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12PM - Bags Tournament Registration 1PM - Tournament Starts (515 Cornhole) 5:30PM - Gates Open for Concert 7PM - Aiden Flathers 9:30PM - Jason Pritchett





UPDATES & INFO

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FROM THE COVER: Since her retirement, Mary Ocker has been creating art in her workshop. Photo by Rich Wicks | Panora Times



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A STUDENT OF ART

While in college, I took a few art classes along with my journalism and business courses. I felt like a bull in a china shop most of the time, but my art professors, Dennis Dykema and Mac Hornecker, worked with me patiently, as they were convinced there was an artist in me somewhere.

My charcoal drawings were awful. My water colors were bland. My model line drawings were average. My air brushing was messy. My canvas abstract paintings showed promise, but not much.

How did I know all this? Because my professors told me.

Then we began a sculpture segment where we crafted head and shoulder busts of fellow classmates. "Goodman, we finally found something you are really good at," Professor Dykema told me. I think it was a compliment.

I was not an art major, and I did not complete an art minor, either. I took art courses separate from my focus, as I felt they would help me with a career in the media. And they did.

There are the obvious art connections with publication and advertising design, as well as the use of type and photography to help tell stories. But the greater benefit, at least for me, was in under-



Shane Goodman

standing the value of time to improve whatever it is a person is working on and that, regardless of where he or she is at with talent, is something everyone can improve on. Professors Dykema and Hornecker made it clear to their students that they would need to commit more hours to their art than they likely would to their other studies. Studio work was a serious commitment, but it was time I learned to truly enjoy and look forward to.

So am I a student of art? Maybe not in the truest sense, but I do know how those classes and those professors helped shape how I define work ethic, how I value criticism, and how I recognize that few things in life can be great without an investment of time and an ongoing desire to learn.

With that in mind, I am proud to be an artist. If you look deep inside yourself, you will find the same. In this month's cover story, we share stories about some local artists and the impact their studies and their works have had on their friends, family, communities and themselves.

Thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman Editor and Publisher

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COVER STORY

INSPIRING ART Local artists share their creative passions.

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

"I don't know much about art, but I know what I like." - Author unknown

What is art? That is a tough question, because artists have found many varied ways to express themselves. Art comes in many forms. For example, it can be visual (paintings, drawings, photography, etc.), tactile (pottery, sculptures, etc.), auditory (music), or appeal to taste and/or scent (cooking, floral, etc.) and so on.

Defining art is challenging because it is often so personal. One answer could be that art is whatever allows a person to share an inner gift, thought or emotion.

Here are a few stories of local artists and the art they create.

GINA LLOYD'S APPROACH TO ART IS BROAD

Art is an important part of Gina Lloyd's life. As a child, Lloyd was inspired by the art she saw at the Des Moines Art Center. Later, she studied art history while attending Drake University. She now has a master's degree in art education.

"I've done art pretty much all my life. That's what my degree is in. I had the shop there in Panora for about five years. I met a lot of great people through that shop," Lloyd said. "Then my husband got sick, so we moved everything out here. The studio has been here about four years."

Lloyd now operates The Art Exchange at her studio, across the road from her home near a serene bend in the Middle Raccoon River in rural Linden.

This setup not only provides Lloyd with a large space for creating her own art but allows her space to welcome other artists of all ages.

"I've taught acrylic painting. We've had classes for kids. We've done barn quilts, peace poles, mosaics. We've done china painting," Lloyd said. "About the only thing we don't do out here is pottery, because it takes up so much room."

Lloyd's approach to art is broad. Her studio includes examples of her mosaic creations, stained glass, porcelain art and paintings. She also has an array of supplies for various types of art.

"Just about anything you do has an art element to it. I once did a class on Mandala painting. That's where we paint rocks



Gina Lloyd's large painting is nearly completed.

with patterns. The kids really enjoyed that," Lloyd said. "I do independent teaching. There was someone I taught some calligraphy to."

Lloyd said she sometimes makes use of the beautiful outdoor scenery near her studio.

"Plein-air painting is where we go out on location somewhere and do painting outside," she said.

The studio has hundreds of pieces of art created by Lloyd and various artists who have been there. The large garage-style door and windows are adorned with positive images and wording. As Lloyd showed it, she explained how it came about unexpectedly.

"We had a group of 11- and 12-year-olds, and they came up with the idea and did this," Lloyd said.

Lloyd has regular attendees at her studio, as well as occasional or one-time visitors. "Next week, I have a group coming from



Mosaics created by Gina Lloyd.



Valorie McCool, Saundra Devick and Gina Lloyd work on their art.

Des Moines, and there's usually 10 or 12 of them," Lloyd said.

Lloyd shared that she and her friends sometimes work together and occasionally show their art together.

"We've had some showings in Des Moines and different places," Lloyd said. "We do some commission work, and we have some things for sale at Art on State in Guthrie Center."

Lloyd welcomes anyone interested to contact her, regardless of experience. The Art Exchange has a Facebook page, or interested artists can call her directly at 641-757-2116.

"There's plenty of open studio time, and as long as they're bringing their own materials, there's minimal cost," Lloyd said. "And if I'm teaching a class, then it depends on the medium and how many hours we're putting into it."

Lloyd considers herself just as much a student as a teacher.

"We all learn from each other. It doesn't matter how long you've been doing it," she said. "There's always something new trending."

MARY OCKER TRANSITIONS FROM DOLL CLOTHES TO ART RESIN

In retirement, Mary Ocker of rural Bagley has found an enjoyable way to spend some of her free time.

"I've been doing crafts all my life, basically, and about 14 years ago I was making doll clothes, but kids just don't play with



Mary Ocker's porch is her workshop.

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Mary Ocker's creations of whimsical art.

dolls much anymore."

After retirement, Ocker was wondering what hobby she could begin. One day, as she scrolled through Facebook, she saw a video of someone painting in an intricate way.

"I watched her, and I was intrigued, but I was always told I couldn't even draw stick people, so I wasn't sure about this," Ocker said. "But, I got to talking to her through Facebook, and I started being a part of the group."

"So, I just started painting probably two and a half years ago," Ocker said. "The acrylic paints have worked well for me."

Eventually, Ocker learned another type of art from her new friend.

"Her favorite is called art resin. She'll draw a picture and then do the resin on it with glass or beads or whatever," Ocker said.

Art resin involves carefully mixing two liquids and then allowing it to cure and harden. When first attempting art resin, Ocker wasn't confident.

"My little spot here isn't heated or air conditioned, and, for the resin, it's selfleveling and self-curing, but it needs a 75- to 85-degree steady temperature for 48 hours," Ocker said. "So, I wondered how I was going to do that."

Ocker went ahead and did her best.

"After I got the first one done, I realized,

I'm hooked on this," Ocker said.

Since then, Ocker's creations have generally been acrylic paintings or art resins items, or some pieces are a combination of the two. She spends an average of four to five hours daily on her art, depending on what else may be scheduled. She and her husband enjoy boating during the sum-



Mary Ocker makes cut glass into beautiful art.

mer months, so she has less time for art on beautiful days.

"Rainy days are great for painting, because there's not much else to do," Ocker said. "And once I've started a project, I want to get it finished."

