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# TIMES

**FEBRUARY 2025**

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## **STARS IN STRIPES**

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“ We are a very active Chapter, some of the past year’s activities included Career Development Events, such as horse and livestock judging, and soil evaluation. Students competed in various leadership contests such as, Conduct of Meetings, Job Interview, Ag Sales, Chapter Program, Ag Issues, plus showing at county and state fairs.

A number of our members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN in October and had opportunity to tour Kinze Manufacturing, Caterpillar, Keeneland Race Track and Buffalo Tract Distillery.

We never forget our local communities and volunteer to help at a number of events, including Guthrie County Cattleman Banquet and Little Hands on the Farm at the Iowa State Fair. Read and donate books to the Panorama Elementary students and had opportunity to communicate with our state representatives at FFA Day at the Capital in Des Moines. ”

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## FROM THE COVER:

Martin Wood referees a football game in 2023. Photo submitted



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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

# THEY CALL 'EM LIKE THEY SEE 'EM

Admit it. You have been critical of a referee or umpire.

You might have criticized a call. Possibly uttered a boo or two. May have even yelled out, "That's terrible!" As a fan of a team, you are going to have a bias from time to time. That's natural. But referees and umpires don't share that bias. They are neutral — or at least should be — and they "call 'em like they see 'em." We have all seen referees and umpires we thought were good and some we thought weren't. At the end of the day, we need to remind ourselves that these folks are human, and, like us, they can make mistakes

A few years ago, I was coaching a young man at a high school wrestling tourna-

ment. The referee called our guy pinned when his opponent was clearly — at least from my view — using an illegal maneuver. I tried to yell this out to the referee, but I was too late. He had already slapped the mat and called the pin. He looked over at me after the match and saw my frustration. He walked over and offered a comment I did not expect. He said, "Coach, I want you to know that had I seen that, I would have called it. I simply didn't see it." That was the most honest answer I have ever heard from a



Shane Goodman

referee or umpire, and I respect that man deeply for how he handled the situation.

That scenario on the wrestling mat is a great reminder to me of how life works. To some degree, we are all referees or umpires. We have to make a lot of calls. And, as much as we try to be fair and accurate, we don't get everything right. And, in those situations, the best thing we can do is to be honest.

In this month's cover story, we interview local residents who serve as referees and umpires for various sports. They share their passions and their commitments, explaining why they do what they do. And in this seemingly busy world that we live in, we need to show our gratitude for them.

So, the next time you want to be critical of a referee or umpire, criticize a call, utter a boo or two, or yell out, "That's terrible," just remember that there are real people underneath those striped shirts or uniforms simply trying to call 'em like they see 'em.

Thanks for reading. ■

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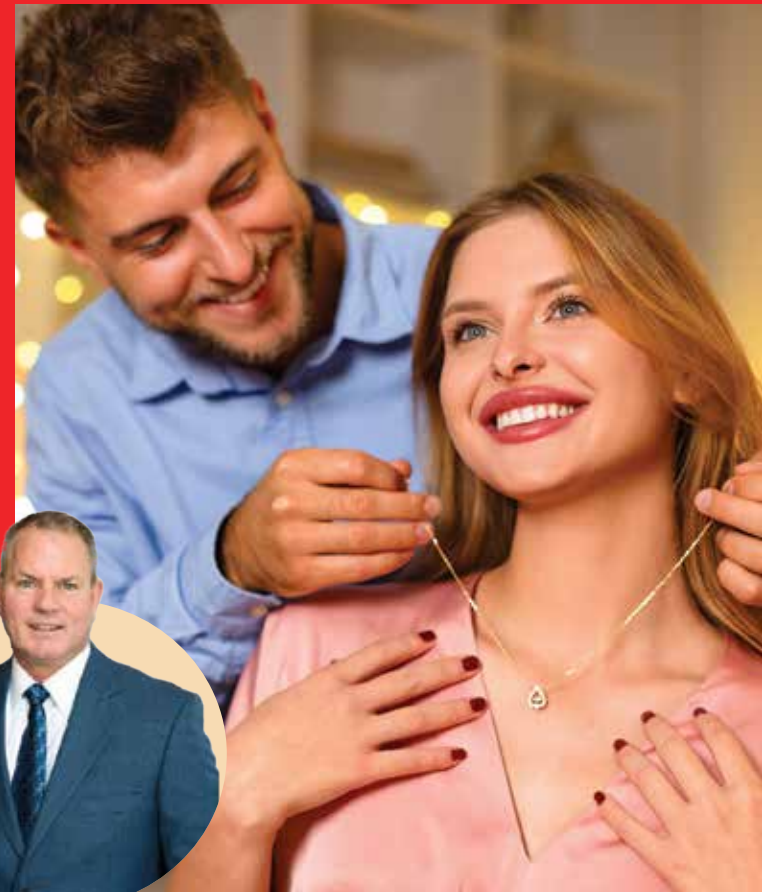
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# STARS IN STRIPES

LOCAL SPORTS OFFICIALS SHARE THEIR REFEREEING STORIES.

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

Many terms exist for sports officials/referees including “ref,” “ump,” “blue,” and “zebra,” as well as some more colorful terms we won’t list here. The basic job of sports officials is to ensure fair play (following the rules) to facilitate a positive experience for all involved (athletes, coaches and spectators).

It is commonly said that a good referee is one you don’t notice. That concept has merit, but it is also worthwhile to take a moment to recognize the dedication, skills and value referees bring to local sports. Sports officials are just as much a part of organized sports as the athletes themselves. This article shares the stories of a few of these individuals.

## RON TRYON

Born and raised in Linden, Ron Tryon says, when he looks back on favorite memories from his life, many of them center around football. During his high school days, Tryon played for Panora-Linden, and he said his memories are not because of amazing athletic achievement but rather from the fellowship with teammates.

“I was the very best average player on the team,” he said. “I had no accolades; I wasn’t all-conference or anything like that, but when I look back, I think of the fun stories.”

After high school, Tryon found another way to stay involved in sports.

“I took a class in junior college called ‘Sports Officiating,’ and I got licensed in 1967. I started working games then, doing junior high and junior varsity. Then I took some time off until the later 1970s and started working again until 2010.”

Tryon recalled one football game he officiated in which a bizarre trio of animal encounters occurred.

“We had a game, and it was really close to the sale barn and the river. During the game, a river rat came onto the field, and I’m sure it had rabies. The janitor walked out carrying a shovel, and he beat the living snot out of that rat right on the field. Then he scooped it up and walked over to the side and pitched it back toward the river.”

The evening’s animal antics were only beginning.



**ABOVE:** Ron Tryon spots the ball during a game at the UNI Dome. **RIGHT:** Tom Fuller, Ron Tryon and Randy York are members of the IHSAA Officials’ Hall of Fame.

“In that same game, three or four cows had gotten loose, and they ran into the end zone,” Tryon said. “Then, in the second half, an owl came and landed on the goalpost crossbar and watched the entire second half.”

Tryon said he has dozens of great stories from his time officiating.

“I worked with the same crew for 33 years, and we tell stories and laugh about them like they were yesterday,” Tryon said.

Despite the many humorous memories, Tryon stressed that his officiating crew back in those days was serious about refereeing the games professionally, so they spent many hours reviewing



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



Shawn Wharton (third from left) and his crew prior to a game at the UNI Dome.

games to improve their skills and knowledge.

Besides football, Tryon also officiated baseball and softball, but he said he definitely preferred football.

"We always prided ourselves on doing it the right way," Tryon said. "Any game that you officiate is the most important game of the night for those players, and they deserve the very best officiating possible, and that's what we tried to do."

Obviously, the hard work of Tryon's crew paid off, as he was enshrined in the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Hall of Fame for officials in 2010.

Tryon said one of the challenges in officiating is hearing complaints from fans, athletes or coaches, but he said that comes with the territory. Tryon said he was generally able to tune out such complaints but was ready to say when enough was enough.

When asked about a favorite story, Tryon told of a memorable football game when he and his crew saw the immediate results of positive feedback. It was the final game of the season, and both teams came in with identical records of 0-7 with neither team having scored a single touchdown all season. The referees realized these two squads probably didn't have much self-esteem.

"So, we decided we were going to have some fun and be the 'Barnabas crew.' There's a character in the Bible called Barnabas, and he's known as Barnabas the Encourager," Tryon said. "We decided to encourage every play in the game. We encouraged coaches for their play calling and the players for their tackling or blocking."

Soon, the officials noticed an increase in sportsmanship, as players helped each other up from the ground. So, the officials encouraged that behavior, too.



Shawn Wharton referees a girls basketball game.

"Before the game was over, everyone was helping everyone up, and everyone was high-fiving, and it was just a whole different venue," Tryon said. "At the end, each team had scored a touchdown, but the winning team had scored two touchdowns. It was the most fun game we had worked in 20 years."

