

Panora

# TIMES

**JANUARY 2025**

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## A PANORA WEDDING

**ONE COUPLE'S STORY ON THE  
JOURNEY TOWARD MARRIAGE**

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**JUST 1 MORE WILL MAKE  
YOU WANT TO STAY**

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**HENDERSON READS BOOKS  
AT A RATE FEW CAN EQUAL**

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**A HEALTHY HUMMUS DIP  
FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**PAGE 34**

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# Presenting the 2024 Grant Recipients from

In 2024, the Guthrie County Community Foundation awarded **MORE THAN \$210,000** to organizations and groups who serve Guthrie County residents.



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**City of Coon Rapids**  
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**Stuart Fire Department**  
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**Panora EMS**  
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**Panora Lutheran Church of Hope**  
Summer lunch program



**Boys and Girls Clubs of Central SW Iowa**  
Safety First program



**Guthrie County Arts Council**  
Creation of the a multi-purpose room for community arts in Guthrie Center



**Casey Public Library**  
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**City of Guthrie Center**  
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**Guthrie County Historical Village Foundation**  
1890 Youtz Carriage House exterior renovation

**\$200,000+ is available to be awarded in Guthrie County for 2025**

If you have questions, email [GCCFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:GCCFoundation@gmail.com) or contact a board member.

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# the Guthrie County Community Foundation



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**City of Coon Rapids**  
Little league equipment



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**Mary J Barnett Memorial Library**  
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**Guthrie County Hospital Foundation**  
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**Yale Community Club Association**  
Equipment replacement



**Little Charger Learning Center in Guthrie Center**  
Construction of the new daycare building

Now's the time to submit grant applications for 2025 funds. Funding is available to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and government entities that reside in Guthrie County or serve Guthrie County residents.

**The deadline to apply is midnight, January 31, 2025.**

Applications and more information about eligibility are available at [GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org](http://GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org)



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## FROM THE COVER:

Vlad Valentine and Kayla LaFreniere married next to Lake Panorama.  
Photo by Shelby Wiggins Photography



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# A PANORA WEDDING MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BETTER CHOICE

Jolene and I were married in Clive on Sept. 30, 1995. And, yes, this will be our 30-year anniversary.

Jolene's parents, Dean and Lois Poth, lived full-time in Guthrie County at the time, but we never even considered a wedding here. I am not sure why. Maybe late September was pushing it for an outdoor wedding, but, more than likely, the decision had to do with our focus on being truly independent from our parents. Looking back, a Panora wedding might have been the better option.

Our wedding ceremony was beautiful, and the church looked spectacular. From there, though, things got a little rocky. Rather than renting a limousine for the

two of us, we thought it would be more fun to take the entire wedding party on a well-stocked cruise from the church to the reception hall. When a friend offered his RV for us to use, we thought we had the perfect plan. It was great fun for a while — until the RV broke down on a rural road. We eventually found a friendly farmer who gave us a ride to the reception hall in his farm truck — complete in our wedding dress and tuxedo. He then gave the rest of the wedding party rides as well. Needless to say,



Shane Goodman

the reception was delayed. Fortunately, or maybe unfortunately, the members of the wedding party were well-hydrated.

We had our wedding reception at the Jester Park Lodge, and not the new fancy one that is in the park today. We rented the two-level building with the giant moose head on the wall, which made for some entertaining photos. Not too many years later, that lodge burned to the ground, and that was probably a good thing.

Through it all, we sang, we danced, we toasted and we had one of the best nights of our lives. It certainly wasn't a story-book event, and after reading about the beautiful Panora wedding featured in this

month's issue, it makes me wonder if we should have leaned on Dean and Lois to use their place instead. The scents of an approaching autumn. The sounds of nature. The love of my life.

Just no moose head or a broken-down RV. Aaaahhh, the memories. Happy 30th anniversary, Jolene! ■

Shane Goodman  
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# A PANORA WEDDING

One couple's story on the journey toward marriage.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Kayla LaFreniere had been working at The Port in Panora since 2015. In 2019, Vlad Valentine started working there as well, and the two soon started dating. By 2022, Vlad said he knew he wanted to ask Kayla to be his wife, and he needed to pick a special spot for that to happen.

"I knew I wanted to propose really early in the relationship. I knew she was the one very fast," Vlad said. "Her mom and I worked together and chose Honeymoon Island in Florida. It is a beautiful beach with a memorable name."

Kayla recalled that day, March 1, 2022. "At some point prior, Vlad had gone to my mom's house and asked permission from my mom and dad to ask me to marry him. Then he went shopping with my mom to get a ring, and they hid it from me for a couple of months until the four of us went to Florida together," Kayla said. "Then he and my dad went off together and drew a big heart in the sand. Then they kind of distracted me and dragged me over there, and he proposed. It was gorgeous. I was totally surprised. It was an absolute shock."

Kayla's only (minor) regret from that day is that she wasn't dressed for such a landmark photographic moment in her life.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't prepared for it, so I was wearing a large sweater," she said.



The wedding party beside Lake Panorama.

## THE PLANNING

As soon as the couple was engaged, they started planning for their wedding.

"We immediately knew we wanted to get married at The Port, because I'd been working there for so long, and I just

thought it was a beautiful venue," Kayla said. "We love the lake. He's from California, so it's nice to be able to incorporate the water."

The couple set a wedding date of Oct. 14, 2023, which gave them roughly 18 months

to make all of the arrangements for their big day.

"We planned it with the general manager at The Port, and he took good care of us. He and his family helped us, and my family helped us. We had a lot of help get-

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The newlyweds kiss at their reception.

ting everything together," Kayla said. "My mom and I went dress shopping. It was a lot of fun."

Kayla and Vlad chose to involve their families and friends as much as possible in the planning and various parts of their wedding. Because of this, the ceremony included six bridesmaids and six groomsmen.

"Vlad has six siblings, and three were able to come to the wedding," Kayla said. "My maid of honor was my sister, and my sister-in-law was a bridesmaid, along with a few of my friends."

Kayla shared the thought behind some of the wedding planning.

"For my dress, I went to David's Bridal. When I walked in, one of my friends from high school was working there, so she helped me find a dress. That was unplanned and interesting," Kayla said. "Our bridesmaid dresses we found on Amazon, and they turned out fabulous."

The couple's wedding cake was a beautiful and unique design.

"I got the cake done by a friend of mine who has an at-home bakery. We put some rose petals on there, and the cake was delicious. It was an apple spice cake," Kayla said.

The rest of the food was provided by The Port, and that's where the reception and dance were also held.

For photography, the couple found another local connection.

"Shelby Wiggins out of Jefferson was our photographer," Kayla said. "I chose her because my sister-in-law is good friends with her."

The wedding photos included in this story are from Shelby Wiggins Photog-



Vlad Valentine proposes to Kayla LaFreniere.

raphy.

"One of my bridesmaids is a cosmetologist, so she did the hair for a lot of us," Kayla added.

Another part of the wedding planning reflected the couple's strong belief in family, friends and togetherness. For a bachelor party and bachelorette party, the couple decided "the more, the merrier."

"We had a joint party and went to Adventureland and had a fun waterpark day," Kayla said.

#### THE WEDDING DAY

Finally, the big weekend arrived, with more fun and fellowship.

"We did the rehearsal the night before in the banquet room," Kayla said. "We ended up getting pizza and just hanging out in our pajamas."

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Because the couple planned an outdoor wedding, weather was a concern, but things worked out.

"The weather did turn out OK. It was a little cold, if you ask the guys from California, but I thought it was OK," Kayla said. "Our backup plan would have been to just move out a few of the tables from the banquet room and have everything right in there."

Because of the degree of planning involved, a wedding can sometimes feel like an astronomical event. Kayla and Vlad learned that theirs wasn't the only event of that type that day.

"After the fact, I found out that there was actually an eclipse that day," Kayla said.

Often, no matter how much planning occurs in aiming for perfection in a wedding day, things will happen that are not expected. But, in many cases, those little mishaps are what make the day even more memorable. That was the case for Kayla and Vlad.

"Our vows were pretty regular, other than the part where Vlad called me his 'awfully wedded wife' instead of 'lawfully wedded wife.' He was terrified that would happen, and then he actually did it," Kayla said. "The whole ceremony stopped, and everybody laughed. It really took the stress off of everybody. And then I got flustered and forgot to carry my own flowers back down the aisle."