In describing her style, Ocker said she's simply gone with what she likes.

"It is not detailed fine art. It is very whimsical art," Ocker said. "I do a lot of variety."

The resin in some of Ocker's art hardens into a very smooth, hard finish. Recently, she has been experimenting with adding additional materials to the resin for a different look or texture. And, sometimes, she gets a different look unintentionally. Ocker shared that, if the weather has been dry, it's nearly impossible to keep dust out of the



Jake Kashuk relaxes next to a unique portrait.

resin as it dries.

"I like being creative. I like using a bunch of different media," Ocker said. "Someone gave me a whole bunch of shells, so I try to find ways to use those."

Ocker recalled that one of her first obstacles in becoming an artist was getting over the concern of, "Am I doing it right?"

"That was really hard for me at first," Ocker said.

Nowadays, Ocker lets her imagination lead her choices of color and design.

Some of Ocker's art is on display for sale at Art on State in Guthrie Center.

"During the year, I don't do a lot of craft shows, but usually three or four in the fall, as it gets closer to Christmas," Ocker said. "I take a variety of stuff."

For anyone interested in exploring their artistic side, Ocker suggests Art on State as a good starting point to learn about any type of art.

Ocker has found her art to be a welcome change from her previous hobby.

"It's so different from when I made doll clothes, because the doll clothes had to be

size-specific, and, with fabric, you need to match stripes and stuff," Ocker said. "I like the whimsical side. With this, I just don't worry about it too much."

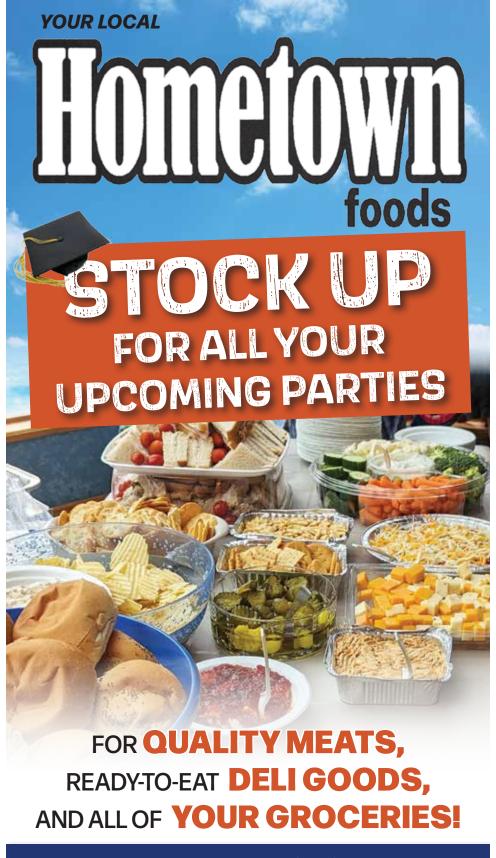
JAKE KASHUK TRANSFORMS LINDEN SCHOOL INTO HIS ART STUDIO AND HOME

Artist Jake Kashuk of Linden has a big chore ahead of him. He and his wife, Allie, live in the former school building, so there is an almost limitless amount of wall space for displaying art.

"We've had the building for four years, but the first year was just getting all the stuff out, ripping out walls," Kashuk said. "We moved into here about three years ago.

"I've always drawn and been into art. My dad was a graphic designer and an impressive sculptor," Kashuk said.

"I started seeing graffiti, and I was always drawn to that," Kashuk said. "So, now I'm doing a lot of art that is stencil-based. I think I made my first stencil when I was 10. I've been making stencils since then and



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trying to perfect that art form for the past 30 years."

Kashuk says he tries to make his works not look street art.

"I want it to look really crisp like screen printing," he said.

Prior to focusing on his art, Kashuk worked as a graphic designer but found he wanted more freedom of creative expres-

"It's been nice to get back into making things that I want to make," he said.

Regarding the large amount of wall space to be covered in his home, Kashuk said he is up to the challenge.

"I'm blessed with all this wall space now. Usually, I've had to really think about what I was planning to make and make sure I had room for it," Kashuk said. "Here, I've got endless huge walls, so I've been making huge pieces lately, and it's been awesome."

In fact, there is so much space in his home that Kashuk has additional ideas for making use of the space.

"I've got massive plans. This place has been a huge inspiration since I got it," Kashuk said. "I definitely want to have local art shows here. I would open that up to the public. Anytime I can promote local artists, I want to do that, whether it's visual, audio,



Jake Kashuk shows a self-portrait.

clothing makers, whatever."

Besides creating original artwork, Kashuk also does reproductions of others'

"I do a lot of reproductions," Kashuk



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Cut paper art and photography at Jake Kashuk's home at the old school in Linden.

said. "I guess that's my main interest right now — reproducing art that I want to be able to see but I don't have \$70,000 or \$2 million to buy. That's been my main focus."

Kashuk strives to keep his art affordable so those who like it can buy it.

"I sell stuff mostly through knowing people or posting stuff on my Instagram. If people like it, great. If not, I'll just keep it until the right person comes along to buy it."

Much of Kashuk's income comes from his work as an interior painter for homes in the area. He says he is glad to have the opportunity to pursue his interests here and has found the Linden area to be welcoming after previously living in the Des Moines metro area.

"It's wild that I finally get to do something like this. Everything just keeps getting better the more I learn about the community."

Meanwhile, Kashuk continues to let his creativity flow in whatever ways happen to spring forth.

"I have to be always making art or, in some way, being creative. Even working on this place is a creative outlet for me," Kashuk said. "But I have to do it."

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

MURRAY. MINECRAFT. JESUS. EEPHUS. AND A LITERAL BLOODBATH.



"The Chosen: Last Supper Part 1"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

Panora Times

April showers bring lots of new movies. Some are good; others, not so much. Here is the breakdown.

"THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER PART 1"

This faith-based series has been tearing up the box-office reports since it started, and, in spite of the "Part 1," I finally decided to step into the fray to see what this is all about. The first thing I noticed was the level of filmmaking. It was really well done and extremely elaborate. The cast was huge, and, for the most part, everyone

did a good job. It was a long film and, at times, felt like a long film, but it was still well done, and the audience seemed enthused. **Grade: B+**



"THE FRIEND"

Bill Murray makes fleeting appearances in



"The Friend"

this movie that is really a Naomi Watts movie. Murray's character is barely in the movie, but his presence is what drives it. He leaves a Great Dane to a friend (Watts), and we watch her navigate with that animal through the film. This is one of the best movies Murray has given us in 20 years. The interesting side note is that the dog in the

film actually lives in the Des Moines area, and Murray himself was in town a few weeks ago at a screening of the film. **Grade: A**-



"A MINECRAFT MOVIE"

While I have heard of this video game, I had no idea as to what the film was about. That was true going into the film but also true as I was leaving. I can best describe it

as a confusing mess. Jack Black stars in it, as does Jason Momoa. They go into a portal, where there are some of the weirdest things I've ever seen. This is clearly





"A Minecraft Movie"

not a movie made for a 67-year-old man. I sat confused for more than an hour and then politely excused myself from the theater. **Grade: D**