#### SHAWN WHARTON

Shawn Wharton of Panora played sports during his school days, then got into coaching and, later, refereeing. In total, he has accumulated approximately 25 years of officiating football and basketball, and he continues to officiate high school football. Although Wharton didn't go into officiating with goals of making it to the state tournament, it has been a pleasant surprise.

"The last three years, we have gone to the Dome — two semifinal games and one finals game," Wharton said. "That was a neat experience to go do that."

Wharton said one of his challenges is

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Martin Wood with granddaughter (and mini-referee) Elle.

dealing with coaches who sometimes become intense and emotional during the contests.

"As a ref, you've just got to keep your cool," Wharton said.

According to Wharton, most of the athletes he officiates handle the intensity well, but some may be influenced by outbursts they see their professional sports idols display on TV.

Wharton said some of his favorite moments in working as a football referee have been eavesdropping on the conversations in the huddles of junior high teams.

"Just listening to these seventh graders, they really don't know what they're doing. It is really funny," Wharton said.

In football, 22 players are on the field, running in various directions, so it's inevitable that occasionally a player will bump into a referee. Wharton recalled a humorous instance of this.

"We were doing a playoff game four or five years ago, and I got hit by a helmet, so my ear started to bleed. The trainer thought he had it stopped, so we started playing again, and I could feel it dripping," Wharton said. "They ended up bandaging my head up so it looked like I just had brain surgery, but we were able to finish the game."

### MARTIN WOOD

Martin Wood has always enjoyed sports, and he says he has never regretted his decision to become an official.



Martin Wood and granddaughters.

"I saw an ad on the local cable station saying there was a need for Little League umpires, and I thought that might be fun, so I did it, and I just fell in love with it. That was in 2008," Wood said. "I got into it about the age that some guys are thinking about quitting."

Wood said his philosophy of officiating is to know his job and do it well.

"I've always thought there's no excuse for not knowing the rules," Wood said. "That's the one thing I can control."

Since starting in 2008, Wood has officiated football, boys and girls basketball, softball and baseball, but he now only works football games at the high school and college levels.

Wood said he has seen changes in

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Martin Wood and his high school football officiating crew.

sports — some good and some not. One big improvement he noted is the increased safety through better equipment and protocols.

“In football, the concussion stuff has really come to the forefront,” Wood said.

In the area of sportsmanship and fun, Wood has noted a growing problem. Many young athletes, as well as their parents and coaches, can easily get caught up in the dream that the youngster will become the next Caitlin Clark or Patrick Mahomes. This can result in unrealistic expectations on athletes and excessive criticism of officials. According to Wood, this also results in fewer people choosing to become officials.

“Everybody is getting grayer in officiating. The average age goes up every year because we’re just not getting enough young ones,” Wood said. “Youth sports is where these new officials get their feet wet, and, to me, it seems that youth sports is where we see the worst behavior from fans and coaches,” Wood said.

Asked about something the average fan doesn’t realize, Wood had a ready answer.

“We have no interest in who wins. We’re just there to try to level the playing field and be fair,” he said.

Wood also explained that officials put in many hours of preparation before games and evaluation after games, plus a fair amount of travel. But those long hours forge strong bonds of friendship between officials.

“I’ve heard so many guys say, ‘All my friends are officials,’ and it’s true. It’s a club, it’s a fraternity, and it’s made me a better fan,” Wood said.

Wood’s dedication to officiating is clearly proven by his amazing return following a major medical setback. In



A special moment for Martin Wood while refereeing with his son, Casey.

August of 2024, he underwent open heart surgery. Miraculously, in a matter of weeks, Wood was again wearing the white cap as crew chief officiating a local football game.

“I had known for some years that there was going to be a problem because I had a bicuspid valve which should have been a tricuspid valve. Last summer, it started getting bad,” Wood said. “I was short of breath, couldn’t sleep, just didn’t feel good. So, I went up to Mayo, and they replaced one valve, repaired a valve, gave me a new aorta, and fixed a hole. Luckily, I had great people around me there and at home, and I got back on the field less than six weeks later.”

Wood said he’s feeling healthy now and has no plans to stop working as a referee.

“I plan to keep on officiating. I feel

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The IHSAA in Boone is Iowa's headquarters for officiating in Iowa.

like I've got some seasons left in me," Wood said. "It's a way to stay close to the game and close to the youth. It'll keep you younger, if it doesn't kill you, and you'll make the best friends you ever had. It's fantastic."

Wood recalled a game in which a "wardrobe malfunction" led to a humorous story that often wins when he and other officials share their funniest memories.

"I was doing a JV basketball game. My granddaughter was about 1 or 2, and she was staying with us that weekend, and Grandma had done her laundry," Wood said. "Shortly after the game started, I blew the whistle and was getting ready to have the ball inbounded, and I noticed something wrong with my shirt, so I reached in and pulled out a little pink pair of girl's underwear from inside my shirt. I'm sure my face was as pink as that underwear, and I jammed them in my pocket as quick as I could."

#### BECOMING AN OFFICIAL

Anyone interested in officiating is encouraged to speak with local sports

officials and/or review information on the state's two organizational websites. The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) and the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) are the two organizations that train and certify officials in Iowa.

Lewie Curtis serves as the director of officials at the IHSAA.

"We have over 5,000 people who have paid registration fees to be an athletic official with the IHSAA or IGHSAU," Curtis said. "Becoming an official is pretty simple."

The basic steps include registering online, paying the applicable fee, and passing a rules exam for each sport chosen. Certified officials then communicate with local schools for scheduling of events. Annual renewal is required.

High school students can be licensed to officiate sub-varsity and junior high contests. Persons serving in the U.S. Armed Forces have licensing fees waived for the first two years of officiating. High school and college students receive a discounted rate for licensing. ■

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## Q: WHAT IS PANORA'S SNOW REMOVAL POLICY?

**A:** Section 69.10 of the city code states:  
1. No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area that is not zoned Business Commercial (BC) during the period of time when snow is falling and for a period of forty-eight (48) hours after cessation of snowfall, unless after cessation of snowfall the snow has been removed or plowed from said street, alley or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall.  
2. Except on the west side of North 1st Street, no person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area that is zoned Business Commercial (BC) between 1:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. when snow is falling or within forty-eight (48) hours after cessation of snowfall, unless after cessation of snowfall the snow has been removed or plowed from said street or alley and the snow has ceased to fall.

3. Parking is allowed on the west side of North 1st Street between Main Street and Market Street any time including during and after snowfall. (Ord. 236 — Oct. 07 Supp.)

## Q: HOW DO THOSE FREE MEALS AT FAITH BIBLE CHURCH WORK?

**A:** Faith Bible Church provides a free community meal each month, and all are welcome. The next meal will be March 19 from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and the menu includes a baked potato bar, tossed salad and cookie bars. Faith Bible Church is located at 2096 Highway 4 in Panora.

## Q: WHEN IS THE PANORA CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR?

**A:** The Panora Chamber of Commerce encourages golfers to save the date of Sunday, May 4 for its annual golf tournament at Lake Panorama National Golf Course at 5071 Clover Ridge Road. Additional information will be announced soon. ■

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# DYLAN. DRACULA. A BOXER. A MONKEY. THE LAST SHOWGIRL. AND MORE.



"A Complete Unknown"



"Nosferatu"



"Baby Girl"



"The Fire Inside"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Panora Times*

## "A COMPLETE UNKNOWN"

I'm a big Bob Dylan fan, so I've been eagerly awaiting "A Complete Unknown" starring Timothee Chalamet as the one and only Bob Dylan. The film opens with Dylan hitchhiking to New York state to drop in on a very ill Woody Guthrie to pay homage to his hero. Sitting with Guthrie is Pete Seeger. They ask Dylan to play something, and he does. What a great opening to this movie. The rest of the film traces Dylan's attempt to make his name as a singer/songwriter, the ups and downs of a couple of relationships (including Joan Baez), and the groundbreaking event of plugging in his guitar at the Newport Folk Festival. Director James Mangold delivers the goods from the first scene to the last in a movie that is one of the five best I saw



all year. **Grade: A**

## "NOSFERATU"

In this updated version of the 1920s version of the vampire classic "Dracula," Lily-Rose Depp and Nicholas Hoult play a young couple traveling to the "old country" for a new job. This is one creepy movie and a strong update to the original. Plenty of gore and nasty vampiric activities, enough to make you turn away occasionally. If you are a fan of vampire movies, this will give you an updated look at the movie that started it all.



