned much about the history of her great-great-grandfathers, as well as those from Guthrie County who served in the Civil War.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

Linda Burgess of Panora enjoys collecting, especially items related to local or family history. This meshes well with her antique store, Reborn, in downtown Panora. As Burgess goes out “picking” for items to sell in her store, she also finds items she wants to have for herself.

“I’ve always been interested in the Civil War period,” Burgess said.

She explained that two great-great-grandfathers fought in the Civil War, and she is lucky enough to have historical mementos from each of them. The items in Burgess’ collection are not necessarily the types of items that would be highly valued dollarwise, but they are meaningful to her. Some items are replicas, but they still show

images or history from the Civil War era.

“It’s pretty hard to get authentic Civil War stuff,” Burgess said.

Burgess also said she sometimes finds an item she wants, but the price is too steep.

The most impressive items in her collection are of a personal nature. She showed two letters written by her great-great-grandfather while he fought in the Civil War, as well as a photograph of him. The letters were mailed back to his family and tell of his daily routines and challenges. Even after 160 years, the letters are legible, and she plans to transcribe them so the content won’t be lost if/when the ink fades beyond recognition.

Burgess shared that she found a book of letters titled “Soldier Boy” that helped her fill in some of the blanks about her great-



Linda Burgess shows her collection of Civil War items.

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Linda Burgess enjoys finding items relating to President Lincoln.



Linda Burgess shows two letters from her great-great-grandfather.

great-grandfather's time in the war.

"That soldier that those letters are from was in the same regiment as my great-great-grandfather," Burgess said. "They took all of his letters and put them in book form. When I read the book, then I got a picture, as they traveled together. They went in together in Council Bluffs. They discharged together, so it gave me a total insight into what my great-great-grandfather did."

Burgess has also found replica items that are similar to what her ancestors would have worn or used in the war. She also has vintage eyeglasses and a hat from the Civil War era similar to those worn by President

Lincoln, as well as items created years later in homage to Lincoln.

Burgess showed the discharge letter from when her other great-great-grandfather was sent home from fighting in the Civil War in January 1865.

Through her collecting and research, Burgess has learned much of the history of those from Guthrie County who served in the Civil War. She knows much of American history and Lincoln's history, too.

Asked if there's a particular item she would love to find someday, Burgess had a ready answer.

"Maybe someday I'll actually get an Abraham Lincoln autograph," she said. ■



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COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | PANORA TIMES

Stitch & Chatter members Ellen Campbell, Kristi Holz, Joanne Huggins and Karen Onken show items recently purchased for their quilt-making group.

GCSB GIVES \$500 TO STITCH & CHATTER GROUP

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

Members of the local Stitch & Chatter group announced they are the thankful recipients of a \$500 donation from Guthrie County State Bank's May Day Friendship promotion. Stitch & Chatter member Ellen Campbell explained how the funds are being used.

"The funds allowed us to purchase supplies and notions to continue making quilts that will be donated to various charities," Campbell said.

Some of the local groups that receive the quilts include 3C's (Children's Clothes Closet), Hospice, Guthrie County Sheriff's Office, New Opportunities, Storks Nest, Atlantic Hospital, and Mercy Hospital.

Campbell also invites the public to learn more about the Stitch & Chatter group.

"If you would like to see what we do, please join us on Nov. 6 for our quilt give-



Some of the items pictured were purchased with funds from a \$500 donation by Guthrie County State Bank.

away at First Christian Church," she said. "This mission could not be reached without your donations of fabric to make these wonderful gifts."

Campbell added that the donated funds were spent locally at the Gap Creek Quilt Shop in Guthrie Center. ■

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COMMUNITY

TEN SQUARED PLUS MEN'S GROUP DONATES \$20,500 TO PANORA CHAMBER

SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



Special to Panora Times

The Ten Squared Plus Men's Group presented a check for \$20,500 to the Panora Chamber of Commerce this morning. The chamber will use the funds to install an outdoor speaker system in the downtown area.

Total donations from the Ten

Squared Plus Men's Group to local groups and organizations now totals \$399,150.

The next meeting for the Ten Squared Plus Men's group will be Nov. 19.