"EEPHUS"

Those of you who are not baseball fans should know that Eephus is a pitch that is thrown from the mound, but, instead of throwing at the plate, it is thrown high in the sky and it comes down over the plate, fooling everyone. We played with this pitch in Little League for years, as the kids (and parents) find it to be great fun. I went in to this movie cold, expecting maybe a documentary about the history of this unique pitch. What I got was a (too long) movie about

a group of old men playing their last game together before their field is torn up and replaced by a major construction plan. **Grade:** C



"THE AMATEUR"

Rami Malek plays a government intelli-



Eephus"



"The Amateur"

gence office analyst. When his wife goes overseas on a business trip and finds herself in the middle of a terrorist attack, she is killed. Malek's character takes things into his own hands and goes overseas to track down and

punish the people responsible. While not a great film, Malick is such an engaging actor that you find yourself drawn in and cheering for his revenge. **Grade: B+**









"Adolescence"

"ADOLESCENCE"

This popular Netflix series is both heartbreaking and devastatingly sad. A young woman has been killed, and a classmate is suspected as the murderer.

This is a powerful film that will tear your heart out and stomp on it. You will remember this series as one of the saddest you have ever seen. Grade: B+



"WARFARE"

Based on true events, we see a platoon of Navy Seals on a dangerous rescue mission in Iraq. It is about as intense and harrowing of a movie as a person can



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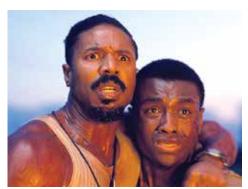
take. The fact that it is a true story makes it even that more powerful, and ultimately, that much sadder. Grade: A-

"SINNERS"

Writer/director Ryan Coogler has successfully worked with Michael B Jordan in several excellent movies including "Fruitvale Station," "Creed" and the "Black Panther" films. Those movies alone brought me to "Sinners" with high hopes. Those hopes were dashed. Jordan plays both twins who return to their small southern commu-

nity to open a honkytonk bar. They are flush with cash and will do what they need to do to make their dream a reality.





"Sinners"

Admittedly, it is a great set-up. Unfortunately, at that point the movie turns into a horror film — a very intense and bloody horror film. Also at that point, I mentally checked out of the movie but stayed to watch it spin out of control and into a literal bloodbath. This is not what I was expecting and not what I wanted to see. Grade: D

"THE KING OF KINGS"

In an effort to cleanse myself from the "Sinners" experience, I saw "King of Kings," an animated film

about the life and times of Jesus Christ based on a Mark Twain story. With major talent behind the microphone and unique



"The King of Kings" animation, this is just what I wanted to see during the Easter season. What a great way to introduce kids to "the

greatest story ever told." Grade B+

I'll be back next month with more reviews including "Accountant 2," "The Thunderbolts," "Lilo and Stitch," "The Last Rodeo" and a little film titled "Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning." ■

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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COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS TO SEND LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

APRIL 22 - NOXIOUS WEEDS, BRIDGES AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on April 22. The supervisors opted to go into a closed session regarding the Polanco v. Guthrie County Settlement Agreement.

After returning to an open meeting, County Engineer Josh Sebern spoke regarding the county's proposed Noxious Weed Control Policy. The supervisors voted to approve the Noxious Weed Control Policy and Resolution 25-25 (Noxious Weed Control Resolution).

Sebern next discussed the county's five-year construction plan, including four bridges that may be upgraded in the next year. He also explained the various funding options available, including federal funds and grants.

"We are looking at three federal bridg-

es for Fiscal Year 2026. Those are Bear Grove 199. We are anticipating an April 2026 letting date. Jackson 7, that is the structure south of Dale City. We're anticipating a letting date of September of this year. And Orange 389, west of the dinosaur bridge. It's a timber structure; we're looking at replacement with box culvert using federal dollars. That's anticipating a March 2026 letting date," Sebern said. "So there's a good chance we could have three federal-aid structures going next year."

"We are also looking at a locally funded bridge at the north end of Bay's Branch," Sebern said. "It does not meet federal requirements for traffic volume."

Sebern also described other road/bridge projects tentatively planned within the next five years.

The supervisors discussed the possibility of offering three tiers of coverage for county employee health insurance (employee only, employee plus 1, and family). Supervisors Mike Dickson and

Maggie Armstrong suggested not making that change now, since it would likely increase costs that are already budgeted. The supervisors voted to not implement the change, and to survey county employees about their expected usage.

APRIL 29 - BRIDGE AND ROAD PROJECTS, EMERGENCY DRILLS

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved liquor licenses for Twin Vines and Winetime LLC.

County Engineer Josh Sebern summarized proposed funding agreements for three federal-aid bridge projects in the county. The supervisors approved each of the three.

Sebern and the supervisors also discussed the Roads Department's five-year plan for road projects. Discussion centered around funding and the prioritizing of roads most in need of repair. No formal action was taken.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong told of an upcoming planned visit from the

Iowa State Association of Counties.

"It looks like they're looking for a point person, a potential timeframe and location," Armstrong said. "It looks like they'll take like half a day, and talk with department heads, employees, officials, to talk about some of what ISAC has going on and to hear what our priorities are."

Armstrong will be the point person and will inform the supervisors as plans are made.

Steve Smith told of plans for upcoming emergency drills for county employees. The preliminary plan is to most likely close the courthouses offices for roughly a half-day for the drills. This issue will be on the agenda for the supervisors' next meeting, May 6, to determine scheduling.

MAY 6 - MORE BRIDGE WORK, LETTER OF SUPPORT

As part of the May 6 consent agenda, the supervisors approved payroll

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As he had the prior week, County Engineer Josh Sebern addressed the supervisors regarding the Five-Year Construction Plan.

"We talked about three of them last week; this is the fourth, for the active projects that will be going on," Sebern said.

Sebern told of a bridge to be replaced near the intersection of Monteith Road and Tank Avenue.

"It's a bridge currently; we're going to replace it with a box culvert," Sebern said. "Estimating \$400,000."

The supervisors approved the funding agreement with Iowa DOT for the project.

Discussion was held regarding a request for the county to send a letter of support for some programs provided through New Opportunities.

"I did have a conversation with Chad, the New Opportunities executive director," Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said. "Funding has not yet been pulled, but perhaps there's writing on the wall. These programs are the partially federally funded programs." Armstrong explained that New Opportunities is requesting each applicable county to send a letter of support in hopes of averting cuts to programs, including LIHEAP, Head Start and Weatherization Assistance.

"We're talking about our low-income heating program, Head Start, some really fundamental programs that we have a ton of utilization in Guthrie County," Armstrong said.

Supervisor Brian Johnson voiced his position on the matter.

"I'm going to vote against this, and I want to make it very clear it's not that I don't support these programs, but we're reminded every day that this is what people voted for, and it seems a bit gratuitous to try to play both ends against each other, but I fully support these programs," Johnson said.

The supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of the letter of support.

Armstrong recommended the supervisors spend time at the next meeting prioritizing items for the 2025 Strategy & Project Plan.

"We can take some time to group things, what are some low-hanging fruit, what are some things that are going to take more time and effort," Armstrong said.