**Grade: A-**

## "BABY GIRL"

Nicole Kidman has taken some risky roles in the past, but in "Babygirl" she tops all of them. As the president of a major corporation, she finds herself enamored with a new intern who begins playing sexual games of cat

and mouse with his new boss. There is a great deal of nudity and lewd activities in the movie, which can best be described as a hard R-rated film. That being said, the story and the performances are strong enough to give it a high grade. **Grade: B+**



## "THE FIRE INSIDE"

Did you know that a female American Olympic athlete has won multiple Olympic gold medals in boxing? Neither did I. This is the true story of Claressa Shields, a boxer from Flint, Michigan, who did just that. It is a wonderful, little-known story of perseverance and dedication. **Grade: B+**



## "BETTER MAN"

It might not surprise you that I had no idea of who Robbie Williams was going

into the movie "Better Man." It seems he is an extremely talented singer/entertainer whose father early in his life pegged him with the nickname "Monkey." That name stuck so much that, in the entire film, he is depicted as an actual monkey. The film gives us a no-holds-barred look at this man's life, both the highs and the lows, and there were plenty of both. It is a crazy film, to say the least. But at the end, it was a different — but very entertaining — movie. **Grade: B+**



## "THE LAST SHOWGIRL"

Admittedly, I dragged my feet on seeing this movie. A movie starring Pamela Anderson as an aging showgirl had little appeal to me. How could it be good? I was wrong. Gia Coppola, the director, is Francis Ford Coppola's granddaughter, and she has given us a gritty look at the last days of an old school Vegas show. The cast

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"Better Man"



"The Last Showgirl"



"Wolf Man"



"Nickel Boys"

includes Jamie Lee Curtis as one of the dancers and Dave Bautista as the manager charged with shuttering the entertainment venue, but it is Pamela Anderson who steals the show. For that reason alone, I believe she has every right to an Academy Award nomination.



**Grade: B+**

### "WOLF MAN"

This is the next film in the updates of the old Universal Pictures horror films. We've had "The Invisible Man" and now await "The Phantom of the Opera," "Dracula," "The Mummy," "Creature from the Black Lagoon," "Frankenstein" and "The Bride of Frankenstein," so now we get "Wolf Man." The film opens in the deep woods of

Oregon (which, by the way, are beautiful) with a father and young son on a hunting hike. The father is overbearing and overly protective of his son. He alludes to a danger in the woods that we never see. Fast forward to current day, the son is married, living in a big city with his wife and young daughter. Like his father, he is overbearing and overly protective of his daughter. When the news arrives that his missing father's body has been found, the family heads to Oregon to deal with family issues. As the movie title hints, there is a danger in the woods. The movie gets creepy quickly — in a good way. What we end up with is a well-crafted horror film that will lead to many discussions on the way home. **Grade: B**



### "NICKEL BOYS"

And, finally, the much-touted, brilliantly praised movie, "Nickel Boys." The film was on most, if not all, of the year's top 10 movie lists, so we sat down at our art-film theater for a Friday night of movie brilliance. What we saw was the story of young black men from the point of view of one young man. If we see the protagonist, it is not until late in the film. The true story is about a camp for young delinquents and the horrors that these young men faced. It is gruesome and difficult to watch, and the quirky filmmaking makes it more annoying than compelling. At one point, the film projection system (most likely a DVD) had



some technical difficulties, leaving audio intact but the picture frozen on something unrecognizable. The filmmaking up to that point was so strange that most of the audience remained in their seats thinking this was just part of the movie. We sat there for 15 minutes before we all realized this was not right. Unfortunately, we had mentally checked out way before the DVD froze. What a disappointment.

**Grade: D** ■

*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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# SUPERVISORS APPROVE \$446,729 BUDGET AMENDMENT

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

## JAN. 16 – BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

At the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors meeting on Jan. 16, the supervisors began discussion on the fiscal year 2026 budget. Auditor Dani Fink shared data on usual amounts that are built into the budget but can be changed as needed.

“I also am working right now with the township clerks to schedule a budget workshop with them,” Fink said.

Brenda Dudley, on behalf of Midwest Partnership, addressed the supervisors and discussed her Fiscal Year 2025-2026 funding request. She discussed Midwest Partnership’s ongoing programs and upcoming events. No board action was taken at this time.

Following the public agenda items, the supervisors went into closed session for an employee performance evaluation.

## JAN. 21 – A FIVE-MINUTE MEETING

The supervisors held a brief meeting of five minutes to handle a light agenda. The supervisors unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2025 County Substance Abuse Grant semi-annual report from New Opportunities.

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved a payroll change notice (new hire) for part-time deputy Matthew Stringham at \$25 per hour. The consent agenda also included the Jan. 17 payroll and Jan. 21 claims. It was approved by a 4-1 vote with Mike Dickson opposed.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong updated the other supervisors regarding the status of Heart of Iowa, which provides substance abuse disorder treatment for pregnant women and women with children.

“We were scheduled to have a Heart of Iowa meeting yesterday, but it was canceled because we don’t know yet from the state what direction we can move in,” Armstrong said. “It looks like July 1 is still up in the air.”

## JAN. 23 – EXPECTED TAX LEVY

The supervisors met in regular session on Jan. 23 with budgeting as the main

topic. County Auditor Dani Fink shared data.

“I outlined the Fiscal Year 2024 actual balances... to then give us our actual true beginning balance for Fiscal Year 2025. Then I put in budgeted revenues and budgeted expenses to give us our new projected fund balance for 2025,” Fink said.

Fink then explained information about the expected levy.

“The general basic levy is at 3.88, so that’s what the current year levy is,” she said.

Fink and the supervisors discussed the timeline for the budget and the various steps included.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong asked if any of the supervisors have specific questions after seeing the budget worksheets provided by Fink. Steve Smith said he needs “time to process it.”

“I do, too,” Armstrong said. “I think this is good, a lot of information, and I know I’ll have questions, but I just don’t have them yet.”

Because of other commitments, the supervisors canceled the Jan. 30 meeting.

## JAN. 28 – BUDGET AMENDMENT

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Amendment No. 1.

County Auditor Dani Fink summarized the budget amendment data.

“In total, the total expenditures to be amended is \$446,729. And with the offset of revenue, it would be General Basic taking a hit of \$277,899,” Fink said.

Supervisor Brian Johnson asked how much the county has in General Basic Reserves and how this would impact that amount.

Fink said the General Basic Reserves would drop from \$2.9 million to a projected \$2.4 million.

The supervisors approved the budget amendment as presented.

Eric Reinhart, chair of the Guthrie County Compensation Board, reported on the board’s most recent meeting. He reported that the board reviewed the compensation requests from the county’s various departments and looked at

data on how Guthrie County pay compares to other similar counties.

“We had a good discussion,” Reinhart said. “The general consensus is, our population rank was 67<sup>th</sup>, but our pay is usually seven to 10 spots behind that, as far as county rank. So, when we looked at that, we came up with a number of 7% as our recommendation.”

Reinhart also pointed out that, because other counties will also be implementing compensation increases, this would only be a first step in getting “caught up” pay-wise.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong thanked Reinhart and the compensation board for their work and recommendation. No action was taken by the supervisors at this time.

As part of the county’s budgeting process, the supervisors heard proposed budgetary information from three departments (Auditor, Recorder and Treasurer).

## FEB. 4 – PAY VOUCHER FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

During the Feb. 4 meeting, the final pay voucher for bridge replacement project BRS-CHBP-C039(95) was reviewed. The project is on Redwood Avenue, south of White Pole Road. The supervisors approved the voucher unanimously.

The supervisors also discussed the Safety Manual. Supervisor Mike Dickson suggested having it reviewed again by legal counsel, Ahlers & Cooney. The supervisors approved the Safety Manual by a 4-1 vote with Dickson opposed.

Supervisor Brian Johnson reported on the annual meeting of Midwest Partnership.

“Midwest Partnership had a good annual meeting Thursday night. It was good to hear from all of the communities within the two counties,” he said.

The consent agenda was approved as presented, including approving Tracy Clarke as a new hire (fulltime clerk) in the treasurer’s department at a starting rate of \$46,194.20 annually.

County Engineer Josh Sebern addressed the supervisors on several topics. Regarding Resolution 25-16 (Rate of

Compensation for Fence), the supervisors approved the resolution by a 4-1 vote with Dickson opposed.

Regarding Resolution 25-17 (Right-of-way and Temporary Easement Purchase Rates), the supervisors approved the resolution by a 3-2 vote, with Dickson and JD Kuster opposed.

## FEB. 6 – TREE REMOVAL CONCERN

During the Feb. 6 meeting, Mark Drake voiced a complaint during the Public Comments portion of the agenda.

“I live over by Bagley...they came in and took the trees out of the ditch without any notice. I’m just wondering why I wasn’t informed,” Drake said. “At one time, those trees were a windbreak for my bees.”

Supervisor Mike Dickson said the county removes trees as needed from the right of way.

“This was huge. There were a lot of trees,” Drake said.

Supervisor Brian Johnson said there are several reasons for the county to remove such trees, including wildlife issues and to allow sunlight to reach the roadway (to melt snow and ice). He assured Drake he would look into the situation and get back to him.