For more information on Ten Squared Plus Men's group, contact Barry Monaghan at b.monaghan@gcsbank.com. ■



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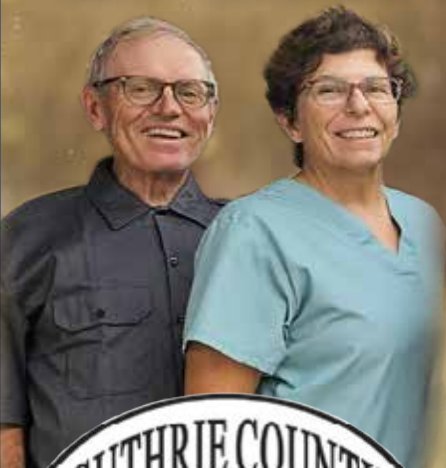
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FAITH



Front row: Ella Hazelton, Vickie Fisher and Krista Gafkjen. Back row: Al Hazelton, Guy Fisher, Kelly Gafkjen, Erica Barthalow, Jonathan Barthalow, Cleo Tosten and Norman Tosten.

LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH GAFKJENS

Special to Panora Times

On Sunday, Sept. 8, Lighthouse Assembly of God church celebrated 25 years that Kelly and Krista Gafkjen have pastored in Panora.

The Gafkjens moved to Panora in 1999 with three children. A few years later, their fourth child was born. It was their desire to stay in one place long enough for all their children to graduate from the same high school, and this was accomplished. Now, all of their children have graduated from college, and three are married. The Gafkjens have four grandchildren, and the fifth one is on the way.

In addition to the congregation, in attendance Sunday were their former Iowa Sectional Presbyter and wife, Rev. Al and Ella Hazelton; former Iowa District Superintendents and wives, Revs. Norman and Cleo Tosten, and Revs. Guy and Vickie Fisher; and current Iowa Superintendent and wife, Rev. Jonathan and Erica Barthalow.

Pastor Barthalow touched on technology changes that happened in the 25 years the Gafkjens have been pastoring at Lighthouse Assembly of God. He noted how they were pastoring here for four

years before video calls were introduced by Skype; five years before Facebook was created; and eight years before the first iPhone was released. He asked the congregation to think about “the number who have been saved, the number given in marriage, the number of babies born, and the number who have passed on to Glory.” His message focused on building lives on a proper foundation by making Jesus Christ the priority, the purpose, and the passion.

Pastors Kelly and Krista shared, “We love our church family very much. You’ve blessed us in ways you may not have realized. There have been trials and struggles, yes. But, in the end, God is still on the throne and still at work in the hearts of each and every one of us. Thank you for loving us and our family. Thank you for lifting us up in prayer continually. Thank you for caring for us in so many ways. Thank you for your constant love and support. The prayers you lift on our behalf are felt every day. You are faithful to not only God the Father, but also to us. We appreciate it. We are blessed to be your co-lead pastors together.”

Lighthouse Assembly of God is located at 400 S.E. Third St. in Panora. ■

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REUNION

PANORA-LINDEN CLASS OF 1966 MEETS



The Panora-Linden Class of 1966 met Sunday, Aug. 4 at Crafty's Coffee Shop in Panora. Everyone had a fun time, laughing and reminiscing about the good old days along with great food catered by Cafe on the Hill. Attending were from the left, front: Connie Reynolds Richey, Ronda Easley Hafner, Rexanna Marchant Ketelsen. Back: Nyal Hodges, Larry Anderson, Sharol Merical Williams, Linda Lynam Jordan, Jim Vandevanter, Ron Tryon and Marie Jenkins Pennington (not pictured). ■

HEALTH

WELCOME TO MEDICARE SEMINAR OFFERED IN GUTHRIE CENTER AT GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL

Special to Panora Times

Are you going to be eligible for Medicare in the near future? Have you been on Medicare for a while and want to better understand what it offers? Do you have a family member you help with Medicare issues? Welcome to Medicare is for you. This two-hour seminar offered by the Guthrie County Hospital SHIIP counselor will be held Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 6-8 p.m. at Sneakers Cafe (710 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center). Register by Sept. 24 by calling 641-332-3828.

"We're excited to offer this free seminar to the community," Mary Wardyn, SHIIP counselor from Guthrie County Hospital, says. "Medicare is such an important pro-

gram, and understanding what it offers helps assure that anyone eligible gets the health benefits they deserve," she adds.

"Welcome to Medicare" will cover Medicare Part A and Part B benefits, the prescription drug benefit (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare supplement insurance. For more information or questions, call 641-332-3828.

SHIIP, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program, is a service of the State of Iowa. SHIIP services are free, confidential and unbiased. SHIIP counselors are trained by the state and do not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents. Guthrie County Hospital is a local sponsor for SHIIP in Guthrie County. ■

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GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

SHYANN YOUNG CROWNED AS GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN



SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

2023 Guthrie County Fair Queen Riley Gibson leads the applause for this year's fair queen Shyann Young.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

On Sept. 1, the 2024 Guthrie County Fair Queen, Riley Gibson, passed the crown to her successor, as Shyann Young was announced as the 2025 Guthrie County Fair Queen.