MAY 13 - HEALTH FAIRS FOR SCHOOLS, OVERTIME OBJECTION

During the May 13 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Jotham Arber, Health Services Director, provided a departmental update including a plan to hold school health fairs to help offer vaccinations.

"We're going to try doing something really cool this year. We're going to offer school health fairs at each of our schools. I'm trying to get all of the details," Arber said. "We'd like to take someone to be able to do vaccinations, physicals, dental and offer it as a health fair right before school. Whether that's on the school premises or just in the town, we'll figure that out with the school."

More details on the school health fairs will be shared as plans are made.

Christy Jenkins and Chad Jensen, representing New Opportunities, addressed the supervisors to request funds through the Guthrie County Opioid Settlement Funds. He explained the reasoning behind their request of \$25,000 to help get the mentoring system back up to speed after the pandemic. The supervisors chose to table the issue so that more information on appropriate usage of the funds can be reviewed.

Supervisor Mike Dickson asked that the May 8 payroll be considered separately from other items in the consent agenda.

"I just don't agree with some that are still using time off and getting overtime," he said.

"Is that an existing policy that you don't agree with or is someone violating the policy?' Maggie Armstrong asked.

"It's an existing policy I don't agree with," Dickson said.

The supervisors approved the payroll by a 4-1 vote, with Dickson opposed.

The supervisors discussed prioritizing items as part of the 2025 Strategy and Project Planning. Some items were listed as "low-hanging fruit," and others were designated as items that would take more time and effort.

A public hearing was set regarding the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment. The hearing will be 9:30 a.m. on May 27.

As listed on the meeting agenda, and at the request of legal counsel Jeff Stone, the supervisors went into a closed session regarding "Litigation Related to Shive Hattery."

The supervisors meet regularly Tuesdays 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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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

PANORA CITY COUNCIL **CHANGES BRUSH FACILITY POLICY**

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

APRIL 28 - BRUSH FACILITY. HEATING AT LIBRARY, COMMUNITY FIRE PIT

During the April 28 meeting of the Panora City Council, discussion was held about the city's "brush facility," where citizens may bring branches and similar brush. City Administrator Lisa Grossman explained the need to consider a change in policy.

"The brush facility has been an ongoing issue for us. Within the last year or two, we put in the \$20 deposit fee, and that worked for a little bit," Grossman said.

But the problem, according to Grossman, is that many times the key has not been returned.

"We're constantly tracking down keys and hounding one person or another," she said. "We're just looking to try another op-

Grossman explained the proposal to have the city's water treatment operator, whose workstation is next to the brush facility, open the brush facility every morning and then lock it every afternoon. The proposed hours would be 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week.

"It would include upgraded cameras...so we can see license plates and we can see what's in the load, and we'd like to put in some updated signage," Grossman said.

Grossman added the suggestion to increase the penalty for a municipal infraction to \$750. After discussion, the council unanimously approved the proposed changes.

The council approved purchasing and installing a new basketball court at Michael Mills Park at a total cost of \$27,000 to \$29,000. A grant will cover about \$20,000 of that.

Chris Hastings, Panora Library Board president, addressed the council about the need to replace the geothermal heating at the library. He said the unexpected breakdown of the equipment was not budgeted for but needs to be addressed. He said the cost is expected to be \$50,000 or more. The existing equipment is 17 years old, so Hastings said it is not a premature breakdown. No formal action was taken, but the council and city staff will look into the matter.

Tim Rietz, owner of Off Course Golf Carts, asked the council to consider allowing test driving of golf carts on Market Street, as part of his business. The matter will be added to the agenda of the next council meeting for possible action.

Eagle Scout member Corbin Deardorff addressed the council with a request to allow the Eagle Scout troop to install a community fire pit/flag retirement facility on the city's property across from Lenin Mill Park. The fire pit would be used by the scouts to appropriately dispose of flags. The fire pit would also be available for public use at any other times. The council approved the request.

Grossman summarized a request from Chris Stipe, Guthrie County Hospital CEO, asking Panora and Guthrie Center to consider financially supporting the meal deliv-

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Eagle Scout Corbin Deardorff addresses the Panora City Council on April 28.

ery programs in each of those communities. No action was taken at this time.

MAY 12 - BASKETBALL COURT, GOLF CARTS, DOWNTOWN FORUM

City Administrator Lisa Grossman updated the councilmembers on plans to install a new basketball court at Michael Mills Park. She said the court will be added in July after baseball and softball seasons are done playing at the park.

The council considered a request from Tim Rietz, owner of Off Course Golf Carts. At the previous council meeting, he requested the city to allow the test driving and programming of golf carts on the dead end stretch of Market Street, east of the Off Course store. The request was approved.

During the Public Forum portion of the meeting, Grossman explained a request from JoAnn Smith, who was not present. According to Grossman, Smith asked to be allowed to plant trees between the sidewalk and street on the east side of her property.

"Those ditches are used for drainage," Grossman said.

a concern about visibility at intersections when such trees become larger. No formal

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A public hearing was held regarding a proposed budget amendment. No citizens voiced any opinion during the public hearing, and no councilmembers or city staff had received any prior comments, so the hearing was closed. The budget amendment was passed.

A public hearing was held regarding the possible vacation and conveyance of real estate to Eric and Jenna Morris. Other than Eric Morris, no citizens were on hand for the hearing, and no comments had been submitted. The hearing was closed, and the resolution was passed.

Grossman informed the council of a "Downtown Forum" to be held in Panora at the Panora Community Center on Wednesday, June 18, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Anybody can register. It's free. It's being put on by Iowa Economic Development," Grossman said.

Grossman said the topics will include, "Ten Must-Do Things to Revitalize Your Downtown."

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next regular meeting of the council will be Tuesday, May 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#). ■

6/14 Bags Tournament & Ben Puttmann





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V					
Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost	Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost
June 5 th 9am-12pm	Up, Down, Spin Around K-3rd	\$20	July 17th 9:30am-3:30pm	Clover Cookie Factory 4th-8th	\$25
June 12th 9am-2pm	Science of BBQ 4th-8th	\$25	July 22nd 9am-12pm	Growing in the Garden 4th-12th	\$25
June 19 th 9am-12pm	Fun with Bots K-3rd	\$20	July 24 th 9am-12pm	Art Explosion K-3rd	\$20
June 26 th 9am-2pm	Ag Everyday 4th-8th	\$20	July 29 th 1pm-4pm	Hour at the Fair K-3rd	\$20
July 10 th 9am-12pm	Kids in the Kitchen K-3rd	\$20	July 31st 9am-2pm	Ricochet 6th-8th	\$25

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HEALTH

GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL RECEIVES \$20,000 FOR MEALS PROGRAM

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

During the April 24 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital's Board of Trustees, a public hearing was held regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 County Budget. Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson shared budgetary data. Following the hearing, the trustees formally approved the budget.

Danielle Lauzon shared quality improvement data. She highlighted numbers from the recently completed third quarter of the fiscal year.

"We didn't have any falls in the third quarter, so that's exciting," Lauzon said.