Vlad also described that moment. "I was so nervous and messed it up. But I fixed it and said the right thing after everyone laughed," he said. "It was an ice breaker."

Another mishap occurred but was quickly resolved.

"We lost our officiant last minute and had a very good friend of ours who offered to step up and marry us," Vlad said. "It was awesome and made it so special."

Kayla agreed.

"Actually, the gentleman who married



The hands of Kayla and Vlad.

us is actually a close personal friend of ours, and he's a chef at The Port. That was very sweet of him; he's like family to us," she said.

Following the ceremony, it was time for the reception and dance with a variety of delicious food and drink, and then everyone enjoyed music and dancing. Instead of a professional DJ, Kayla asked a relative to help.

"My nephew played a playlist on his phone, actually," she said. "He had a good time."

All in all, the couple's big day turned out well. Vlad summarized his feelings.

"Just seeing my new wife happy was enough for me. I was relieved to be married and to have fun the rest of the night," he said. "It was great spending time with the people we love, and it was great celebrating our marriage together."



Kayla and Vlad cut the cake.

## THE MARRIED LIFE

Following the wedding, the newlyweds decided on a honeymoon. And although it sounds like a cliché, Kayla explained that, in their case, the honeymoon really isn't over yet.

"We did end up going on a drive from Orlando to Key West and then back up the other side. We did a full Florida tour with my parents. We flew down to Orlando, and then we spent about 10 days going through Florida," Kayla said. "And then we have a 'part two' of the honeymoon coming next August. We're going on a cruise to Jamaica."

The couple continues to work together at The Port where Vlad serves as front desk clerk and assistant 'day of' coordinator for events. Kayla works as general

manager and helps coordinate special events. The couple recently moved to Scranton.

Kayla and Vlad do not have children but enjoy time at home together.

"We're kind of just video gamers. We come home and play games and hang out with our two dogs," Kayla said. "We are kid-free; our dogs are our kids."

When asked about any advice for other couples planning a wedding, Kayla said she believes in the concept of teamwork.

"Just recruit as many people as you can. It is not a one-person process. I could not have done everything without my mom," Kayla said. "And my bridesmaids and my family and people at work cared about us enough to put their personal time in and help us." ■

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# GUTHRIE COUNTY WEDDING DATA AND THE PROCESS

Tristan Richard, Guthrie County Recorder, says the county processes and records applications for marriage licenses but does not specifically track how many of those couples actually got married, since there is no requirement to be married in the same county where an application is filed. In 2023, a total of 55 couples applied for a marriage license in Guthrie County, while 2024 saw 42 applications.

Richard also provided information on the legal process to become married in Iowa.

Persons who wish to marry in Iowa must first complete an Application for License of Marriage and have one witness. The application may be obtained in any county, and the marriage can take place anywhere in Iowa. Both parties must fill out their portion on the application, and new legal names may be adopted through marriage. Once the application is complete and the \$35 fee is paid, there is a three-day waiting period. After that, the ceremony may take place; there is no expiration date. After the ceremony, the

Certificate of Marriage must be signed by both parties, the officiant and two witnesses. The completed Certificate of Marriage must be returned to a county recorder to be filed with the State Vital Records office.

Richard said there is no formal registration of officiants in Iowa. A person is authorized to perform marriage ceremonies in Iowa if that person is: 1) An Iowa judge, magistrate, or associate judge serving on the Iowa supreme court, court of appeals, or district court; or 2) An individual ordained/designated as a leader of the person's religious faith, regardless of the state of residence. Ceremonies by proxy, telephone, internet, or other electronic means are not legal in Iowa. ■



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# Panora ASK TIMES



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## Q: WHY DOESN'T GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL OFFER CHILDBIRTH CARE? AND WHEN DID THAT SERVICE STOP?

**A:** We directed this question to Chris Stipe, CEO of Guthrie County Hospital, and he said most small rural hospitals discontinued obstetrical services for a number of reasons.

The difficulty and cost of recruiting and retaining OBGYN physicians is a major reason, he said.

"Specialized staff, such as OB nurses and ultrasound technologists, have to be recruited and required to be on-call and available 24 hours per day," Stipe said. "Specialized OB equipment must be secured and maintained. Physicians, nurses and other staff must complete annual continuing education to keep up with evolving standards of care."

Stipe also noted how the low volume and the high cost associated with these programs can create unsustainable financial losses for many small hospitals.

"Also, obstetrics continues to generate more medical-legal issues for health care providers than any other specialty area," he said.

Guthrie County Hospital discontinued obstetric services in 1997/1998. However, they do offer pediatric care, including newborns, from their board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Silker.

Guthrie County Hospital also has a partnership with UnityPoint that allows low-risk, pregnant mothers to be cared for locally until they are 32-34 weeks. This program pairs a local nurse practitioner with a UnityPoint OBGYN in Des Moines. They collaborate on the patient's care until care is eventually turned over to the OBGYN.

## Q: WHO WAS THE PERSON WHO DIED IN THE MENLO HOUSE FIRE?

**A:** Adair/Guthrie County Emergency Management Coordinator Jeremy Cooper said the house fire on the 400 block of Third Street in Menlo that occurred around 9:20 a.m. on Jan. 7 involved the death of a 73-year old woman, later identified as Denise K. Miller. An air ambulance was requested, and the victim was pronounced deceased on the scene.

"Menlo and Stuart Fire crews did an amazing job and quickly responded to this fire. Unfortunately, a life was lost today, and that weighs heavy on our first responders," Cooper said.

The cause of the fire and the cause of Miller's death are under investigation.

Agencies on the scene included Menlo Fire, Stuart Fire, Stuart Rescue, Dexter Fire, Casey Fire, Guthrie County Sheriff, Stuart Police, and Adair/Guthrie County EMA.

## Q: DO YOU KNOW WHEN OUR LOCAL SENATORS OR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE HAVING COFFEES TO MEET WITH RESIDENTS?

**A:** The next date for a legislative coffee with Sen. Jesse Green and Rep. Carter Nordman is Feb. 1 from 8-9 a.m. at Panora Fiber, 114 E. Main St., Panora. The Guthrie County Republicans coordinate this, but it is an open event to all who are interested. Coffee and rolls will be provided by Panora Fiber. ■

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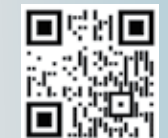
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## LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

# KRAVEN. MUFASA. ROHIRRIM. AND THE WORST MOVIE I HAVE EVER SEEN.



"Wicked"



"Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin."



"Black Doves"



"Nightbitch"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Guthrie Center Times*

### "WICKED"

By now many of you have probably seen "Wicked," but at last month's deadline, I made the choice to see "Gladiator 2" to review and hold "Wicked" for January. Both films are excellent, and I was surprised by that fact. My wife and I took the boys to New York City years ago and had the good fortune to see "Wicked" on Broadway as a family. Everyone loved it except me. So, back to the new movie. It is fabulous — long and fabulous. The music is great, the filming is masterful and the story seems to work better than when I saw the play. A word of warning, this nearly three-hour epic is only the first half. You'll get the second half in late November. Grade: A-



### "BONHOEFFER: PASTOR. SPY. ASSASSIN."

This is another winner from the folks at Angel Studios who seem to be cranking out good quality faith-based movies monthly. This time, we get the incredible true story about a priest who is asked to join a plot to assassinate Hitler and save millions of Jews from genocide. I had never heard of this true event, and the movie tells its story well. Grade: B+



### "BLACK DOVES"

Keira Knightly and Ben Whishaw star in this espionage-packed six-part series on Netflix set in London. Two assassins tearing up London to get the bad guys is a fun premise, and, for almost all episodes, it works. It might have been a great four-part series, but the



story and action seem to be stretched thin by episode six. Still, it's a fun watch. Grade: B-

### "NIGHTBITCH"

Beware, Amy Adams is trying to re-establish her acting cred. A young mother and her son are all but left alone by a traveling husband. She doesn't fit in with the other moms in the neighborhood, so she takes a curious turn and starts to go feral. As crazy as that word sounds, the movie is even crazier, and, by the end, it is head-shaking silliness. This is one of the weirdest and worst movies I've seen this year. Grade: D