Young is a 17-year-old senior at ACGC high school. She participates in volley-

ball, track, 4-H, concert band, marching band, jazz band, choir, large group speech, individual speech, art club, theater and student council. She has also been active in swing choir, FFA and FCCLA.

As part of her duties, Young will compete for the title of Iowa State Fair Queen in 2025. The other contestants were Addison Laughery and Cassidy Olson. ■

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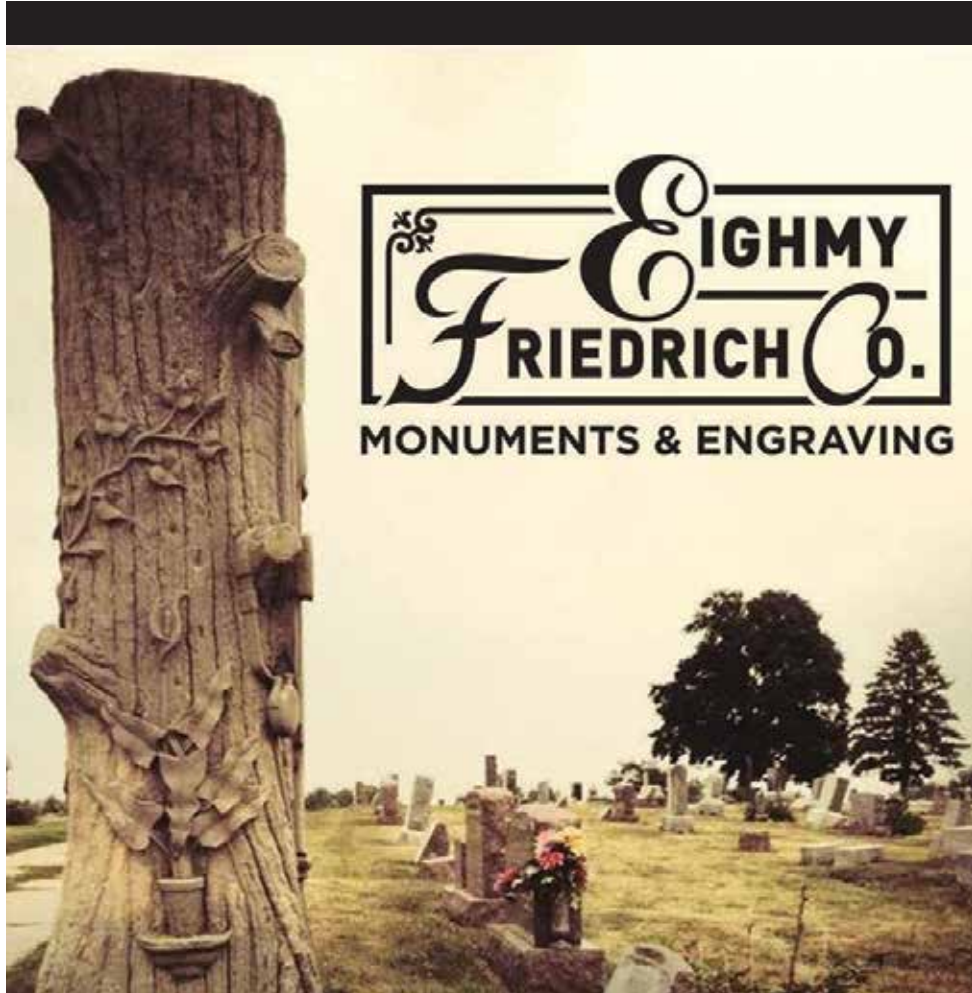
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HEALTH

GCH CLINICS ADDS NEW PROVIDER

Special to *Panora Times*

GCH Clinics announces the addition of Renea Kestel, ARNP, as a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She received her BSN and MSN from the University of Phoenix and Family Nurse Practice Certification from Graceland University. She has spent the majority of her nurse practitioner career with family practice and walk-in clinics. She also served as a nurse practitioner within the Army Nurse Corps Army Reserves.

"I look forward to joining the Panora GCH team. I raised my family in a small town in northwest Iowa, and I truly enjoy

a small-town environment. I enjoy getting to know patients and their families, and though I hope to inspire my patients, I find my patients most often inspire me," Kestel stated.

Kestel will be seeing patients at the walk-in clinic in Panora beginning in mid-September. The hours for the walk-in clinic are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each weekday. The clinic is closed for lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. ■



Renea Kestel

SPORTS

HIGGINS NAMED ASSISTANT COACH AT UMES

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) announced the hiring of Janelle Higgins as an assistant coach for the softball program. This is her first coaching position at the NCAA Division I level. Higgins is a graduate of Panorama High School and the daughter of Jean Higgins of Yale.