Lauzon also reported on complaints received from patients. CEO Chris Stipe stressed that staff take appropriate action on all complaints, even if minor.

"All of these complaints get followed up on, by the manager, and, potentially, HR is involved," Stipe said.

Human Resources Director Mary Anderson reported on HR data.

"Our retention rate has gone up a little bit. It's at 82.6%; last month it was 81.9%. Our engagement survey is in full swing," Anderson said.

Anderson also told of upcoming events.

"Hospital Week will be May 12-16, so we're going to have some activities that week and have some fun," she said.

Stipe shared an update on the hospital obtaining property for the expansion project.

"I did sign the sale agreement on the purchase of the house next door to the hospital, next to the helipad," Stipe said. "It will be another 30 days or so before we have possession."

Stipe also announced that the Ten Squared Men's group voted to give more than \$20,000 to the hospital to help fund the Meals on Wheels program. He voiced appreciation for the good the funds will do in the community. He added that the meals are delivered in both Guthrie Center and Panora.

Foundation Chair Dennis Flanery reported that the recent Handbags and Bingo fundraiser event was well attended and successful.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for May 22. The public is welcome. ■

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EDUCATION

PANORAMA SCHOOL **BOARD APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT**

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

The Panorama School Board met on Monday, May 12. Included on the agenda was a public hearing regarding a proposed 2024-2025 budget amendment. No written or oral objections/comments were received, so the hearing was promptly closed. Later in the regular meeting, the amendment was unanimously approved by the board members present.

In the "Good News" portion of the meeting, Angie Clouser told of the recent donation of books the eighth-grade student council delivered to Youth and Shelter Service for summer enrichment and mentoring programs.

Mrs. Dorhout reported on a reading unit titled, "What can people of different generations learn from one another?" Dorhout's seventh-grade reading class

has been visiting Lakeside Village Assisted Living monthly. During the April visit, students interviewed tenants about their lives. She said this gives students practice in interviewing, listening and note-taking. The students have since been writing summaries of the interviews.

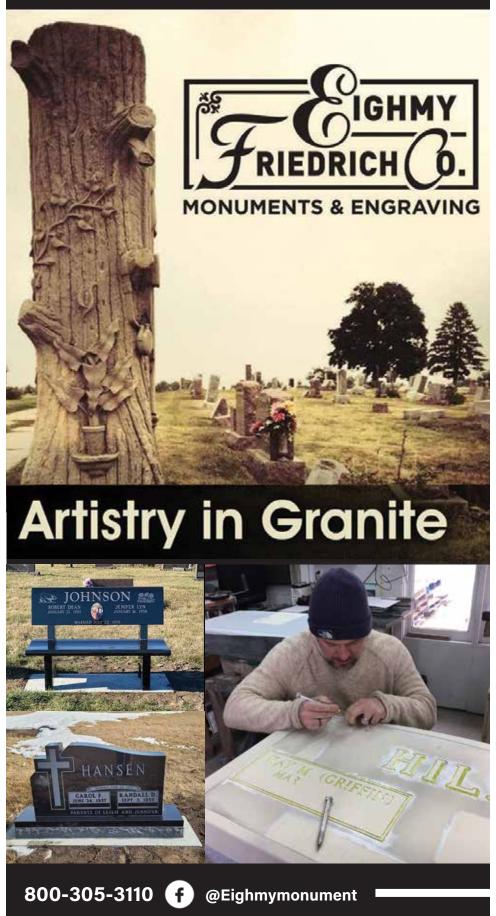
The recent National Honor Society blood drive resulted in 35 total donors including 11 being first time, and 39 units of blood were collected.

The board approved an overnight trip for the high school volleyball players to attend the Ames Volleyball Camp, July 21-22. Ten students and three chaperones are expected to attend.

Superintendent Kasey Huebner noted upcoming dates, including the last day of school (May 23).

The next regular meeting of the board is set for Monday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome.





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THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS



Kylie Rochholz set a meet, stadium and Panorama school record in the 3,000-meter run in 10:46.75 at the Charger Relays, April 19.



Gabe Wagner clears the hurdle for Panorama at the Kip Janvrin Invitational on April 8.



Cristian Monrroy-Nunez during the shot put at the Panorama Invitational on May 8.



No. 17 Landon Kirtley celebrates while the Kuemper Catholic goalie retrieves the ball during Panorama's 2-1 win on April 1.



No. 14 AJ Draper attempts to cut past the West Central Valley defender on Friday, April 4.



No. 10 Morgan Crees puts in a crunching tackle against West Central Valley on Monday, April 4.



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No. 22 Jessica Randol skies for the header against West Central Valley on Monday, April 4.



Panorama's No. 6 Karli Kautzky battles for position against Van Meter on April 24.



Maddy Lutz won a silver medal in the 400-meter dash at the Gonzales-Parrish Invitational on May 1.



Panorama's goalkeeper Carter Dinkla has 138 saves this season.



Gracie Recker earned bronze in the shot put, throwing 33-07, at the Bill Miller Relays on April 21.



Syler Shaffer placed eighth in the 110-meter hurdles at the Bill Miller Relays on April 21.



BUSINESS FEATURE

INSIGHT WEALTH GROUP OPENS IN PANORA

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

The building at 134 W. Main St. in Panora has seen a lot of changes over the decades. Now, the building is home to Insight Wealth Group. A grand opening is set for Tuesday, June 3 from 4-7 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy refreshments, meet the Insight staff, and ask any questions. Attendees will also be able to see the renovations that have been made to the historic building.

Founded in 2012 in West Des Moines by partners Karlton Kleis, Andrew Kleis and Andrew Dorr, Insight Wealth Group & CPA is built on shared values rooted in small-town Iowa.

Andrew Dorr explained the history and growth of Insight.

"We started the firm in 2012, and, at the time, we wanted to create a really high-quality wealth management firm," Dorr said. "Over time, we started to see a lot of other holes that we needed to fill."

Dorr explained that Insight realized many clients needed the help of a tax professional, so Scott Manhart joined the team eight years ago.

"We have seven CPAs now, and a total of close to 20 employees," Dorr said.

In addition to the original location in West Des Moines, Insight opened an office in Adel in 2018.

"Opening a location in Panora feels like coming home," Karlton Kleis said.



Insight Partners Karlton Kleis, Scott Manhart, Andrew Dorr and Andrew Kleis.

"As a family-owned business whose partners grew up in an Iowa town of similar size, we're excited to serve the people of this area and be part of its continued growth."

Regarding the precise location of the business, Karlton said the historic building just felt right.

"It was originally a bank, a doctor's office, and most recently a mercantile," Karlton said. "We could have rented an office space, but we fell in love with this







Financial Advisor Kristen Crouthamel.

building."

The Panora office is led by local resident Kristen Crouthamel, who serves as lead Financial Advisor. Scott Manhart, Partner, leads the CPA practice at the Panora location, offering expert tax planning and accounting services.

"Kristen is one of the primary reasons we're here," Karlton said. "We've worked with Kristen for the better part of a couple of decades, and she lives in this community."

Manhart shared that, as a tax planner, he helps clients be proactive by not only dealing with current tax returns and issues but by planning ahead to best position clients for the tax returns that will be filed next year or in the coming years.