### "Y2K"

This is easily the year's worst movie. In it, we go back to visit the night we went from 1999 to 2000 and all the craziness that night brought. Here we've got the

stereotypical high school fat kid and his best nerdy buddy making plans for the big night. That's all I'm going to tell you since it is one of the inanest films I've ever seen. I will now use this movie when anyone asks what the worst movie is I have ever seen. I sat there for 70 minutes, got up and left. I didn't bother anyone else since I was the only one in the theatre. Grade: F-



### "KRAVEN THE HUNTER"

As a longtime Spider-Man fan, I was looking forward to this movie. My son, Tom, and I went opening weekend to a less-than-packed theater. Russell Crowe plays Kraven's father, a hard-driving parent intent on teaching his kids the life skills that will not only make them successful but also deadly. That's where the story runs out and it is turned over to action scene after action

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"Y2K"



"Kraven The Hunter"



"The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim"



"Mufasa: The Lion King"

scene — all well done, in our opinion. Is "Kraven The Hunter" a great film? Far from it, but it is well-made and well-acted, and that's probably better than it had to be. Tom and I actually enjoyed it. Grade: B



### "THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE WAR OF THE ROHIRRIM"

I saw an early afternoon screening of this animated film, which is set nearly 200 years before "The Lord of The Rings" series. This time out, we get the story of a great king

being threatened by his brother, who desires his crown. The king's daughter is a great warrior, and the film tells the story of the fight for the crown and the impact this talented young woman has in helping her father keep his kingdom. While the film's animation is "Scooby-Doo" level, the story is strong and well told. Grade: A-



### "MUFASA: THE LION KING"

I'm not sure we needed a live action version of the classic animated

film, but the folks at Disney didn't ask me. Technically, it is a sequel, and, from a technical standpoint, the movie is amazing. From a story-telling standpoint, it is confusing and difficult to follow. In the classic Disney way, plenty of action scenes distract from the confusing storylines and characters who seem shoved into scenes so everyone can reminisce fondly about the original film. I was more disappointed than excited about this sequel. Maybe my expectations were too



high. Grade: B

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I'll be back next month with the great Bob Dylan bio-pic ("A Complete Unknown"), a steamy Nicole Kidman film ("Babygirl") and the remake of the classic horror film "Nosferatu." ■

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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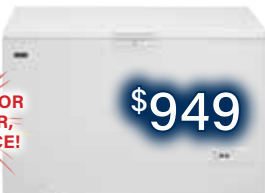
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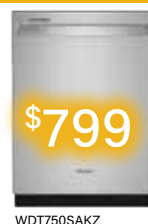
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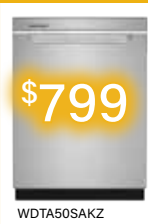
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# ARMSTRONG ELECTED CHAIR OF GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

## DEC. 23 - MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST IN AN OFFICE IN STUART

During the Dec. 23 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Health Service Director Jotham Arber updated the supervisors on plans to add a mental health therapist in an office in Stuart.

"We sent out those mental health budgets to the Board of Health, and they approved them. They wanted a few changes," Arber said.

He explained that the plan is to hire a therapist to see patients in an office in Stuart but added that the owner/landlord is seeking a three-year lease rather than yearly with auto-renewal.

There was discussion that the proposed new clinic would not get paid if/when Medicaid or Medicare patients are "no shows" for appointments.

"I don't think we want to over-extend ourselves," Supervisor Mike Dickson said.

Arber said he will prepare budgets to bring to the supervisors. No formal action was taken at this time.

"I want to make sure that it's sustainable, not just for right now or the next five years, but for 10, 15, 20 years," Arber said.

The consent agenda was approved by a 3-2 vote, with Brian Johnson and Dickson voting against. The claims and payroll information had not been sent to the supervisors on Friday, Dec. 20, so there had been little time to review the information.

## DEC. 31 - A FOUR-MINUTE MEETING

The supervisors' final meeting of 2024 was very brief (roughly four minutes). Minutes from the Dec. 17 and Dec. 23 meetings were approved.

One agenda item was a notice of position change for Jeremy Bennett, who is changing from chief deputy sheriff to senior deputy. Incoming Guthrie County Sheriff Matt Harmann will name his chief deputy sheriff.

## JAN. 2 - ARMSTRONG ELECTED AS BOARD CHAIR

The main items addressed during the Jan. 2 meeting were annual appointments and committee assignments. Maggie Armstrong was voted in as board chair, and Steve Smith was voted as vice chair. Most of the remaining appointments were continuations of those appointed in 2024.

The mileage reimbursement rate was increased from 67 cents to 70 cents. The supervisors also approved the nine paid holidays for 2025 as in previous years.

The supervisors voted to keep the meeting schedule unchanged. The supervisors will meet regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. from January through March, then only Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for the remainder of the year.



Maggie Armstrong

## JAN. 7 - SUPERVISORS QUESTION PAYROLL CHANGE NOTICES FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY DEPARTMENT

During the Jan. 7 meeting, the supervisors asked for more information regarding requested payroll change notices for Charles Abel and Casey Jones, both with the county attorney's department. County Attorney Dana Minter explained the requests are related to additional workload caused by the departure of a staff member.

Supervisor Steve Smith said he's unsure if the supervisors can/should weigh-in on such matters, when the department's budget stays within approved parameters. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong said she's requested an opinion on this from Mike Galloway (with the law firm of Ahlers and Cooney). The supervisors voted to table the two payroll change notices until the Thursday, Jan. 9 meeting.

Health Service Director Jotham Arber and the supervisors discussed the mental health budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

County Engineer Josh Sebern updated the supervisors on a draft of the county's dust control policy. He asked the supervisors to give formal approval of the policy by the end of next week, if possible.

The supervisors approved payroll change notices for four employees, as follows:

Spencer Irwin (new hire for roads department) at \$28.80 per hour.

Jeremy Bennett (sheriff department). Change from chief deputy to deputy. Pay change from \$86,593 to \$84,555 yearly.

Todd Thorn (sheriff department). Change from deputy to chief deputy. Pay change from \$84,555 to \$86,593 yearly.

Kelcee Hodzic (sheriff department). Change due to completing probationary period. Pay change from \$23 to \$23.85 hourly.

## JAN. 9 - APPROVE PAYROLL CHANGES

The supervisors discussed three proposed payroll change notices during the regular meeting on Jan. 9.

A payroll change notice for Jenny Jessen (social worker, public health) was approved unanimously. Jessen's pay will increase from \$25.71 to \$30 hourly.

A payroll change notice for Charles Abel was approved by 4-1 vote, with Mike Dickson opposed. Abel's pay will increase from \$90,676 to \$93,175.45 yearly.

The supervisors had lengthy discussion about the proposed payroll change notice for Casey Jones. Jones' position oversees the county's collection efforts. The initial proposal was for a \$5,000 raise. Supervisor Steve Smith said he prefers not to give raises mid-year in the county's fiscal year. After discussion, the supervisors unanimously denied the \$5,000 Payroll Change Notice.

Dickson made a motion for a \$2,500

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raise. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong voiced her concern.

"I think if we had known that there was a promotion on the table ahead of time... that's where I'm struggling," she said. "I'm looking at this holistically."

Armstrong said other departments have had staff pick up additional duties due to staffing vacancies and usually without a pay raise. The supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of the \$2,500 raise, with Armstrong opposed.

Becky Benton (State Street Insurance) addressed the supervisors about insurance coverage, premiums and deductibles in the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) coverage, which provides property and casualty coverage to more than 800 public entities including 75 of Iowa's 99 counties. Following her presentation, the supervisors voted unanimously to approve renewing the coverage.

#### JAN. 14 - SET PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AMENDMENT

During the regular meeting on Jan. 14, discussion was held regarding a proposed budget amendment for the current fiscal year. County Auditor

Dani Fink described some of the items that may be included.

"We're amending \$100,000 for our Board of Supervisors legal fees. For revenue, it's \$158,830 for the new Mental Health department side, and the expense for that is \$168,018," Fink said.

Fink proposed a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 28 for the budget amendment. The supervisors voted to set the public hearing as proposed.

Brenda Campbell, county treasurer, presented her semi-annual report to the supervisors. It was unanimously approved as presented.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong informed the supervisors of the planned roll-out of the county's new website.

"We have a website launch date. It will be Jan. 30, that afternoon," Armstrong said.

The public meeting adjourned, with the supervisors going into a closed session to perform an employee evaluation.