Drake summarized that he understands there is no requirement to notify adjacent property owners when such work will be done, but he felt it would be a good practice.

“It just totally caught me off-guard,” Drake said.

New Opportunities Executive Director Chad Jensen provided an update on programs offered through that agency.

“If we look at individuals served in 2024, it was 845,” Jensen said. “Households served was 364.”

Brian Hoffman offered a budgetary status update regarding the courthouse security and information technology needs.

“We’re coming in about \$2,400 more than we did last year,” Hoffman said.

Human Resources Coordinator Jamie Lindsay gave a budgetary summary on her department.

## FEB. 11 - DRAFT OF SURVEYING PERMIT ORDINANCE

During the Feb. 11 meeting, discussion was held regarding the draft of a surveying permit ordinance. County Engineer Josh Sebern stated the ordinance would be applicable for situations such as the Summit pipeline and other similar situations. He noted that surveyors are often unable to find a marker at one spot, so they may need to survey at another spot, and possibly on another landowner's property, to accurately complete a survey.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong shared her perspective

"The question is, how do we work within Iowa Code to secure an ordinance that we can then enforce within Guthrie County so that it holds what we need it to hold," Armstrong said.

Supervisor Brian Johnson said the county is allowed to make such an ordinance but not to supersede or be more restrictive than the state. Johnson advocated for the county to wait to see how ongoing litigation by other counties turns out.

"Why jump into a lawsuit ourselves? Why would we enter that fight right now?" Johnson asked.

The supervisors unanimously approved moving forward with the draft

ordinance. There will be multiple readings of the draft in the coming weeks.

Several citizens spoke up during the Public Comments portion of the meeting to weigh in on the surveying topic.

## FEB. 13 - COUNTY ATTORNEY BUDGET

The supervisors heard budget presentations from two department heads.

County Attorney Dana Minter highlighted the budgetary line items with changes from the previous budget.

Regarding the revenue from the county's collections program, Minter explained her projection.

"I have an estimate at the end of the fiscal year that the portion going to my office would be about \$9,000," she said.

Supervisor Mike Dickson questioned that number, noting that the current fiscal year has seen only \$3,053 in such revenue so far.

"So, \$9,000 would be a stretch," Dickson said.

The consensus was that \$6,000 would be a more realistic projection.

Conservation Director Brad Halterman explained the Conservation Board's budget projections.

"The Conservation Board approves

the budget to be sent over here to you guys, so it definitely is not something that's just thrown together at the last minute. It's a lot of discussion and good back and forth that takes place," he said.

Following the budget discussions, Dickson reported that the recent Farm Bureau meeting went well. He said that County Engineer Josh Sebern attended and answered many questions related to county roads.

## FEB. 18 - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Sheriff Matt Harmann offered a budgetary presentation of the revenues and expenses he anticipates in the upcoming fiscal year. He explained that he is working to allocate budget items into four main categories: Patrol, Jail, Dispatch and Administration.

Regarding revenues, Harmann pointed out that the main outside source of revenue is the fee collected for jailing inmates from other counties. But, since those numbers fluctuate, Harmann said he prefers to budget that revenue conservatively.

"The revenue changes with the increase of housing out-of-county inmates. We've kept it far below what its

potential is," Harmann said.

Supervisor Steve Smith asked if the county's daily fee (\$60) is in line with what other counties charge, and Harmann said most are \$55 to \$60.

Harmann explained that his proposed budget includes adding one officer, which he said would help decrease overtime. Harmann also said he plans to look into ways to access additional funding, such as the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) and Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). He said, when these programs run, they may be able to help pay overtime wages. Harmann also said he would look into available grants.

Harmann said the overall budget is projected to increase, but he feels that is needed for the county.

"My ask is \$85,000 from the previous year," Harman said, and added that this should help with response times and officer safety.

No board action was taken on the budget at this time.

Through March, the Board of Supervisors meets regularly Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 APPROVES MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR WATER PLANT

BY RICH WICKS  
Panora Times

## JAN. 27 - STATUS OF \$550,000 GRANT FUND FOR THREE RENTAL UNITS

At its Jan. 27 meeting, the Panora City Council considered renewing a proposed contract between the city and Ziegler Power Systems. According to the proposed customer support agreement, Ziegler would maintain a generator so that the city would still have water service in the event of a power failure. The agreement would run from Feb. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2028, at an annual cost of \$6,730.42. The council voted to approve the renewal.

A public hearing was held regarding the status of grant funds for the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Contract 23-HSGU-005, which relates to the property at 113 E. Main in Panora. Karla Janning, housing programs coordinator at Region XII Council of Governments, spoke

on the status.

“Panora received \$550,000 of CDBG grant funds to provide funding for the creation of three upper-story rental units. All three rental units will serve households at or below 80% of the county AMI (area median income),” Janning said.

She added that, for a household of one, that criterion would be \$63,300.

“Construction is approximately 59% complete on the units and is scheduled to be substantially complete by April 30, 2025, well ahead of the Feb. 28, 2026, end date for the program,” Janning said.

Janning added that the developer will offer the council a chance for a walk-through tour of the project sometime this spring. No other citizens addressed the council, and City Administrator Lisa Grossman said no written comments had been received. The public hearing was then closed.

The council passed resolution 25-06, amending the city’s legal representation to

include attorney John Twillman of Bump Law Firm.

## FEB. 10 - RENEWABLE ENERGY MOBILE MICROGRID PROJECT

At the Feb. 10 meeting, City Administrator Lisa Grossman provided details about a Subaward Agreement with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the Renewable Energy Mobile Microgrid Project.

“This is the \$414,500 grant that we were awarded. We are responsible for 15%, so it’s about \$70,000 or a little less than that,” Grossman said.

The council unanimously approved Resolution 25-07, which is the agreement for the project. The description of the proposed project includes: “The proposed mitigation activity will create an innovative, versatile, and scalable solution that will greatly increase the resiliency of the community and provide several substantial benefits, both in terms of operational

reliability and environmental sustainability. The project will be comprised of a stationary photovoltaic (PV) solar array and a portable battery trailer that will be placed at the city’s wastewater lagoon to provide backup power to the aerators and allow continuous operation of the facility even when power is not available from the grid.”

The city received a letter from the Lake Panorama Association (LPA), stating that the LPA has set a water rate of \$9.31 per thousand gallons for the two-year period beginning July 1, 2025.

Council Member Roger Dorr said he attended the recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and there are plans to replace the entrance signs welcoming visitors to Panora.

The next regular meeting of the Panora council is set for March 10 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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# HOSPITAL TO REPLACE CHEMISTRY ANALYZER MACHINE

BY RICH WICKS  
Panora Times

During the Jan. 23 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital's Board of Trustees, an item was added to the agenda for emergency consideration. CEO Chris Stipe informed the trustees that the hospital's chemistry analyzer machine is not working properly, and a new machine needs to be purchased to replace it. He explained that the machine is used anytime lab work is being done.

"Even if we ordered this machine today, it's going to take a month for it to get here, so we've got to get this machine fixed," Stipe said. "We need a part, and we're trying to get it fixed."

Stipe added that the machine is essentially at the end of its expected lifespan and has been breaking down more frequently over the past year, which then requires hospital staff to bring specimens elsewhere for analysis.

"The lab has really been run ragged, taking specimens to Audubon or Jefferson," Stipe said. "It's going to keep breaking down, and it is the backbone of what we do."

Because of the age of the machine, Stipe said it is no longer realistic to consider fixing it and using it long-term. The price of the new machine is \$187,600. The trustees voted to approve purchasing the new machine.

Danielle Lauzon provided a quarterly report on the various quality measures the

hospital tracks.

"We have really good scores in our emergency department. We have been above our goal the majority of the year, and then we had a dip in December," Lauzon said. "We had a few surveys come back that took that score down."

Lauzon also told of February fundraising events for the hospital.

"The hospital auxiliary will be hosting bingo again in February on Thursday nights. The meal is from 4:45-6 p.m., and bingo is from 6-8 p.m. at the Activity Center here in town," she said.

Stipe reported strong revenue numbers for the hospital.

"Year to date, we're about \$1 million ahead compared to budget," Stipe said. "We're tracking pretty good with regard to revenue."

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery told of upcoming events in the spring and summer, including the Handbags and Bingo event on April 4 and the golf tournament on July 8.

The trustees' next regular meeting will be Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. Instructions for attending remotely are shown on the hospital's website. ■



Chris Stipe



Danielle Lauzon



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## EDUCATION

# PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD REVIEWS 2025-2026 CALENDAR

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

During the regular meeting of the Panorama school board on Feb. 10, Cam Little updated the board about the e-sports program and its impact on students.