"One of the things that makes our firm different from other firms our size is that we do a lot of tax planning," Manhart said. "And that's a service we're very good at."

Asked what Insight Wealth Group hopes to see in the coming years, Andrew Dorr explained that it is much more than just a business plan.

"I would say, No. 1, I hope we're an integral part of the community. We really want to be part of the community, and that's a two-way street," he said.

"And I think that's part of our commitment to Panora, when we fell in love with this building," Crouthamel said. "Let's show the community that we're invested."

Besides the tax-planning services, Crouthamel said one of the things that makes Insight unique relates to the wealth management services.



Karlton Kleis and Allison Kleis.

"We're truly independent financial advisors," Crouthamel. "That gives us a breadth of investment options."

Insight focuses on customer service. "Old fashioned customer service," Manhart said. "When the phone rings, it's answered by a human."

"The No. 1 thing we have going for us is our people," Dorr added. ■



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EVENT

PANORA GARDEN CLUB **TWILIGHT PONTOON CRUISE JUNE 18**

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Panora Times

For the fourth year, the Panora Garden Club is hosting a fundraising event that offers pontoon tours of Lake Panorama. This is the second year the pontoon cruise will be held in the evening.

The event is planned for Wednesday, June 18. Pontoons will begin launching at 6 p.m. at the Boulder Beach docks and leave continuously as passengers check in and pontoons are loaded.

"We will have plenty of pontoons available to handle our reservations," JoAnn Johnson, who co-chairs the garden club with Paulette Chambers, says. "The number of passengers on each pontoon will be fewer than the stated limit, allowing for comfortable seating. We are expecting another great turnout. We've had inquiries from both return passengers and first-timers."

As was done last year, the pontoon tours will last two hours, with each boat captain making one trip around the Lake.

"A two-hour cruise is a wonderful opportunity to view the beautiful scenery, landscaping and new construction on the lake," Johnson says. "We hope guests will invite friends and family for this fun, relaxing evening."

A member of the Panora Garden Club will be on board each pontoon to answer questions and point out highlights. Signs along the tour route will mark the gardens and landscaping of garden club members. Maps showing Lake Panorama's cove names and garden club member homes

will be distributed to each guest.

The Panora Garden Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity, so donations are tax deductible. A minimum donation of \$30 is required for each person who reserves a tour spot. Additional donations also are welcome. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available for pickup at the event table at Boulder Beach.

The garden club spends about \$2,500 each year to support seasonal beautification efforts in Panora. This annual fundraiser provides the resources to purchase flowers and everything else needed to maintain the two petunia trees that hold 16 pots each, 40 street pots, and care for Heritage Park on the north side of Panora.

Besides the lake tour, a \$30 per person donation will cover a charcuterie box and bottled water. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages. Raffle tickets for a variety of garden baskets will be available for purchase the day of the tour.

As people make reservations, they will be given a time range for their tour.

To secure tickets, text one of these club members: Paulette Chambers, 712-304-0077; JoAnn Johnson, 515-975-9407; Paula Wachholtz, 402-699-2580; Marcia Roenfeld, 712-249-2142; Paula Hansen, 712-249-0780; Karla Bristle, 515-230-0018; and Jackie Marckres, 515-360-3202.

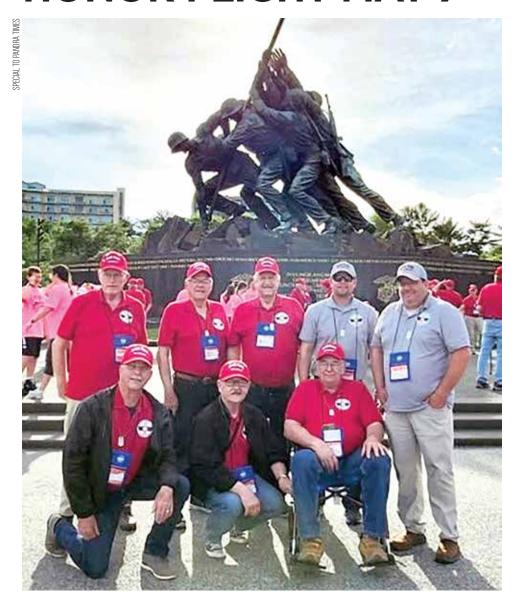
A rain date of Thursday, June 19, has been set. If weather prevents this event, ticket prices will be considered a donation to the Panora Garden Club. For weather details that day, check the Panora Garden Club Facebook page or visit panoragardenclub.



NOW!

EVENT

LOCAL VETERANS TAKE BRUSHY CREEK AREA HONOR FLIGHT MAY 7



Special to Panora Times

The 26th Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight was held May 7 and was sponsored by Guthrie County American Legions/Sons of American Legion Posts: Panora 372, Guthrie Center 124, Stuart 146 and Menlo 511. The flight is part of the Honor Flight Network, which transports approximately 22,500 veterans annually. More than 300,000 veterans have taken these one-day flights to Washington, D.C., since the first flight.

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of in-

dependent hubs working together to celebrate America's veterans. While initially focused on America's World War II veterans, Honor Flight Network expanded to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Veterans boarded a plane at the Fort Dodge Regional Airport that took them to Dulles Airport in Washington, D. C., where they visited the nation's capital to visit their memorials.

Pictured are, back row: Rick Buttler, Daryl Dinkla, Dwight Dinkla, Jalen Spack and Bill Messinger. Front row: Craig Hiatt, Tom Francis and Arnold Kesselring.



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COLLECTIONS & HOBBIES

HILGENBERG WORKS TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

Carla Hilgenberg of rural Jamaica is a lifelong learner and teacher. Although she has retired from employment as a teacher, she has a continuing passion for a cause that she learned about decades ago.

Hilgenberg said the natural world is something she grew up enjoying.

"My dad was someone who really enjoyed nature. He'd be out here in the timber all the time," Hilgenberg said. "Then, when I became a teacher, it was fun to see how open the kids' minds are. So I helped teach them about nature."

In recent years, media attention has increased on the plight of monarch butterflies. The species has a unique migration in which the monarchs from all around the United States and Canada fly south for the winter and then back north in the spring. No single generation of monarchs makes the entire trip. Instead, the monarchs achieve their travel through a type of "relay" in which individual monarchs make a portion of the trip, and then their offspring complete the next portion. The late-fall generation of monarchs lives the longest, allowing them to migrate all the way to Mexico and then a portion of the way back north in the spring.

Hilgenberg recalled how she first became fascinated with monarchs.

"Years ago, back when I was teaching, a good friend brought to my classroom a 5-gallon bucket of milkweed with monarch caterpillars on it," Hilgenberg said.



Carla Hilgenberg enjoys teaching about monarchs

"From that point on, I wanted to know more."

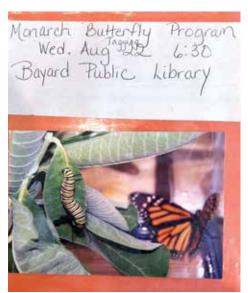
One of the things Hilgenberg learned was how monarchs' unique pattern first became known.