The public is welcome to attend any of the open meetings other than special closed sessions. The public may attend in person or via remote technology. To join remotely, call 323-792-6123, then use meeting code 547029216#. ■

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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# PANORA WELCOMES NEW POLICE OFFICER

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

During the regular meeting of the Panora city council on Jan. 13, Police Chief Matt Reising introduced new officer Colin Price. Price is filling a vacancy that has existed for several months, which had required Chief Reising and Officer Rock Armstrong to work longer shifts to maintain coverage for the city.

Brenda Dudley of Midwest Partnership addressed the council with an annual update on Midwest Partnership's services, and she asked the council to consider continuing financial support for the organization. She also mentioned Midwest Partnership's annual dinner, which is scheduled for Jan. 30.

The council discussed a water leak that had been discovered at 120 N.E. Fourth St. Since the water that leaked did not go through the sanitary sewer system, the council voted to forgive that portion of the billing and instead only bill for water usage and average sewer rate for that property.

John DeLavernge spoke to the council regarding his recommendation that the city's ambulance service begin billing facilities when they ask that a patient be transported back to the facility via ambulance when such a request is not medically necessary. He recommended a standard fee of \$500 for such situations. DeLavernge explained that the recommendation is intended to be an incentive for facilities to send a driver and vehicle in such situations so



Colin Price is sworn in as a Panora police officer.

that the ambulance will be available for other potential calls. The council voted to approve the recommendation. All applicable facilities in the county will be notified of the change.

The council's next regular meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 27 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 DISTRICT RECEIVES APPRENTICESHIP GRANT

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

During the Jan. 13 meeting of the Panorama School Board, Superintendent Kasey Huebner shared information about the Teacher and Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship (TPRA) Grant. The TPRA grant allows current interested paraeducators to earn their bachelor's degree in teaching. In this second round of funding, a total of 11 K-12 districts were chosen to receive grants to develop 68 new teacher apprentices and 26 new paraeducator apprentices.

"We are excited to offer a few of our paraeducators an opportunity to obtain a teaching license without the financial burden. This initiative allows us to invest in our staff and build our talent pipeline. Our goal has always been to hire exceptional individuals, and now we can invest in them with the hope that they will someday teach in our district and enhance the experiences of Panorama students," Hueb-

ner said.

Panorama schools are being awarded a \$114,000 grant to serve three participants.

"Panorama Community School District's TPRA program will address the district's critical need for special education teachers, improved education delivery, and support for students with disabilities," Huebner said. "This program will offer financial and professional development support to three district paraeducators as they pursue Iowa teacher licensure in the K-12 teacher pathway. Grant funds will be used for tuition expenses, books and fees, and mentor stipends."

The school board members heard the fiscal year 2024 financial audit review.

The board approved an application for Modified Supplemental funding for At-Risk/Dropout. This is an annual application to the School Board Review Committee to allow for an increase in authority.

The next regular meeting of the Panorama School Board is set for Monday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

## HEALTH

# GCH ELECTS BOARD OFFICERS

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

The Guthrie County Hospital's Board of Trustees held a regular monthly meeting on Dec. 30. A public hearing was opened to discuss the proposed projects and hear public comments regarding Guthrie County Hospital's intent to file an application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance to finance a portion of capital improvement projects to include, without limitation, remodeling of, additions to, and expansion of facilities at 710 N. 12th St. No members of the public were in attendance.

The November financials were approved. As of November, the hospital re-

mains ahead of budget for the fiscal year with a year-to-date operating loss of \$213,000 and a positive net income of \$1.2 million.

The 2025 board officers were elected: Mike Underwood, chair; Doug Kent, vice chair; Cheryl Marks, treasurer; and Dana Tews, secretary. Mary Sheeder was recognized for her 16 years of service on the board. Emily Donovan was elected in November of 2024 to replace Sheeder on the board effective January 2025.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Thursday, Jan. 23 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



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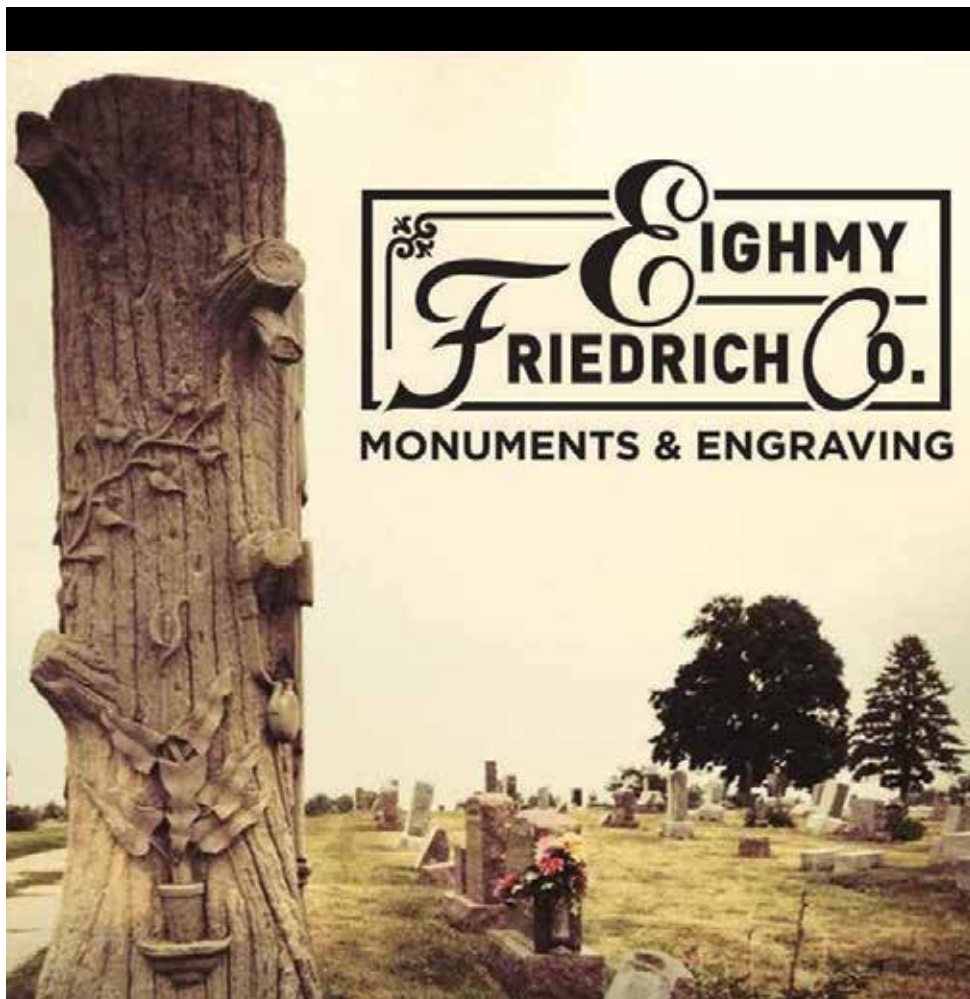


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## COMMUNITY



Roberta Bauldus, Jotham Arber, Logan Wolf and Levi Johnson

## TEN SQUARED MEN PRESENT \$20,100 TO GUTHRIE COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS ORGANIZATIONS

*Special to Panora Times*

Ten Squared Men for Guthrie County made its final contribution for 2024, a check for \$20,100 to the Guthrie County First Responders. This makes the gifts for 2024 at a total of \$61,200.

The Ten Squared Men's Group started in 2016 and made donations since as follows:

2016 - \$22,600  
2017 - \$36,300  
2018 - \$41,100  
2019 - \$45,000  
2020 - \$50,700  
2021 - \$49,400

2022 - \$53,700  
2023 - \$59,200  
2024 - \$61,200

This brings the total amount of donations for Guthrie County to \$419,250.

Collectively, 26 entities have been impacted and made better for the citizens of Guthrie County from this organization. Every dollar that is donated goes directly to the entity selected. There are no administrative costs of any kind.

The next meeting will be in April, and the organization welcomes new members. Send an email to [b.monaghan@gcsbank.com](mailto:b.monaghan@gcsbank.com) for more information. ■



Tactical supply bags will be purchased over the next year as a plan to get them into every fire department.