The board reviewed the draft of the 2025-2026 master calendar, which includes the following notable dates:

- **Aug. 25:** First day of school
- **Dec. 22 - Jan. 2:** Winter break
- **March 16-20:** Spring break
- **May 13:** Seniors' last day
- **May 17:** Graduation
- **May 22:** Last day of classes

The board set a public hearing regarding the proposed 2025-2026 calendar for March 10 at 5:30 p.m., immediately prior to the regular school board meeting.

In the Good News portion of the meet-

ing, it was reported that all three of Panorama's large group speech groups (Choral Reading, Musical Theater, and Readers' Theater) advanced to the state contest Feb. 8. Also, roughly 30 students have auditioned and/or offered to help behind the scenes for the spring musical, "The Addams Family Musical."

In girls wrestling, Emma Walker and Gracie Recker advanced to the state meet.

At Panorama Elementary, 126.4 pounds of pop can tabs was collected for The Gift of Life Transplant House. The winning class was Mrs. Tunink's class with 32.2 pounds. The class enjoyed a milk and cookie party provided by the Middle School Student Council.

The next meeting of the board will be Monday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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## BUSINESS NEWS

# LEONARD AUTOMOTIVE FIRE

BY RICH WICKS  
Panora Times

A fire occurred Feb. 18 at Leonard Automotive (501 E. Market St. in Panora). No injuries were sustained, but significant property damage occurred. Dawn Shepherd, who works as secretary at the business, provided an update on behalf of owner David Leonard.

"Monday evening, Tuesday morning, the police department knocked on the back door and told David that his building was on fire," Shepherd said. "He ran to the front of the building, grabbed a fire extinguisher, and realized how bad it was."

"Panora Fire Department responded, and Guthrie County Sheriff's Department, and Panora Police Department," Shepherd said. "We lost a substantial amount in the shop."

Leonard plans to continue working in a temporary location and to rebuild the



Leonard Automotive is located at 501 E. Market St. in Panora.

business.

"We will be rebuilding, hopefully in the same location," Shepherd said. "We are looking for an empty shop that we could rent for a couple months while the rebuilding takes place. Right now, we're waiting to hear the cause of the fire."

Shepherd said the community has been supportive.

"It's just devastating, but a lot of our customers have been dropping off gift cards or pizza during our clean up. They've been really good," Shepherd said. ■

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# THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS

PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER AND MARK KRENO | SPECIAL TO PANORAMA TIMES



Five Panorama wrestlers punched their tickets to the state tournament: Landon Kirtley (138), Will Knapp (150), Joel Cooper (285), Blake Schwartz (165) and Gabe Wagner (157).



Gracie Recker and Emma Walker punched their tickets to the state wrestling tournament on Friday, Jan. 31.



Gabe Wagner placed third at 157 at the John J. Harris Invitational on Jan. 25.



Joel Cooper (285) won matches against two opponents at the Audubon quadrangular on Feb. 6.



No. 3 Lydia Lleshi defends the perimeter against Ankeny Christian on Jan. 20.



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Panorama's No. 24 Nerea Gimeno Perez controls the dribble against Ogden Feb. 15.



No. 12 Morgan Creeves gets double-teamed against Ogden on Feb. 15.



No. 44 Brayden Galvan and No. 40 Noah Poldberg crash into the Woodward Academy player on Friday, Jan. 31. ■



No. 4 Eli Hammerstrom on the fast break against Woodward Academy Jan. 31.



No. 12 Latyn Ashworth passes to No. 2 AJ Draper against ACGC on Jan. 24.

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# HYDROPONICS AND AQUAPONICS

**Early Morning Harvest grows plants with nutrient-rich water for the plant roots and waste water from fish.**

**BY RICH WICKS**  
*Panora Times*

A few miles southeast of Panora, Early Morning Harvest is both a nationally known farm and a well-kept secret. Owner Jeff Hafner recently provided a tour and told about the farm's history and products.

"We started about 12 years ago, but I've been farming my whole life. Early Morning Harvest started as two hobbies, but they are no longer hobbies. They've become a business," Hafner said. "It's 1,500 acres certified organic, which includes the pasture and forage for 200-plus cow/calves."

An interesting feature at Early Morning Harvest is the use of hydroponic and aquaponic practices. In a nutshell, hydroponics means growing plants without soil by having nutrient-rich water available for the plant roots.

Aquaponics is similar but incorporates fish into the process.

"In the hydroponics greenhouse, we raise strawberries, herbs, spinach, onions in here. We'll start harvesting strawberries the first of May," Hafner said. "In the aquaponics greenhouse, the waste water from fish fertilizes the plants, and the plants clean the water for the fish. We raise lettuce, spinach, chard, kale, herbs, peppers and tomatoes."

The aquaponics also produce fish (tila-



Jeff Hafner shows some of the bagged flour products for sale at Early Morning Harvest.

pia) that can be sold.

"We also have free-range chickens and an organic flour mill," Hafner said.

Although Early Morning Harvest is generally considered an organic farm, not ev-

erything is technically organic.

"Everything is at least organic practices. The row crops and the mill are certified organic," Hafner said. "The chickens, the greenhouses and stuff we just follow or-

ganic practices."

When asked what visitors are surprised about, Hafner said the amount of flour sold by the farm usually far exceeds expectations.

Carrie & Scott Bird of Panora won a \$25 gift certificate at the Guthrie Co. REC Annual Meeting.



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A greenhouse is full of vegetables.

“People don’t realize the amount of flour that we push out across the Midwest and across America. We did close to 40,000 bags of flour (4 to 5 pounds each) last year,” Hafner said. “We have a website, and we’re on Amazon and eBay, too.”

Early Morning Harvest welcomes visitors year-round.

“We give a lot of tours here, home school tours or FFA groups and things like that,” Hafner said.

The farm offers a wide selection of stone-ground flours, meals, cereals and mixtures, which are milled at Early Morning Harvest from their farm-grown wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat and corn.

The farm’s products have found their way onto local grocery store shelves throughout the area.

“We sell our products at Hy-Vee, Home-town Foods, and probably to most of the

Fareway stores by the end of the year,” Hafner said.

The farm currently employs 14 people to handle the various tasks, including bagging flour, milling flour, distribution and paperwork. Early Morning Harvest is located at 2425 Willow Ave., just southeast of Panora. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays. The store at the farm sells local meats, jams, jellies and barbecue sauces, and the family sells both clover and buckwheat honey in one-pound and three-pound jars.

Because the farm is succeeding in its niche, no significant changes are planned. “No, I don’t think so,” Hafner said. “We’ll just keep plugging away.”

However, Hafner knows the annual busy season is just around the corner.

“The first of March, this place will explode,” he said. ■



Frozen meats are available in the Early Morning Harvest store.

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**AUG 27** | 5:30 p.m. at TBD



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# GREENS SHARE ART THAT HEALS

**Bud Green discovered his artistic talent was literally right under his feet.**

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

“Find something you love to do, and you’ll never work a day in your life.” That quotation is sometimes attributed to Mark Twain and sometimes to Confucius. But regardless of who said it, the concept fits the situation of Bud and Doreen Green of Panora.

After a career spent in the technology and business world, Bud and Doreen moved to rural Panora and found a different calling. They now spend their time on something called B&D HeartArt. Bud recently showed examples and explained how he became an artist, despite not considering himself artistic while growing up.

“My father and his mother, both of them could draw really well, and I could only make stick figures,” he said.

Since Bud’s career path was in the business world, a lack of artistic expression didn’t seem to be an issue.

“Prior to retiring, I was an IT project manager, leadership consultant, and I’ve got a master’s degree in business administration,” Bud said. “Then, about a year ago, I was looking for something for my wife and I to do that fit us. We want to do things at home and things that are meaningful. I had experimented with woodworking, but I have no real skill or talent in that area.”

Eventually, Bud discovered his artistic talent was literally right under his feet.

“My whole life, I have been drawn to stones. Anytime I go for a walk or I go to the lake, my eyes are drawn to the stones,” Bud said. “I was looking online, and I came across pebble art, but now I’ve gone in a direction that expands on that. This is something that just feels like what we’re meant to do.”

Pebble art, as the name suggests, is finding pebbles and positioning or combining them to create a certain design or artistic image.

“Pebble art, traditionally, kind of has a stark background,” Bud said. “We did that for a while, but then I realized there

was something that could be built on that. So, I created backgrounds using AI (Artificial Intelligence). And I’d never touched AI before. I might go through a thousand runs of AI before I find something that feels right to set the overall mood.”

Bud quickly realized that he wanted to create art that would help those who need healing.

“It isn’t just a hobby; it’s more of a heart-calling,” Bud said. “It’s wanting to bring something to people who have a heavy heart for whatever reason and who could use some uplifting. That is at the core of why we do what we do. We really want to lighten things for people. So, we call it heart art.”