"Fred Urquhart is the man that started it. As a little boy, he was really curious about the natural world, and he was wondering where the monarch butterflies went over the winter," Hilgenberg said. "Along with his wife, Norah, they figured out a little tagging system. But they re-





Monarchs obtain water and minerals from a drying mud puddle.



Educational materials tell of the monarch life cycle.

ally weren't getting anywhere, so in the 1950s they started asking for volunteers, and then somebody down in Mexico told them that the monarchs were there in winter."

Hilgenberg joined the Monarch Watch organization (www.monarchwatch.org) and learned about the value in tagging monarchs so their migration can be documented.

"I started in 1997, but I know people that have been doing it a lot longer than me," Hilgenberg said. "I joined the group—the National Federation of Wildlife—in 2005, and I went down to Mexico and toured the area where the monarchs



Monarchs fill the air at their wintering grounds in Mexico.

spend the winter."

Hilgenberg said the trip to Mexico gave her a lifetime of memories along with photos of the amazing butterflies that have captured her attention.

Since 1997, Hilgenberg incorporated monarchs into her classroom to help students learn about the species.

"This gave the kids in my classes a chance to be scientists," she said.

Hilgenberg shared facts she has learned along with her students.

"They'll get on the wind currents, and they can go up to 60 miles a day. They're the only butterflies that migrate like ducks do. And if they're in Canada,

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 $\widetilde{N} \to R \widetilde{G}$

that's up to 3,000 miles," Hilgenberg said. "We're on a flyway here in Iowa, as the monarchs come through here on the way north and south."

Hilgenberg's fascination with monarchs didn't stop when she retired. She has tagged 1,745 monarchs, and 13 of those have been found and documented at the wintering grounds in Mexico.

Hilgenberg noted that monarch populations have declined sharply in recent decades due to habitat loss.

"The female can lay up to 300 to 500 eggs. They only lay their eggs on one type of plant — milkweed," she said. "Since the 1990s, they've really declined."

Because of that decline, Hilgenberg continues to spread education about the butterflies and how to do something about the situation. She continues to provide education to groups interested in booking her for a presentation, and she has her materials ready to go.

"I'm proud that I can speak on behalf of monarchs, and I'm free," Hilgenberg said.

"I want people to realize they can make a difference. I'd like people to be more aware of insecticides they might use. I'm very much of an environmentalist."

Hilgenberg welcomes anyone to contact her at 563-212-0945 for information, to schedule a presentation, or, in the fall,



Educational displays are ready anytime.

regarding tagging monarchs before their migration.

"If you plant flowers, that helps all butterflies. If you plant milkweed, that helps monarchs. Just make a difference however you can," she said. "All those little things add up." ■

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DRIVE-THRU



Panorama students had a good laugh as they entered school on May 12 with half of a Buick car set against an outside wall, making it appear as though it crashed into the building. These types of senior pranks have become a bit of a tradition at Panorama High School, although this one took more planning than most.

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OBITUARIES

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KENNETH B. 'KEN' CROUSE

1944-2025

Kenneth B. "Ken" Crouse, age 80, of Panora, and formerly of Carroll,

passed away on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at Thomas Rest Haven in Coon Rapids.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Carroll with Rev. Jeremy Poland officiating. Casket bearers were Todd Crouse, Jeff Pruitt, Joe Suefurt, Steve Gawley, Bret Richards and Pat Holloway. Burial will be in the Carroll City Cemetery.

Visitation was held at the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Carroll from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday evening. Additional visitation was held at the funeral home on Friday from 9:30-10:15 a.m. prior to the service.

Memorials are preferred to Tori's Angels or the American Truck Historical Society.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Carroll, and online condolences may be left for the family at www. dahnandwoodhouse. com.

Ken was born on Oct. 2, 1944, in Boone and was the son of Paul and Ruth (Smith) Crouse. He lived as a child in Denison, moving to Carroll when the family relocated the family business. Ken was a proud member of what was to become the 1962 graduating class

of Carroll High School and continued with the Alumni Association.

Ken met Sharon Holloway through a mutual friend, and it was to be a "forever moment." They were united in marriage on Feb. 29, 1964. Ken had a lot of fun telling folks "he sure was lucky," as he only bought anniversary gifts every four years! They were blessed with two sons, Scott and Matthew.

Ken spent nearly 50 years dedicating his life's work to Crouse Cartage Company. He took pride in helping prepare drivers for the truck rodeos both in Iowa and at national venues. He enjoyed being part of the Crouse bowling teams for several

years.

Following his retirement, Ken didn't miss many "Wednesday Retiree Coffees." Ken spent many years as a member of the American Truck Historical Society where he helped establish and attend several chapter groups as a regional vice president. He was very proud to have his own truck to drive to shows. For many years, Ken was a passionate follower of local dirt track racing, which led to an avid interest in NASCAR and some Indy races.

Ken is survived by his wife of 61 years, Shari Crouse of Panora; sons, Scott Crouse (Laura) of Panora and Matthew Crouse of Carroll; four grandchildren: Andrew Crouse (Alyssa), Toni Curry (Kyle), Matt Crouse and Shealor Crouse (Laci); two great grandsons, Emmit Crouse and Marty Curry; sister Jean Watt (Monte); brother Jeff Crouse; sisters-in-law: Dixie Crouse, Rose Crouse, Pat Gawley (Steve), Sandi Richards (Kent) and Becky Muhs (Dean); brother-in-law Bill Holloway (Jan); nieces, nephews, other relatives and friend.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, O.E. and Helen Holloway; and his brothers, George and Larry Crouse.



GERALD (JERRY) SUTHER

1936-2025

Gerald (Jerry) August Suther, 88, of Panora, passed away Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Featherstone at Hickory Hill Senior Living in Iowa City in the presence of family.

Jerry was born Oct. 29, 1936, the son of Fred and Freda (Tegeler) Suther on a farm north of Frankfort, Kansas. He attended school at Reserville and later at St. Columbkille's Catholic School in Blaine, Kansas. After graduating high school in 1954, he farmed with his dad, prior to joining the Army Reserves in 1956. He first learned to program computers at Automation, Inc. Tech School in Omaha, helping to launch a long career at Sperry Univac (later called Unisys) from 1962-1991, working as a programmer, systems analyst and

district manager across many cities in Nebraska and Iowa. After retiring from Unisys, he worked as a recruiter for a data processing company and drove a limo for Brokers International to keep busy in his retirement years. Jerry married the love of his life, Doretha (Dee) Dekat, on Sept. 5, 1959, at St. Joseph Church in Flush, Kansas.

Inspired by his dad's singing at home after mass (and the many other musical members of his family), Jerry enjoyed cantering at St. Patrick's Catholic Church (Perry) and later at St. Cecelia in Panora. One of Jerry's great joys was composing a song, "Our Heritage," about his family with his sister, Mary, and her son,

Damian Gerstner. He had it copyrighted in 1996.

His Catholic faith has always been very important to him. Jerry was dedicated to the Knights of Columbus, as a member in Blaine, Kansas, as well as Perry and Panora. He joined the Fourth Degree Assembly in Des Moines and was active in the honor guard. He held many leadership roles, including Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight and District Deputy.