## COMMUNITY

# IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES DINKLA'S RETIREMENT, INTRODUCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Special to Panora Times

The Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA) announced a significant leadership transition. Dwight Dinkla, executive director of the ISBA, announced his retirement as executive director effective July 1, 2025, following nearly three decades of distinguished service and dedication to the association. To build on this legacy of excellence, the ISBA has appointed long-time assistant executive director Harry Shipley to succeed Dinkla.

Dwight Dinkla from Panora has served as the ISBA's executive director since 1998, overseeing a period of pivotal change and innovation in the legal profession. Prior to 1998, Dinkla practiced law in Guthrie Center for 18 years and served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives before being selected executive director for the state bar association.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to lead an association dedicated to supporting Iowa attorneys and their service to clients, the community, and the judicial system. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with the ISBA's board of governors, legislative counsel, and the talented team at the ISBA," Dinkla said.

Under Dinkla's leadership, the ISBA has expanded its programs and publications,

enhanced services for members, and increased engagement. Notably, the ISBA's Annual Meeting in 2024 was particularly special as it celebrated the association's 150th anniversary. Dinkla has also played a vital role in legislative advocacy and fostering relationships that have bolstered the ISBA's success.

"Dwight Dinkla's vision and leadership have left an indelible mark on the ISBA," ISBA President Melvin O. Shaw said. "Under his guidance, the association has experienced significant advancement, establishing a strong foundation for the future. Dwight's unwavering dedication to advancing the ISBA's mission has ensured its continued ability to provide exceptional value and resources to members and the public. We are deeply grateful for his years of service and commitment to the ISBA."

The ISBA will formally recognize Dwight Dinkla's contributions and celebrate the transition in executive leadership during the ISBA's Annual Meeting at Prairie Meadows Conference and Events Center between June 23-26, 2025. ■



Dwight Dinkla

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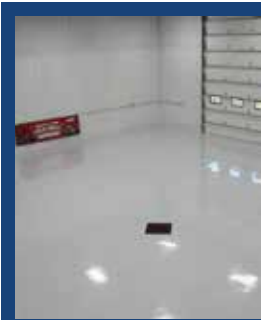
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# THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS

PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER AND MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO PANORATIMES



Sophomore Natalie Waltz wraps up her opponent at Panorama's home tournament on Jan. 7.



Joel Cooper and his opponent tie up during the S.E. Valley, Ogden, Panorama, ACGC Quad on Dec. 19.



Junior Ella Carico battles with her opponent at Panorama's home tournament on Jan. 7.



No. 13 Cruz Crandall blows by the defender against Pleasantville on Jan. 3.



No. 3 Lydia Lleshi tries to break the trap against ACGC on Dec. 20.



Landon Kirtley squares up during the S.E. Valley, Ogden, Panorama, ACGC Quad on Dec. 19.

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Dean Gordon sprawls against his opponent during the S.E. Valley, Ogden, Panorama, ACGC Quad on Dec. 19.



No. 12 Morgan Crees, No. 13 Faith Recker and No. 24 Nerea Gimeno Perez check in against Pleasantville on Jan. 3.



No. 2 AJ Draper soars for the reverse layup against Pleasantville on Jan. 3. ■



No. 44 Brayden Galvan is hounded by the ACGC defender on Dec. 20.



Freshman Miley Nolan attempts to defend a takedown at Panorama's home tournament on Jan. 7.

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# JUST ONE MORE WILL MAKE YOU WANT TO STAY

**Jamaica bar offers good food and drinks at a fair price.**

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

Running a small business in a small town is never easy, but Chad Frantum and Jeni Hollman, owners of Just One More in Jamaica, found a recipe for success by keeping things simple. They run their bar by providing drinks, food and fun that match what their customers want.

“We opened here March 7, 2018. Prior to that, we had been at a smaller bar for two years. Originally it was called the Dew Drop Inn, and then we started calling it Just One More,” Hollman said.

Jamaica is fortunate to have two such businesses, with Tojo’s just a half block away. But each business fills a slightly different role. Frantum pointed out that there is cooperation between the two, and they consider Tommy Jo, owner of Tojo’s, a friend.

“She’s more of a restaurant, and we’re more of a bar. We have a small menu and an outside grill during the weekends,” Frantum said. Hollman agreed.

“She’s very supportive of us. We work very well together. Sometimes, we even order supplies together,” Hollman said.

Another factor in the success of Just One More is cleanliness.

“We get a lot of compliments on having a clean facility, including our bathrooms,” Frantum said.

The couple recalled struggling to keep their business afloat during the COVID pandemic.

“It was on Saint Patrick’s Day, we had all this corned beef and cabbage, and we got the news that we had to close down because of COVID. I stood outside and bawled, wondering how we were going to pay the bills,” Hollman said. “That hit us pretty hard. But I look at it today, and anybody that could make it through COVID and be closed as long as we were, they have a good business with a strong



Just 1 More is located next to the bike trail in Jamaica.

community backing them.”

A big factor in the bar’s success is the proximity to the Raccoon River Valley Trail, which runs next to the building. Because of this, Just One More sees lots of customers who stop in as they enjoy the trail. During the winter, that means snowmobilers. In warmer months, there are bicyclists, motorcyclists, ATV riders and pedestrians who stop by for food, drink and a break.

Despite the many customers who pop in occasionally, Frantum and Hollman said the local community is really what

keeps the business going. Because of that, the bar has a recurring schedule of fun events to draw locals and visitors.

“Mondays is card night. Wednesdays is pool, and this winter we’re going to be starting Puzzle Night. Thursday nights are bingo, during the winter,” Hollman said. “In the summer, they play bags. Friday is usually bring your own meat, and we usually have live music on Saturdays,” Hollman said. Burgers are typically grilled on Sundays.

“The live music is popular; we usually stay pretty busy,” Frantum said.

Frantum and Hollman work long hours but say they are blessed to have good help, too.

“There’s nine, and they’re all part-time,” Hollman said. She added that regular customers often will have a favorite employee and try to come in when that person is working.

“We’ve got good help. Sometimes one of us will take a little mini-vacation, and the other will stay back. And we do get away, both of us, sometimes,” Frantum said.

Hollman added that the bingo on



Chad Frantum and Jeni Hollman invite customers in for "just one more."



Outdoor seating is provided for warmer days and nights.

Thursdays is more than just fun; it also raises money to help the community.

"Bingo is a dollar a card, and a max of four cards, and then all of the proceeds go down to the food bank at the school in Panora," Hollman said. "I think we're on our seventh time, and we've raised just over \$900. It goes over very well. It's 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays."

Frantum said Just One More strives to

offer good food and drinks at a fair price. He's often witnessed groups that will come in from Des Moines or other urban areas, and when they get the bill, they'll ask, "Is that all?"

Frantum and Hollman said they have no plans for significant changes in their business.

"It works the way it is, so why change something that works?" Hollman said. ■

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## COMMUNITY

# MORE THAN 260 ATTEND REC ANNUAL MEETING



More than 260 members were in attendance at the annual meeting on Jan. 4.

BY SHANE GOODMAN

*Panora Times*

A snap of cold weather didn't impact turnout at the Guthrie County REC annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds Event Center. More than 260 people braved the cold temperature to receive updates from REC, enjoy a free meal and win prizes.

Property owners residing in Districts 1, 2 or 3 also had directors up for reelection. Julie Kiley, Jim Mazour and Ron Bristle were all reelected.

Lucas Obert of Coon Rapids shared stories about the 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. Lucas was chosen to represent all of Iowa's electric cooperatives as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) youth leadership program.



REC Board Vice President Joni Rees addresses the crowd.



Lucas Obert of Coon Rapids shares stories about his Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.



REC Secretary and Treasurer Julie Kiley shares financial information.

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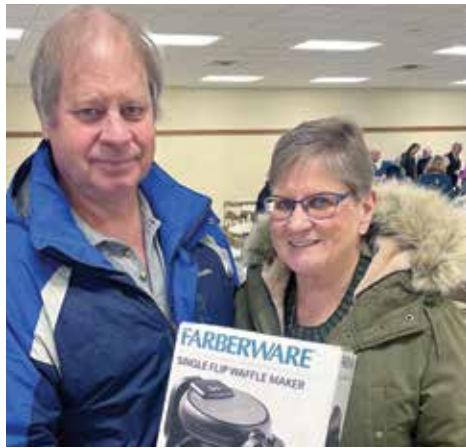
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JOENE GOODMAN | PANORA TIMES

Jeff and Anna Marie Nielsen won the waffle maker.