Some of Bud’s creations are for a broader appeal, such as pieces he has made with a Christmas theme or those celebrating love. Other creations are custom, like those commemorating a specific lost loved one (human or pet).

In either case, the art usually includes a background design with pebbles and/or sticks to create an image and a short wording or haiku created by Bud to match the intended feeling.

For the custom pieces, Bud works to truly understand what is needed.

“With the custom work, I dive in deep,” he said. “I have an empathetic way of working with people and being with people. I pick up on their feelings.”

Bud says the most rewarding moments are when he gets to witness a person finding his art meaningful and healing.

“The emotional reactions we’re getting from people were really unexpected,” he said. “It shows the heartache that’s out there.”

B&D HeartArt focuses on feelings, not finances.

“We try to keep the cost to a minimum. I’ve done about 80 pieces. Custom work can take anywhere from 10 to 30 hours. It’s not a business to make money. We’d like to recoup the costs, to some degree, but that’s not the goal,” Bud said. “The pieces that are part of the collection are \$44, and the custom pieces are \$50. We want to make sure that we don’t price anyone out of this.”

The couple’s art has a Facebook page (B&D HeartArt) and Instagram presence (bdheartart). They hope to eventually offer classes to teach others how to create



“Silent Night...Holy Night” is an example of Bud’s creations with a Christmas theme.



“To the Moon and Back” is one of the works of B&D HeartArt.

similar art.

Although Bud is the creator of the pieces, he stressed the teamwork with his wife.

“I wouldn’t be doing this without the inspiration, love and support in so many

ways of my wife, Doreen. The name B & D HeartArt honors the importance of our relationship to this work; the ‘B’ is me and the ‘D’ is Doreen,” Bud said. “Aside from the inspiration she provides, she does the planning, marketing, qual-





Doreen and Bud Green say the most rewarding moments are when they get to witness a person finding their art meaningful and healing.

ity assurance, sales support and she is essentially our CEO/COO. It's a blessing to be here and to be able to do this kind of work to help people, to bring them that healing feeling."

*Panora Times features local residents with interesting hobbies, collections or pastimes each month. If you know someone in the area with such a story, email rich@gctimesnews.com. ■*

## EVENT

### BAGLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO HOLD SUPPER MARCH 17

*Special to the Panora Times*

Bagley United Methodist Church will be holding a supper on Monday, March 17 in the church basement from 5-7 p.m.

There will be a free will offering. Menu is scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans and bars. Bagley United Methodist Church is located at 401 Main St. in Bagley. ■

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## PANORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

# FINNEGAN CLOSING THE BOOK ON HER LIBRARY CAREER



Kim Finnegan trains Molly Allen on library processes.

**BY RICH WICKS**  
*Panora Times*

Kim Finnegan has been director at the Panora Library for 30 years and is

ready to move on to the next chapter in her life.

“In 1992, I was asked to be on the library board, so I did that for a few years, and then the librarian was

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going to retire, and she asked me if I'd be interested in the job," Finnegan said. "The board interviewed me, and then I had to take classes to be accredited," Finnegan said. "I started in January of 1995, and that was in the old library, where city hall is now."

At that time, the library building was in need of replacement, so Finnegan undertook the long process of figuring out how to make that happen. Thanks to generous donations, including a \$200,000 from the Bill Deal family, Finnegan and the library foundation secured funding to build a new library.

"We had a lot of people who gave donations, and we had some grants," Finnegan said. "It took a few years to build the new library, and we've been here for 19 years now."

Finnegan said many citizens helped with the actual physical moving of books and other items.

Another big change during Finnegan's tenure has been the library's online presence.

"We decided we needed to go online with the card catalog, so that was a lot of work," Finnegan said. "And then eventually a website, computers and stuff like that."

A few years ago, when Molly Allen was hired at the library, Finnegan was beginning to think about retirement, and Allen seemed like a natural candidate to fill the vacancy when it would occur. That day now is just around the corner, as Finnegan's last day as library director is scheduled for March 31.

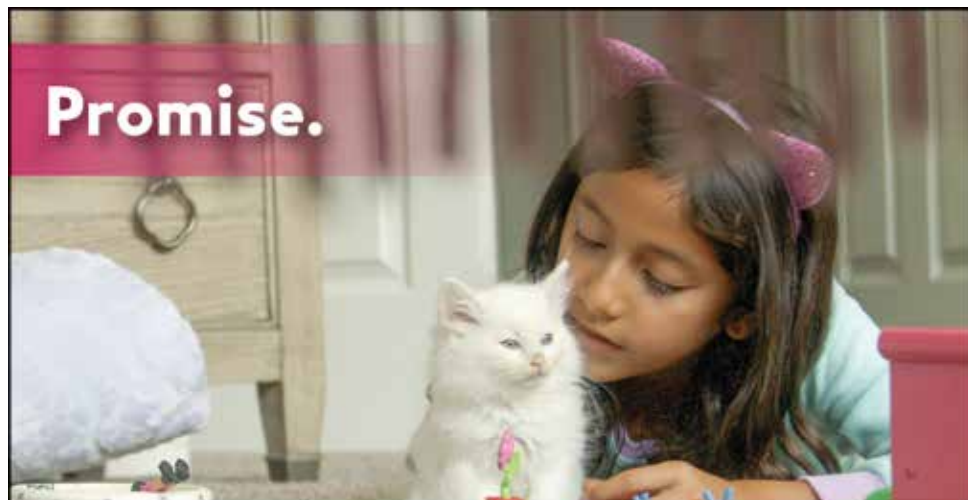
"I gave the library board a six-month notice," Finnegan said. "I have two grandkids, and I want to spend more time with them, so I'm looking forward to that. And I like to travel."

Allen said she looks forward to working at the library each day and enjoys interacting with patrons.

"We moved here in 2020, and I've always loved libraries," Allen said. "My mom and I had a used book store."

The library will host an open house for the public to wish Finnegan well in retirement. The event will be Thursday, March 27, 2-5 p.m. with cookies and refreshments.

"I hope that people continue to support the library and support Molly," Finnegan said. "Through 30 years, I've met a lot of people and had a lot of friendships with people. That is one thing I'll miss, because I am a social person." ■



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# GUTHRIE COUNTY UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

Guthrie County announced the launch of its newly designed website aimed at improving communication, engagement and accessibility. The revamped site, which can continue to be found at [www.guthriecounty.gov](http://www.guthriecounty.gov) offers an updated look and feel, enhanced navigation, access to important services, and allows those interested to stay informed about county events and priorities.

Key features of the new website include:

**Responsive design:** The website is optimized for desktop, tablet and mobile phones, ensuring residents can access information anytime, anywhere.

**Improved navigation:** A user-friendly homepage allows for easier access to services, forms and resources such as job openings, property tax information, election updates and county tourism opportunities.

**Community calendar:** Stay up to date on upcoming events and public meetings and request to be notified by email with meeting agendas.

**News and announcements:** A dedicated section for the latest news and updates from county officials.

“The goal of the new website is to provide a more streamlined communication tool and encourage community involvement at the county level for everyone,” Guthrie County Board of Supervisors Chair Maggie Armstrong said. “Our new website will not only better serve those who live here but also offer a one-stop resource guide for anyone else looking for information on where to visit and what to do in Guthrie County.”

Visit [www.guthriecounty.gov](http://www.guthriecounty.gov) to explore the new website and follow the county’s new social media page, [www.facebook.com/guthriecountyiowa](https://www.facebook.com/guthriecountyiowa), for additional news and updates. ■



The county’s new website will be easier to navigate and more compatible with different size screens. This site will feature news and announcements, a community calendar and more.

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## CATHERINE R. (ARGANBRIGHT) WILHELM

1928-2025

Catherine R. Wilhelm, 96, of Dyersville, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at MercyOne Senior Care in Dyersville.

Catherine was born on June 15, 1928, to Michael (Fred) and Anne (O'Brien) Arganbright in Guthrie Center. She was one of 11 children, though one sibling passed away in infancy. Raised on a farm east of Guthrie Center,

Catherine developed a strong work ethic and an enduring faith. She attended a country school during her early years and later graduated from Panora High School at the age of 16. Following her graduation, she taught at the country school for a couple of years before continuing her education at the University of Iowa, where she shared a room with her cousin.

During her second year at the university, she met Bob Wilhelm. The couple enjoyed attending Iowa Hawkeye games together. After a while, they parted ways, and she took a teaching job in Ripley. At the close of her first year of teaching, she returned to the University of Iowa to visit her cousin, where she and Bob rekindled their romance. They married on Nov. 22, 1951, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Guthrie Center.

After Bob's graduation from pharmacy school in 1952, he took a job in Mount Pleasant before

settling in his hometown of Dyersville in 1958. There, Bob worked as a pharmacist at the Corner Drug Store, eventually becoming its owner. Together, they raised 11 children, building a home filled with love, faith and family.