Higgins most recently served as head coach of softball at North Platte Community College (NPCC). Under her leadership, the North Platte Knights captured the Region IX Division II championships in 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2021 with Higgins earning Region IX Division II Coach of the Year honors each of those years. Her leadership was also recognized with the Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year awards in 2012 and 2017, and she was named Co-Coach of the Year in 2016.

Before her role at NPCC, Higgins

worked at Dawson Community College in Glendive, Montana, where she served as the head softball coach, assistant basketball coach, faculty member, and director of Campus Corps. Under her leadership, the Lady Buccaneers achieved notable success, including a second-place finish in the Mon-Dak Conference and a fourth-place finish in the regional tournament. Higgins also held coaching positions at Southwestern Community College and Saydel High School, where she played a key role in leading her teams to state tournament appearances and high rankings.

Higgins holds a bachelor of science in education from Northwest Missouri State University and a master of science in recreation and sports science from Ohio University. ■



Janelle Higgins

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Panora ASK TIMES



Submit your questions at
www.guthriecentertimes.com or
email shane@gctimesnews.com.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF GUTHRIE COUNTY'S DOG ORDINANCE?

A: We asked this question to Guthrie County Auditor Dani Fink, and she told us that the county does not currently have a dog ordinance but that one is being worked on by the supervisors. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong added that the Public Health Department is working on an ordinance, but, as it stands right now, the county does not have an official dog ordinance. It is something the Public Health Department and the Board of Supervisors plan to implement when available.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS BRINGING IN MORE THAN \$30,000 IN REVENUE EACH MONTH FOR INMATES AT THE NEW JAIL?

A: In August, the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office reported revenues of \$35,750 for processing of out-of-county inmates. A total of 75 inmates were processed through the facility during the month including 36 from out of the county. Keep in mind that these stated revenues are billed amounts and not necessarily collected amounts.

Q: ARE A GROUP OF IOWA REPUBLICANS FILING LAWSUITS AGAINST THE SUMMIT PIPELINE DECISION?

A: Yes, a group of Iowa Republican lawmakers are planning to ask federal and state courts to rule that the Iowa Utilities Commission acted illegally and unconstitutionally in its approval of a controversial pipeline project, according to a story in the Iowa Capital Dispatch.

The group of nearly 40 Iowa lawmakers includes Sens. Kevin Alons, Rocky De Witt, Lynn Evans, Jesse Green, Dennis Guth, Mark Lofgren, David Rowley, Sandy Salmon, Jason Schultz, Jeff Taylor and Cherielynn Westrich. Also, Reps. Eddie Andrews, Brooke Boden, Steven Bradley, Ken Carlson, Mark Cisneros, Zach Dieken, Dean Fisher, Dan Gehlbach, Thomas Gerhold, Cindy Golding, Helena Hayes, Bob Henderson, Steven Holt, Heather Hora, Thomas Jeneary, Bobby Kaufman, Joshua Meggers, Anne Osmundson, Bradley Sherman, Jeff Shipley, Luana Stoltenberg, Henry Stone, Mark Thompson, Charles Thomson, Skyler Wheeler and Derek Wulf.

Q: I HEARD THERE IS FREE GRIEF TRAINING BEING OFFERED IN PANORA. HOW DO I SIGN UP?

A: Lutheran Church of Hope, Panama Campus, is partnering with Hospice of the Midwest to offer a free training titled "Grief Share," running through Dec. 9. The program will meet each Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Restore Wellness at 102 S.E. 13th St. in Panama. The program is limited to 15 participants and will be hosted by Carolyn Koberg and Carla Kem. Registration is available at www.griefshare.org/groups/241306.

Q: WHO IS THE NEW MAYOR OF BAGLEY?

A: During the regular meeting of the Bagley City Council on Sept. 3, the councilmembers addressed the issue of the mayor vacancy following the resignation of Glen Foresman. The council appointed Amanda Waltz to the position of mayor, effective immediately. ■

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful patients for voting in the Best of the Guthrie County Poll.