SHANE GOODMAN | PANORA TIMES

Charlie Bilbrey won the electric grill.



JOENE GOODMAN | PANORA TIMES

Michele Crabbs won the Ninja Fit Blender.



JOENE GOODMAN | PANORA TIMES

Teresa Mowrer won the Google Nest Mini.

A flashlight registration gift was provided to all members in attendance, as was a free membership meal catered by Lidderdale Country Store Catering. Numerous door prizes were also awarded including:

- Black and Decker Electric Knife
- LED Work Light
- Single Flip Waffle Maker
- Boot/Glove Dryer
- 7 Qt Crock Pot
- Google Nest Mini
- 18 Qt Roaster
- Ninja Single Serve Blender
- Instant Pot 6 Qt Pressure Cooker
- Keurig Single Serve
- Combo Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarm
- Deep Tissue Massager
- Wireless Weather Station
- Air Pop Popcorn Maker
- George Foreman Smokeless Grill
- Pizzazz Rotating Pizza Oven
- Heated Electric Fleece Throw Blanket
- Hamilton Beach Ice Cream Maker
- Clothes Steamer
- Oral B Electric Toothbrush
- American Express Gift Cards

According to reports supplied at the meeting, Guthrie County REC built 15.1 miles of overhead line in 2024; added 44

new services; began installing underground line at the third Wambold addition in Stuart that will allow for 42 more residential lots; and acquired a new mini-Bobcat excavator and trailer from Haley Equipment for linework as earmarked in the 2024 capital budget.

In addition, Guthrie County REC started construction at two new substations: Mockingbird substation near Hamlin and Bluejay substation near Perry. These substations add power and reliability to support business expansions in both areas of the service territory.

Guthrie County REC also updated three sets of breakers to reclosers in the Industrial and Diamondhead substations. Reclosers have more capability to capture and remedy outages quickly, reducing the inconvenience for members.

Also noted was the installation of a new Honeywell AMI meter system and the exchange of all active meters in the service territory. The new system updates operations analytics and improves the efficiency and reliability of the electric system.

Guthrie County REC serves more than 4,600 members in Adair, Audubon, Cass, Dallas, Greene and Guthrie counties. ■



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# OBITUARIES

▶ OBITUARIES PUBLISH FOR A FEE OF \$40. SUBMIT TO SHANE@GCTIMESNEWS.COM

## SHARON LOUISE SMITH

1942-2024

Sharon Louise Smith, age 82, of Panorama, and formerly of Bayard, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, at Panorama Specialty Care Center.

Sharon was born on Nov. 24, 1942, in Yale, and she was the daughter of Delbert and Dorothy (Bollerman) Deardorf. She grew up on her family's farm near Yale and graduated from Yale High School. Sharon was married to Darwin L. Smith on April 7, 1963, in

Guthrie County. She worked for several local businesses over the years. She loved her flowers, her rock garden, tending to her yard, her pets and traveling by motorcycle in her younger years.

Sharon is survived by a daughter, Shannon Anderson (John) of Guthrie Center; a son, Joel Smith (Mary) of Bayard; four grandchildren, Jordyn (Melanie), Justyn, Chase and Traci (Andrew); three great-granddaughters, Payton, Keeley and Ruby; two sisters, Nadine Allen (Ron) and Sharol Rhoades; a

brother, Bert Deardorf; and several nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Delbert and Dorothy Deardorf; a brother, Dale Deardorf; a sister, Pam Lynam; and a son, Darrin, in infancy.

According to Sharon's wishes, no services will be held.

The Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Coon Rapids assisted the family, and online condolences may be left for the family at [www.dahnandwoodhouse.com](http://www.dahnandwoodhouse.com). ■



## KARLA KRAMER

1957-2024

Karla Kramer, 67, formerly of Panorama, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at Good Samaritan Care Center in Davenport after several years of declining health.

Karla Sue Bryan was born on Aug. 9, 1957, to James and Dorothea (Estell) Bryan in Winterset. She grew up on the family farm near Guthrie Center. She graduated in 1975 from YJB High School. On Jan. 26, 1980, she

was united in marriage to John Lynn Kramer in Des Moines. He preceded her in death on Nov. 7, 2008.

Karla was employed for most of her adult life at Homesteaders Life Company in Des Moines. She enjoyed the work she did and the relationships she built with her colleagues. Karla took pride in the farm she lived on, spending many hours taking care of the property and providing a place where her sons and their families could enjoy during their visits.

Karla loved hosting family, preparing delicious meals and baked goods for the holidays.

Karla was a member of a bowling league in Guthrie Center and was active in politics. In her free time, she enjoyed reading, gardening, doing puzzles and spoiling her grandkids.

She is survived by her children, James (Kate) Kramer of DeWitt; Donald (Zane) Kramer of Owatonna,

Minnesota; and Kimberly Kramer-Rodriguez (Randy) of Long Beach, California; grandchildren, Michelle, Jonna Rae, AJ, Tena, Kathryn, Logan, Sofija, Roman, Kora and Asher; great-grandchildren Jayden, Xander, Mykah, Izabella, Ethan, Elijah, Lorelai, Danika, Viviane, Gabriella and Malcolm; brothers-in-law, Leverne Seversike and Chuck Vlasity; sisters-in-law, Bette Koeff and Mary Kramer-Long (Steve); and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lynn; her parents; her sister, Carole Seversike; sister-in-law, Jean Vlasity; brother-in-law, Bill Koeff; and two great-grandchildren, Isaiah and McKenzie.

Funeral services were Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama. Burial was in the Brethren Cemetery, Panorama. Visitation was Thursday, Dec. 26, from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home. ■



All obituaries also publish at [gctimesnews.com](http://gctimesnews.com)



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The Family of Betty (Wetzel) Thompson would like to thank everybody for the prayers, messages, cards, flowers and memorial donations. A big thank you to Thomas Rest Haven and Hospice of the Midwest for their wonderful care.

*We appreciate you thinking of us.*

Brandon and Geri Thompson  
Abby Thompson and River Smith  
Devan, Dwayne, Brynlee, Hudson, Corden and Bristol Seck  
Misean, Fidel, Elias, Ezekiel, Emmerich and Ezri Hernandez



## JUDY KOPASKA

1944-2025

spirit. She also had an adventurous side, evident in her love for motorcycle rides and her time as a "snowbird" in Arizona and Florida, where she embraced new friendships and experiences.

Judy was a woman of many talents and roles. She touched countless lives as a high school cook and as a dedicated 4-H leader for the U.S. Sunbeams. Her warmth and kindness made her a friend to all — she truly never met a stranger. Judy's faith was a big part of her life, and she was a devoted member of the United Methodist Church. Above all, she cherished every moment spent with her family and friends, treasuring the laughter, love and memories they shared.

Judy's memory will be lovingly cherished by her three daughters, Mechiel (Kurt) Kalbach of Chattahoochee, Florida; Melinda (Monte) Jorgensen of Guthrie Center; and Melissa Kopaska of Rogers, Arkansas; her three grandchildren, Michaela (Tyler) Kinman, Madisyn (Ross) Wasson and McKlain Jorgensen; and her four great-grandchildren, Addy and Layton Kinman, and Kroy and Lyla Wasson, who were her greatest pride and joy. She is also survived by her sisters, Diana Jens and Janice (Veryl) Ticknor; her sister-in-law, Andrea (Steve)

Brubaker; as well as nieces and nephews and their families.

Judy is now reunited in heaven with her beloved husband, Larry; her parents, Clyde and Genevieve Kinman; her in-laws, Arnold and Lois Kopaska; her brother-in-law, Carl Jens; and her niece, Cathy Sadler. Though her absence leaves a void that can never be filled, we find comfort in knowing she is at peace and surrounded by those she loved.

A visitation to honor Judy's life was held on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Guthrie Center. A funeral service celebrating her extraordinary life was at the same location on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the New Homestead Activities Fund to continue supporting the community she held dear.