Catherine dedicated herself as a stay-at-home mother, creating a warm and welcoming environment for her children and their friends. She had an incredible ability to balance the demands of a large family with grace and patience. Her home was always filled with the aroma of fresh cookies or donuts after school and hearty, home-cooked meals in the evening. She cherished time with family and friends, always opening her heart and home to others. Catherine's deep faith was the cornerstone of her life, and she prayed the rosary regularly at home, always lifting up prayers for the welfare of her family and friends.

As her children grew older, Catherine enjoyed

working alongside Bob at the Corner Drug Store, contributing to their family business. She and Bob were deeply committed to their community, believing in the importance of giving back. They worked tirelessly to support their parish, hospital, schools and the restoration of the historical Dyer-Botsford House. Their faith was central to their lives; they spent countless hours in Adoration, leading the rosary, guiding tours of the Basilica, and serving as lecturers during Mass. They were also active and strong believers in the Right to Life campaign. Catherine also found joy in singing with the Resurrection Choir.

Bob and Catherine shared a remarkable 71 years of marriage before his passing in December 2022. Together, they formed lifelong friendships, raised an incredible family, and left a legacy of love, service and faith.

Catherine is survived by her children: Pat (Lee) Kruse of

Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Mary (Mark) Gaul of Worthington; Dan Wilhelm of Dyersville; Deb (Boyd) Campbell of Rudd; Linda (Wayne) Overman of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Tess (Brian) Jones of Greer, South Carolina; Joe (Angie) Wilhelm of Castle Rock, Colorado; Janet (Dave) Sisk of Brownsboro, Alabama; Mike (Kathy Henry) Wilhelm of Centennial, Colorado; Connie Wilhelm (Kurt Rosenthal) of Springville; and Sue (Matt) Kramer of Greer, South Carolina. She is also survived by her youngest brother, Mike (Mary) Arganbright of Linden; her sister-in-law, Diane Arganbright of Panora; brother-in-laws: Paul (Rita) Wilhelm, Dave Wilhelm, and Merle (Sharon) Wilhelm; 36 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren, many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bob, her parents, Fred

and Anne Arganbright, siblings: Donald, Tom, infant brother William, John, Vince, Jim and Richard Arganbright, Elizabeth Petersen and Mary Moylan of Panora, and one great-grandson, Dane Zeigler, in infancy.

Catherine was a loving wife, devoted mother and cherished friend. She loved to spend time outside in her gardens or on the front porch, savoring a cup of coffee and a cinnamon roll, if you were lucky, with whoever happened to be visiting. She spent many hours out there with Bob, taking in nature's wonders. She also loved to rock her grandbabies, softly singing Bye-o-bye. Her unwavering faith, selfless spirit and boundless love touched everyone who knew her. She never lost her keen wit, even up to the end.

Visitation was Jan. 24, 2025, at Kramer Funeral Home in Dyersville. Funeral services were Jan. 25, 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Basilica Catholic Church in Dyersville with burial in the church cemetery. ■

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# OBITUARIES

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

## RANDAL DEAN ROGERS 1959-2025

Randal Dean Rogers, 65, son of Everett and Dorothy (Searl) Rogers, was born July 12, 1959, at the Guthrie County Hospital in Guthrie Center. He passed away Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at his home.

Randal graduated from Yale-Jamaica-Bagley High School in 1977. During high school, he worked at the foundry in Perry. He then became the town police officer in Bayard his last two years of high school. In May of 1977, the city of Coon Rapids hired him as their town police officer. In June of 1977, he and two other officers were in a vehicle accident after responding to a call.

Randal was in the back seat of the patrol car when they were hit by a drunk driver. The two officers in the front were killed. Randal spent the next year and a half recovering at the hospital in Omaha. After his recovery, he returned home and started working as a janitor for Greene County Hospital. It was during this time he put himself through the Law Enforcement Academy. Unfortunately, because of his injuries, he wasn't able to work full-time as a police officer. He was the first reserve deputy for Guthrie County. After retirement from Greene County Hospital, he worked as a security guard for Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson. He then worked security for Lake Panorama. He retired for good when he was 60.

During his teenage years, he started Civil War reenacting, then he later

participated with WWI and WWII reenacting. He received the rank of sergeant with the Civil War reenacting. He participated in many reenactments through the years for all three war periods. He also taught at Living History Farms where he learned blacksmithing. He volunteered at Living History Farms for around 12-15 years.

Randal is survived by a daughter, Stephanie, and son, Randal Rogers II, along with his brother, Robert Rogers of Bayard, and nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Raymond.

Cremation has taken place, and graveside services will be held at a later date in the Brethren Cemetery, Panora.

Twigg Funeral Home, Panora, is entrusted with his services. ■

## JEANINE RAE (STANLEY) CHALOUPKA 1957-2025

Jeanine Rae (Stanley) Chaloupka, 67, of Yale, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, at Iowa Methodist Hospital in downtown Des Moines. A service is being planned by the family for a later date.

Jeanine was born Oct. 23, 1957, in Herndon, the daughter of Arthur and Eleanor (Moore) Stanley. She was their only daughter and has two brothers, Dean

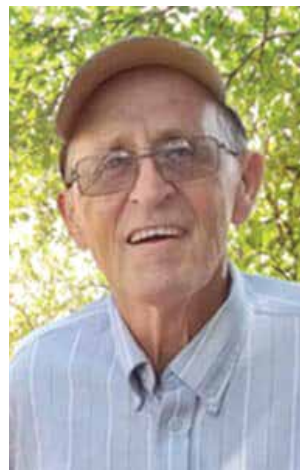
and Mark.

Jeanine married her husband, Randy, in 1980 and they had a son, Samuel, in 1984. Jeanine was a hard worker and had many jobs while growing up, such as walking soybeans and detasseling seed corn, as well as helping at home. She was also active in high school activities such as NHS and lettered as a cheerleader.

Following high school, Jeanine entered DMACC in Ankeny to study bookkeeping and accounting. Following her graduation, she was employed at WIESE Corporation in Perry. After

several years of employment there, she took a short break to start a family and help her husband with crop farming and raising cattle. When her son was a toddler, she went back to work at Farmers State Bank of Yale and a law firm in Guthrie Center. Health problems forced her into retirement in later years.

Jeanine was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Eleanor. She is survived by her husband, Randy; her son, Samuel, and his wife, Jennifer; four grandchildren; and her brothers, Dean of Panora and Mark in Washington state. ■



## ROBERT DEAN DERRY 1945-2025

Robert Dean Derry, age 79, of Menlo, passed away peacefully early Thursday morning on Jan. 16, 2025, at the Des Moines VA Hospital after a short battle with cancer.

Bob, son of Everett and Elma June (Lewis) Derry, was born on Feb. 28, 1945, in Jefferson. He attended school in Bayard and graduated in the class of 1963.

On June 19, 1964, Bob was united in marriage to Cheryl Binkley. Three children were

born to this union: Sheri, Greg and Jeff. Through the years, they lived in the Bayard, Bagley and Monteith areas.

Bob was enlisted in the Iowa National Guard from 1964 to 1970.

He was employed with Oscar Mayer for more than 25 years until they closed in 1988. Afterwards, he attended Southwest Iowa Community College and completed the Ag Industrial Mechanic program in May of 1991. After college, he worked several different jobs around the local area and continued farming and raising livestock.

On July 23, 2009, Bob was united in marriage to Martha Zollars. They lived south of Monteith until his death.

Bob was a true outdoorsman. He would take daily drives around the countryside and would often stop to go for walks to watch wildlife, identify trees, pick up nuts, hunt mushrooms or sit by the creek. Bob loved caring for the animals on his farm, many of which were more like pets. Through the years, he enjoyed horseback riding, hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles and attending auctions — all

of which were passions he shared with his family. Most of all, though, Bob cherished his time spent visiting with family and friends.

Proceeding him in death are his parents: Everett and June Derry; sister: Patricia Derry; and his step-son: Michael Vanhoff.

Bob is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife, Martha, and three children: Sheri (Randy) McCann, Greg Derry and Jeff (Natalie) Derry; six grandchildren: Zach (Amy) Derry, Levi (Shay) Derry, Kylie (Dathan) Smerchek, Emily McCann (Tyson Creswell), Trey Derry and Trever Derry; nine great-grandchildren: Aries, Alala, Lane, Colt, Nylah, Kane, Kora, Alivia and Emerson; six brothers: Ron (Joan), Lanny (Lois), Mike (Sherrie), Steve (Suzann), Rod (Brenda) and Andy (Tracy); two brothers-in-law and three sisters-in-law; and step-son, Leroy, along with many nieces, nephews and other relatives who dearly loved him.