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SPICY CHIPOTLE CHICKEN PASTA

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Panora Times

Our family loves pasta. And, what's not to like? These warm, tasty dishes can vary with meat selections, no-meat options, vegetables galore, no veggies, sauce varieties, gooey cheese or no cheese, and the list goes on. They are typically easy to make and are affordable. When we were raising our daughters, I made a lot of pasta. There are a few recipes I know by heart, and they still get requested at family gatherings. Now, we live in a household of two, and pasta is no longer part of our weekly meal plan. It is missed. We have the good fortune that one daughter and her husband live close by, and both are good cooks. We love this, as they invite us to dinner often. I share one of their pasta dishes this

month. It has earned a top spot in our list of family favorites and is a perfect balance of creamy indulgence with crisp veggies and juicy chunks of chicken. It is colorful and nutritious, as well as delicious. I hope you enjoy it, too.

Do you have a family favorite recipe you'd like share with me? I'd love to see it. Email to Jolene@IowaLivingmagazines.com.

Happy cooking! ■

Jolene Goodman is the advertising director for Panora Times and vice president of Big Green Umbrella Media.



Jolene Goodman

SPICY CHIPOTLE CHICKEN PASTA

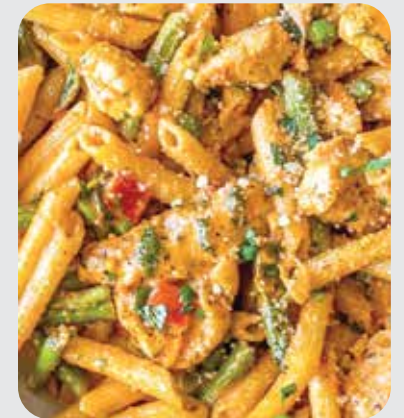
Ingredients

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 pound pasta (penne is recommended)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons chipotle pepper sauce from canned adobo peppers
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 yellow onion, minced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 lb. fresh asparagus, small stock preferred

- 1 small bag of frozen peas - optional
- 6 oz. shredded parmesan cheese
- tortilla chip strips, optional

Directions

Boil water for pasta. Add asparagus (and peas, if using) to water and boil for 3 minutes or until crisp. Take out asparagus and rinse with cold water to stop cooking and leave in a colander. Set aside. Boil pasta according to package directions minus 2 minutes. Drain in same bowl as asparagus. Do not rinse. Mix chicken, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Set aside. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add pepper and onions. Cook 7-10 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute. Remove all and set aside. Add oil to the pan and brown chicken on



medium/high. Add honey and stir, then add pepper mixture. Stir mix thoroughly before adding in adobo sauce, cream and parmesan cheese. Cook 3 minutes. Add pasta and asparagus. Stir thoroughly. Serve with extra parmesan cheese and tortilla strips if desired. ■

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BAGLEY

Bagley United Methodist Church
401 Main Street, PO Box 40
www.umc.org



JAMAICA

Jamaica Union Church
409 Van Nest St., Jamaica
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

LINDEN

Linden United Methodist Church
106 N. Evans St., Linden
641-439-2458

PANORA

Church Of The Brethren
2946 200th Road, Panora
641-755-3800
Sunday School: 8:45 a.m.
Sunday Service: 9:45 a.m.

Calvary Chapel Of The Raccoon River Valley

604 E. Main St., Panora
www.calvaryraccoon.com
641-755-4268
Sunday service: 10 a.m.



Faith Bible Church

2096 Highway 4, Panora
www.fbcpanora.com
641-755-3034
Sunday Service: 9 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.



First Christian Church

102 E. Church St., Panora
www.panorafcc.org
641-755-2227
Sunday School: 9 a.m.,
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Wednesday: God's Squad, AWANA 6 p.m.



Fountain of Life Church

2322 Wagon Road, Panora
www.folcpanora.com
641-755-2322
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.



Lighthouse Assembly of God

400 S.E. Third St., Panora
www.panoralighthouseassemblyofgod.com
641-755-3060
Sunday School: 9 a.m.,
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Wednesday: Children/Youth 7 p.m.



Lutheran Church of Hope

5405 Chimra Road, Panora
641-222-1520



Panora United Methodist Church

119 E. Main St., P.O. Box 601, Panora
www.panoraumc.org
641-755-2655
Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.

Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

220 N. First St., Panora
www.st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com
641-747-3843
Catholic Mass: Sunday 8 a.m.;
Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m.
Confession: Sunday 7:30 a.m.,
Wednesday and Thursday 7:45 a.m.
Adoration: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.



Saint Thomas Lutheran Church

2106 Highway 4, Panora
<http://panoralutheran.com>
641-755-2051
Sunday School /Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study: Tuesday 11 a.m.



YALE

Yale Church of Christ

304 Lincoln, Yale
church-of-christ.org
641-439-2300 ■



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The answer to last month's photo is the yard decorations of Shawn and Tina Baker at 316 W. Church St. in Panora. Have a guess on the location of this month's photo? Have one to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com. ■



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