Judy Kopaska was known for her kindness, generosity and joyful spirit. Her loving presence will remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will be carried forward by her family and friends. Judy, you will be profoundly missed, but your light will shine in our hearts forever. ■



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# YESTER YEARS

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## 50 YEARS AGO



From Guthrie Center Times, Jan. 15, 1975

**FARM BUREAU LEADERS.** Area county Farm Bureau leaders attending the American Farm Bureau convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, last week included (from left) Kenneth Kay of Atlantic (Cass), Richard Lundy of Fontanelle (Adair), Alvin Hoffman of Dedham (Carroll), Ralph Wood of Panora (Guthrie), and Richard C. Hansen of Exira (Audubon). These leaders were designated by their county Farm Bureaus to represent the county at the 56th convention of the nation's largest general farm organization.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 24, 1985

**DRILLING FOR FISH.** Comfortable inside his custom built fishing house on a raw winter day, Tom Neel prepares to drill a hole for ice fishing at Lake Panorama.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 19, 1995

**O.M. WINNERS.** An Odyssey of the Mind team from the Linden elementary put their heads together and won a trophy for outstanding performance at a recent competition in Urbandale. Front, B.J. Alumbaugh, left, and Mark Mills. Back, from left, Cole Grolus, Eddie Haver and Greg Larson. Absent, Michael Rossow.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 20, 2005

**SOCK IT TO ME.** Danny Nordquist, 5, son of Duane and Eileen Nordquist of Panora, won this "World's Largest Christmas Stocking" in a drawing at an area business just prior to Christmas. It measured 6 feet by 2 feet and contained toys, books, stuffed animals, games and other items, except candy.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 15, 2015

**WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER'S BACKS.** Brandon Godwin, left, sands down a TV stand he built from wood pallets at his shop in Yale. Tricia Godwin, right, models some of the items she created through her crocheting and knitting business, KnitWit Designs.

## 5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Jan. 9, 2020

**SUNSHINE CLUB STAYS BUSY.** Standing: Linda Godwin, Charlotte Jackson, Linda Thompson, Mary Lonsdale, Regina James, Sharon Rote, Pat Trent, Marcia Anderson, Karen Lonsdale and Trudy Woolman. Sitting: Norma Miller, Judy Nelson and Viola Heins. ■

# MOON TO SPEAK AT MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Special to Panora Times

Midwest Partnership will be hosting its 2025 Annual Dinner on Jan. 30 at the Casey Community Building at 104 W. Sherman St. in Casey. Social reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner by Café on the Hill at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. A cash bar will be provided.

The theme is “Sharing the Vision,” and Ryan Moon from Greater Des Moines Partnership will be speaking on the vision for our region. Ryan serves as the Director of Government Relations and Public Policy for the Greater Des Moines Partnership. In this role, he leads engagement with local, state and federal officials and leads the Government Policy Council to develop and advocate for public policy that generates economic growth, business prosperity and talent development in Greater Des Moines. Ryan, a Casey native, resides in West Des Moines with his wife, Haley, and their kids, Holden and Reggie.

In addition, Kwik Star, a new business in the region, and Cardinal Glass, which is celebrating its 50th year anniversary, will also give presentations. A business update will be presented, as well as the Entrepreneurial Economic Impact Award.

This dinner is an opportunity for area developers, business and community leaders to gather and celebrate the success of the region over the past year.

The cost of the annual dinner is \$32 per plate or \$180 for a table of six. RSVPs are requested by Jan. 24 to Brenda Dudley at 515-523-1262 or [info@midwestpartnership.com](mailto:info@midwestpartnership.com). Register online at [www.midwestpartnership.com](http://www.midwestpartnership.com).

com.

Midwest Partnership is a nonprofit organization that is committed to fostering economic growth and prosperity throughout the region. They work closely with communities, elected officials, and stakeholders to facilitate project collaboration. Their primary focus is on retaining, expanding, and attracting businesses to create jobs and improve the quality of life in Adair and Guthrie counties.

Brenda Dudley is the executive director of Midwest Partnership, and Kayla Willms is the administrative and marketing coordinator. The 2025 board members include:

- Matt Wedemeyer, President, Adair County Supervisor
- Brad Hayes, Vice President, BH Appraisals & Twin Vines
- Renee Jensen, Secretary, Adair City Council
- Brian Johnson, Treasurer, Guthrie County Supervisor
- Kaye Bax, Past Owner of Fontanelle Dru
- Josh Calmer, Active Health Solutions
- Chris Carlson, Guthrie County State Bank
- Marty Doud, First State Bank
- Stacie Eshelman, Greenfield Chamber/Main Street Development
- Cheryl Marks, Rolling Hills Bank & Trust
- Kathy Rohrig, Orient Economic Development
- Scott Tonderum, Greenfield Municipal Utilities
- Holi Weston, Farmers REC ■



Ryan Moon

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# A HOBBY FOR EVERY INTEREST

**Jan Henderson reads books at a rate few can equal.**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Jan Henderson of Panora discovered a hobby that she can do year-round, day or night, in any weather. It requires no special equipment, and it is 100% free. Henderson reads books at a rate few can equal. In 2024, she read more than 100 books, and she plans to keep that pace going.

Henderson recalled her mother and grandmother each reading quite a bit, but she didn't catch the bug in her younger days. Although Henderson hasn't always been a voracious reader, her life history helps to explain why she only became a bookworm in recent years.

Henderson was born in Myrtle Point, Oregon, and moved to the Panora area in 1959. She and her late husband, Edwin, farmed outside of Panora for many years, raising cattle, hogs and horses, which left little time for hobbies of any sort.

"I was busy farming and raising kids," she said.

Edwin passed away in 2017, and Jan has lived at Panora Specialty Care for the past three years. She spends time playing solitaire, doing word search puzzles, and occasionally singing karaoke with others at the center. But reading is the hobby she spends the most time on, especially in the mornings.

Henderson does not have a particular genre or type of book she prefers but tends



Jan Henderson shows her next book to read.

to avoid two genres.

"As long as it's not a romance or a murder mystery, I'll read it," she said.

Henderson is in the habit of calling the Panora Library when she knows of books that she would like to borrow. One of the staff members at Panora Specialty Care then goes to the library to return some books and check out others for her. Henderson explains that she didn't set a goal of reading 100 books, but it just turned out that way.

"I'd read three books in a couple weeks and send them back and get more books," she said.

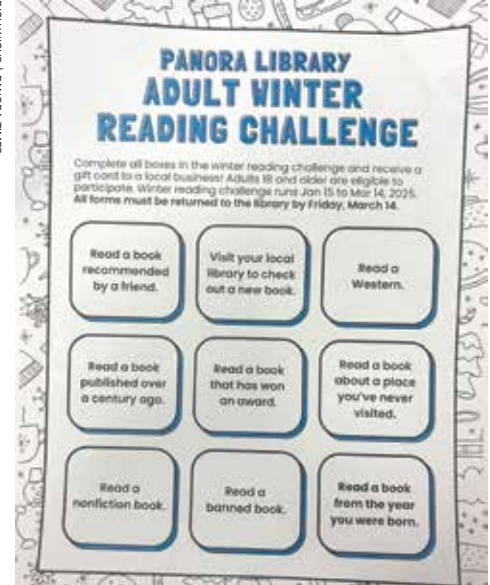
Because Henderson reads a wide variety of books, she says she never gets "burned

out." When she hears about a topic or book that catches her attention, she will make a note to ask the library staff if it is available.

"I read one book about my great-grandfather. He was one of the original Texas Rangers," she said. "'Yellow Flower Moon' is another book I really enjoyed. It's about the Osage Indians."

Henderson said sometimes she isn't able to get a certain book as quickly as she would hope, especially if it is a brand-new book or current bestseller, but she is willing to wait her turn. Because of that, she usually requests a few books at a time so she'll always have something to read.

Nancy Armstrong at the Panora Library said anyone is welcome to follow Hender-



Panora Library's winter adult reading challenge runs through March 14.

son's lead by calling or emailing the library to request books or other materials. Even if the Panora Library doesn't have something on hand, most materials can be borrowed through an interlibrary loan. Armstrong also pointed out that the library often runs programs with small prizes to encourage children and adults to read more. Currently, such programs for kids and adults have just begun, as of Jan. 15.

The library website also offers an online reading app called "Libby." Armstrong noted that a total of 515 items were borrowed through Libby in December. In addition, a book club, Page Turners, meets on the fourth Friday of each month. For more information on any of these options, contact the library online or call 641-755-2529. ■

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## COMMUNITY

# QUILTS DONATED TO PANORA SPECIALTY CARE



Stitch & Chatter members, front row: Nancy Smith, Ellen Campbell, Mary Morgan, Candy Thompson, Cheri Gephert and Karen Onken. Back row: Rowena Storesund, Casey Brown, Kristi Holz and Karen Kersbaum.