A Celebration of Life and Heavenly 80th Birthday will be held Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, from 4-8 p.m. at the Guthrie Activity Center, 209 State St., Guthrie Center. ■



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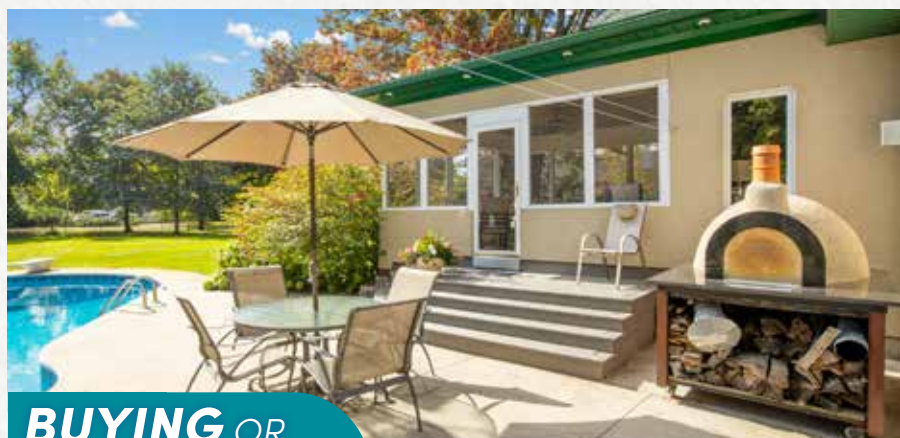
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# OBITUARIES

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



**WILLIAM R. JORDAN, SR.**  
1933-2025

William Richard Jordan, Sr., 91, son of Samuel and Frances (Lacy) Jordan, was born July 15, 1933, in Ross. He passed away on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at his home.

Bill enlisted in the United States Navy, serving from 1951 to 1954 during the Korean War. After his

honorable discharge, Bill worked several jobs including boiler technician, tractor sales, garage maintenance, and was a truck driver for many years, working for Crouse Cartage for more than 20 years and even obtained his GED in 1982. On June 25, 1966, he was united in marriage to Linda Sue Lynam in Omaha, Nebraska. They made their home in Audubon, Carroll, Kansas City, Chicago, North Carolina, Kansas and, for the last 10 years, in Panama.

He was a member of the Guthrie Center United Methodist Church, Life member of the American Legion, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for more than 55 years.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Jordan of Panama; daughters, Debi May (Steve) Barrington of Florida and Donna Trask of Tennessee; sons, William "Bill" Jordan, Jr. of California; Randolph

Jordan of Arizona; and Scott Jordan of Panama; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; sister, Lee (Verdon) Sorensen of Shenandoah; and brother, Franklin (Pat) Jordan of California; along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Andrew Barrington; sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Jim Young; two nephews, Mike and Jeff; father-in-law, Dale Lynam; mother-in-law, Betty Lynam; brother-in-law, Carl Kepple; and sister-in-law, Pam Lynam.

Cremation has taken place, and memorial services were Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at the Guthrie Center United Methodist Church. Visitation was one hour prior to the services at the church. Burial will be in the Brethren Cemetery, Panama, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the discretion of the family. ■



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## 50 YEARS AGO



From Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 5, 1975

**CONFERENCE LEADERS:** Members of Panora-Linden's Hawks who have been leading the Little Eight Conference most of the season are front, from left, Dave Davis, Dave McBride, Kevin Wood, Randy Griggs, Bill Corrick and Bill Barks. Back, from left, Tim Watts, Steve Richey, Mark Vogel, Greg Van Pelt, Mark Wernli, Tim Lamb and Mark Lundberg.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Feb. 9, 2005

**LEADERS OF CATTLEMAN'S GROUP:** Members of the board of directors of the Guthrie County Cattleman's Association gathered for a brief meeting following the group's annual banquet at Lake Panorama National Resort. Seated, left to right, Robert Klever, Guthrie Center; Jim Calvert, Guthrie Center; Greg Rochholz, Casey; Rose Kastner, Yale; Eric VanMeter, Guthrie Center. Back, left to right, Denny Scheuermann, Jamaica; Dean Whitehead, Panora; John Johnson, Stuart; Terry Laughery, Guthrie Center; Darwin Grow, Bagley; Tom Meinecke, Panora; and Danny Laughery, Bagley.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Feb. 21, 1985

**P-L FFA LEADERS:** Seated, left to right, Jeff Meacham, sentinel; Matt Knapp, vice president; Boyd Burnham, reporter. Standing, left to right, Andy Coulter, secretary; Mike Donahey, president; Steve Bell, treasurer.

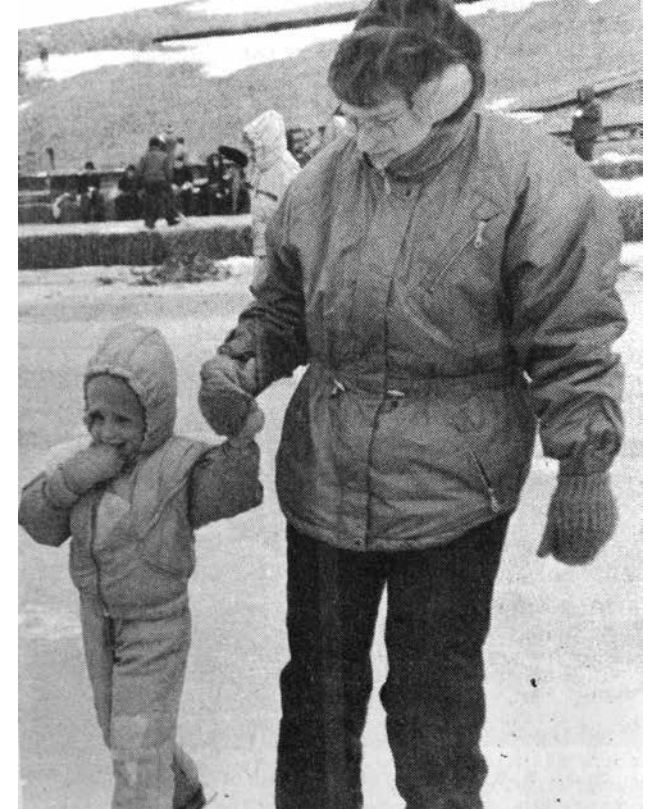
## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Feb. 19, 2015

**TWO POINTS... AND A FOUL:** Panoram's Hannah Appleseth drives in for two points while being fouled by Kirsten Raymond of Madrid in the second quarter of Tuesday's second round regional game. Appleseth had 12 points, eight rebounds, and six assists as the Panthers won, 74-25.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Feb. 1, 1995

**THIS ISN'T EASY:** Joan Fredrickson of Yale and her daughter, Emily, 5, take some time to learn how to ice skate on Lake Panorama Saturday.

## 5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Feb. 27, 2020

**COLBY GOES FOR TAKEDOWN:** Panoram's Emry Colby goes for a takedown in one of his matches last week at the state wrestling tournament in Des Moines. Colby place fourth in Class 2A at 146 pounds. ■

## RECIPE

# MEATBALL TORTELLINI SOUP

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

*Panora Times*

Quick, easy and super-yummy. Those words describe this month's recipe. If your schedule is like mine this time of year, it is packed with events. As such, meal preparation cannot take an entire night. You will love this recipe for its ease, as it comes together in about 30 minutes. Here are a few bits of advice. First, use frozen, cooked, mini meatballs. Second, I made it without the heavy cream and enjoyed the broth, saved on the calories and eliminated the dairy. Next, have an extra 32-ounce box of beef broth on hand, as the noodles really soak up the broth. I used the entire extra 32-ounce box in the soup by the time we consumed a double batch. Lastly, do make a double batch, as it truly tastes better the next day. Extra soup means leftovers, and you'll appreciate this quick-and-easy, ready-made meal. Try it tonight and let me know what you think. Do you have other recipes to share? Send them my way. Happy cooking! ■

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



Jolene Goodman

## MEATBALL TORTELLINI SOUP

Servings: 6-8

### Ingredients

- 32 oz. beef broth
- 1 can (14 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 16 ounces frozen meatballs
- 19 ounces tortellini
- 6 ounces frozen spinach
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese, plus additional for serving, divided
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- bread, for serving

### Directions

In Dutch oven, pour in beef broth and diced tomatoes. Fill empty diced tomatoes can with water and add to pot. Stir in meatballs, tortellini and spinach. Cook over medium heat then add onion



powder, garlic powder, Italian seasoning and 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Cook 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add heavy cream and cook 5 minutes. Serve with bread and additional Parmesan cheese. ■

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A number of people had the correct answer from last month of the horse statue at the home of Gary Louk at 217 North Main St. in Yale, but the first person was Beverly Louk. 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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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  
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 Service: 10 a.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  
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### Panora United Methodist Church

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### Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

220 N. First St., Panora  
www.st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com  
641-747-3843

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Wednesday and Thursday 7:45 a.m.  
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### Saint Thomas Lutheran Church

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