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

Panora's Stitch & Chatter group recently donated 40 quilts to residents at Panora Specialty Care. Group member Ellen

Campbell shared details.

"We visited with the residents as we delivered the quilts to each room. It was a joy to see their smiles as the quilts were given to them," Campbell said. "Hopefully, we can do this again next year." ■

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# TEN SQUARED WOMEN GIVE \$14,600 TO FRIENDS OF THE GUTHRIE CENTER LIBRARY

BY RICH WICKS  
Panora Times

Ten Squared Women of Guthrie County held its fourth quarterly meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at St. Thomas More Center in Panora. After hearing presentations from potential recipients, a lump sum of \$14,600 was presented to Friends of the Guthrie Center Library. This consists of member donations and several employer matches.

The Friends of the Guthrie Center Library, along with Library Director Jerri Hawkins, expressed their gratitude, saying, "A heartfelt thank you to Ten Squared Women for their generous donation. We are excited to use these funds to purchase new furnishings for the children's area, making it a more inviting space for young readers. Our goal is to create a children's area that is inclusive and accessible

for all, including those with mobility and sensory challenges."

The Ten Squared Women group has donated \$372,350 since its inception in 2017. The group meets quarterly the fourth Tuesday in February, May, August and November, with dates and locations subject to change. Members hear from three nominated organizations, drawn from member-nominated organizations at random, and vote on the winning cause that night. The 2025 meeting dates are Feb. 25, May 27, Aug. 26, and Nov. 18. The Feb. 25 meeting will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Guthrie Center.

The group currently has 145 members and is continuously looking for new members who are excited about helping their communities and Guthrie County. To learn more, visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc>, or email [10squaredgc@gmail.com](mailto:10squaredgc@gmail.com). ■



Mary Leighty (board member), Kristen Crouthamel (10 Squared Women representative), Leora Laughery (board member), Melia Van Meter (board member), Vicki Crannell (board member and 10 Squared nominator), Becky Carico (board member) and Jerri Hawkins (library director).

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# A HEALTHY HUMMUS DIP

BY JOLENE GOODMAN  
Panora Times

Eat healthy in the new year. It is a resolution I seem to make every year and recommit to throughout the year — time and time again. Bad habits are not so easy to break. As we learn more about the effects food additives, pesticides and processing have on our bodies, we should want to work toward choosing healthier food options. I keep trying, and I do have more healthy food choices in my diet today than I have in years past. I decided several years ago that, if I can implement one new healthy habit each year, I would be making progress. I still have much work to do, but I am now caffeine-free, I eat one “green” a day, I have fish or seafood two to four times per week, I don’t drink milk and

limit dairy, I eat less packaged snacks (working to eliminate this one completely) and I don’t eat pasta. In keeping with the healthy focus this month, I share a basic hummus recipe. I must confess that, up until recently, I had never even tasted hummus. Now, I am a big fan. In addition to tasting good and being easy to make, it is high in fiber and protein and low in saturated fat. Give it a try and let me know what you think. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

## HUMMUS DIP

### Ingredients

- 2 15-ounce cans of chickpeas
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/3 cup tahini
- 2 small garlic cloves
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1.5 teaspoons salt
- 4-6 tablespoons of cold water
- Dash of paprika
- Fresh parsley

### Directions

In a food processor, combine tahini and lemon juice. Process for 1 minute. Scrape down sides and bottom, then process 30 seconds more. Add olive oil, garlic and 1 teaspoon salt with 2-3 tablespoons of water. Process 30 seconds, scrape sides and bottom, then process for another 30 seconds until well blended. Drain chickpeas. Add half chickpeas to mixture and process for 1 minute. Scrape



sides and bottom then add remaining chickpeas. Process until smooth and thick, approximately 1-2 minutes. Slowly add remaining water with the food processor turned on until you reach the desired consistency. Drizzle with more olive oil, sprinkle with paprika and add desired feta and diced pepper. Use dip with cut up carrots, cucumbers, peppers or crackers. ■

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# WHERE IS IT?

Be the first to respond with the correct answer to the location of this photo and receive a certificate for a free coffee at Crafty's Coffee and Gifts in Panora.



A number of people had the correct answer from last month with the backside of the Bagley Elevator north of Main Street in Bagley, but the first person was Brenda Pevestorf. Have a guess on the location of this month's photo? Have one to submit for future issues? Send to [shane@gctimesnews.com](mailto:shane@gctimesnews.com). ■

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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## BAGLEY

### Bagley United Methodist Church

401 Main Street, PO Box 40

[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

Sunday Service: 11 a.m., Wednesday: 3:45-5:00 pm after school kids program. All school age kids welcome.



## 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

## PANORA

### Church Of The Brethren

2946 200th Road, Panora

641-755-3800

Sunday School: 8:45 a.m., Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

### Calvary Chapel Of The Raccoon River Valley

604 E. Main St., Panora

[www.calvaryraccoon.com](http://www.calvaryraccoon.com)

641-755-4268

Sunday service: 10 a.m.



### Faith Bible Church

2096 Highway 4, Panora

[www.fbcpanora.com](http://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](http://www.panorafcc.org)

641-755-2227

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.



### Fountain of Life Church

2322 Wagon Road, Panora

[www.folcpanora.com](http://www.folcpanora.com)

641-755-2322

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.



### Lighthouse Assembly of God

400 S.E. Third St., Panora

[www.panoralighthouseassemblyofgod.com](http://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

641-755-2227



### Panora United Methodist Church

119 E. Main St., P.O. Box 601, Panora

[www.panoraumc.org](http://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](http://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](http://church-of-christ.org)

641-757-1104 ■



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## HEALTH CARE

# GCH WELCOMES DR. HALLIE HAHN

Special to *Panora Times*

Guthrie County Hospital welcomes Hallie Hahn, MD, who will be providing ophthalmology services and cataract procedures starting in February.

Dr. Hahn is a graduate of the University of Florida where she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in biological engineering. Her academic excellence continued through medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she received her MD and was elected into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) honor society. Dr. Hahn also completed her medical internship and ophthalmology residency in South Carolina at the Storm Eye Institute of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She then joined Kugler Vision in Omaha, Nebraska, where she practices cataract and refractive surgery.

Dr. Hahn is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. She has published several peer reviewed publications and presented her ophthalmic research at numerous national conferences. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated dedication to service including serving as clinical director of a free eye clinic during residency

and participating in international healthcare initiatives with notable volunteer work in Belize and the Dominican Republic.

Outside of her rewarding profession, Dr. Hahn enjoys spending time with her husband and friends. Dr. Hahn is also an outdoor enthusiast, and her hobbies include skiing, hiking, camping and running.

Hahn will be consulting with patients and performing cataract and glaucoma surgeries. She will be accepting new patients beginning in February. For more information on this service, call the Surgical Services Department at 641-332-3858. Ask your optometrist for a referral to Dr. Hahn at Guthrie County Hospital.

Dr. Brandon Menke has served Guthrie County Hospital for three years and was instrumental in bringing cataract surgery services back. Guthrie County Hospital thanks Dr. Menke for his dedicated service to the organization and the patients they serve and for assisting in the transition of services to Dr. Hahn so that these services can continue to be provided to the community. ■



Hallie Hahn, M.D.

## COMMUNITY

# APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM GUTHRIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BY JAN. 31

Special to *Panora Times*

The Guthrie County Community Foundation is inviting local nonprofits, government entities and educational organizations to apply for grant funding. Applications are now open and must be submitted by midnight on Jan. 31, 2025.

These funds are available to support projects that benefit the community and enhance the quality of life in Guthrie County. Grants can be used for a wide range of initiatives, including educational programs, children activities, health and

wellness services, public infrastructure projects, and more. In 2024, the community foundation awarded more than \$210,000 to organizations that serve Guthrie County residents.

Organizations interested in applying are encouraged to visit [www.GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org).

For questions or assistance with the application process, contact the Foundation at [GCCFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:GCCFoundation@gmail.com).

Don't miss this opportunity to make a lasting impact on residents of Guthrie County. ■



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