Besides music and faith, Jerry loved golfing, boating, fishing, hunting and computer puzzles. He enjoyed spending time with family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Jerry is survived by

eight children and their spouses: Tim (Peg) Suther of Winnetka, Illinois; Laurie (Mike) Masters of Waverly; Deanne (Curt) Reiter of Ankeny; Pat (Cindy) Suther of Waukee; Jerry (Jodi) Suther of Tiffin; Sheri (Patrick) Thesing of St. Charles, Minnesota; Mike (Kim) Suther of Marion; and Dave (Susan) Suther of Johnston; 26 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren. Additionally, he is survived by his brother, Joe, in Williamsburg, Kansas; sisters, Vera Strunk (Wamego, Kansas), Sr. Betty Suther (Concordia, Kansas) and Sr. Eleanor (Atkinson, Kansas); and brother-in law, Alvin Gerstner (Topeka, Kansas).

He was preceded in death by his wife, Doretha;

his parents, Fred and Freda Suther; his brother, Ralph Suther; his sister, Mary Gerstner; his grandchildren, Mark and Marie Grebin; and his sonin-law, Jim Grebin.

A rosary service was held Friday, May 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. with visitation starting at 10 a.m. and funeral service at 11 a.m. all at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Panora. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, rural Guthrie Center, following the services. Twigg Funeral Home, Panora, was entrusted with his services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Moments Hospice Foundation and St. Cecilia Catholic Church. ■

OBITUARIES

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VIRGINIA H. KINNEY

1931-2025

Virginia H. Kinney, 94, of Yale and Perry, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines. Virginia's visitation took place on Sunday, May 11, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. at the Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home, Perry Chapel. Her funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025, at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Panora.
Interment will be in the Richland Cemetery in rural Bagley. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the family for a future designation in Virginia's honor.
Online condolences can be shared at www. caldwellparrish.com.

She was born on Jan. 1, 1931, in Valley Junction, the first of three daughters to Theodore and Frieda (Clausen) Lueders. Her sisters, Bernice and Marilyn, followed.

On Aug. 10,1957, Virginia married Dean Kinney, and together they raised a large and loving family. She was a devoted wife, a deeply loved mother, a cherished grandmother, and a true friend to all she met. Known for her warmth and kindness, Virginia was also a talented cook whose homemade jellies, caramels, cookies and popcorn balls will be fondly remembered and dearly missed.

Virginia lived a life of faith and service. She was an active member of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Panora and participated in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), altar guild, quilting blankets for missionary events, bake sales, camp at Okoboji, Sunday School teacher and many more volunteer services.

A graduate of
Dawson High School
and a lifelong resident
of the area, Virginia
held many roles
throughout her life,
including sorting eggs,
an operator at the
telephone company,
Yale Café, Yale Teen
Center, Panora Craft
Care Center, Perry
Lutheran Home, and
Perry Senior Citizens
Meals, among others.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ted and Frieda Lueders; her husband, Dean Kinney; sons, Steve and Mike Woodley; daughter, Barbara Jenkins; grandson, Mikey Woodley; greatgranddaughter, Kristin Hancock; sons-inlaw, Wally Jenkins, Joe Bowen and Dana Bowman; brothers-inlaw, Richard Mitchell, Truman Loudenback and Lee Kinney; and sisters-in-law, Velma Loudenback and Erma Kinney.

Virginia is survived by her children: Dorothy Funk, Cindy Bowen, Chris Kinney (Karole), Cheri Bowman (Greg), Janay and Jon Baumgartner, and Cathy and Cody Deakman. She is also survived by her sisters, Bernice Mitchell and Marilyn (Jerry) Schlemmer; 24 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; 24 great-greatgrandchildren; four great-great-greatgrandchildren; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. ■



JULIA ANN MILLHOLLIN

1927-2025

Julia Ann Millhollin, 97, daughter of Earl and Dessie Vandevanter, was born Dec. 12, 1927, in rural Guthrie County. She passed away Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at her home.

Julia graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1945. She married Clark Millhollin on Jan. 28, 1946, at the Christian Church parsonage in Guthrie Center, which was next door to where she lived. They lived a short while in Guthrie Center, Greenfield, Knoxville and Menlo before moving to California where they lived for 43 years. They moved back to Iowa in 1993 and made their home at Lake Panorama.

Julia is survived by her daughter, Deborah Berg of Florida; son, Mark (Jenny) Millhollin of California; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 70 years, Clark; daughter, Patricia Mahler; four sisters; and a brother.

Cremation has taken place, and no services are planned. Twigg Funeral Home, Panora, was entrusted with her services.



All obituaries also publish at **gctimesnews.com**





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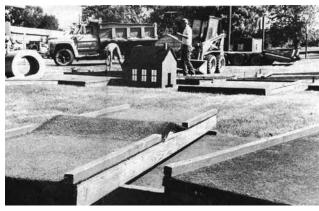
50 YEARS AGO



From Guthrie Center Times, May 14, 1975

DOUBLE WINNER. Richard Van Pelt pulls on his sweats after finishing a leg in the Hawks' medley relay. Van Pelt was a double winner, copping gold medals in the 100-and 440-yard dashes.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, May 23, 1985

JUST PUTTING AROUND: Panora is becoming the golf course capital of western Iowa with another course being constructed — a miniature golf course at the 44 Drive-Inn. New owner Joe Patava expects the course to be ready to play this holiday weekend.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, May 25, 1995

STATE, HERE WE COME: Five Panther track boys will be competing in individual events at the boys state meet. From left, Shaun Moylan, 100; Phillip Keys, 3,200; Jacob Taylor, 100, high hurdles, long jump; Travis Geopfert, discus, 200, 400; and Dylan Toben, high jump and 400.

20 YEARS AGO



 $From \ the \ Guthrie \ County \ Vedette, May \ 5, 2005$

PARK HELPERS: A group of master gardeners, interns and a spouse helped deliver and spread mulch at Heritage Park in north Panora. Front row are Arla Mae Grotjohn, Denise Burroughs and Bill Wright. Back row, Jan Tallman, Jack Tallman, Carol Koberg, Sandi Teale and Donna Daniels.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, May 14, 2015

CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO: Panorama Spanish Club members celebrated Cinco De Mayo May 5. Club members are (front row, from left) Dalee Rogers, Kenzie Fear, Natalia Kryger, Veronica Maere, KC Gafkjen, Sarah Martinez, Grace Arganbright, (back row) Mr. Geneser, Josh Carstens, Hunter Kuta, Dylan Perez, Mark Arganbright, Angelica Martinez, Kevin McClatchey, Hunter Mobley, Ethan Laughery, Emily Housten and Sam Bassett.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, May 28, 2020

NEWBROUGH RETIRES AFTER 20 YEARS AS PANORA POSTMASTER: Her tenure started when the World Wide Web was being proposed and ended during a world wide pandemic. She began in 1990 and officially leaves the Panora Post Office on May 30 after 30 years, the last 20 as postmaster. For Pam Knapp Newbrough, it's been a journey of serving the people. That's always been her philosophy. It's no wonder she answered "the people" when asked what she will miss most. "I met a lot of nice people." ■





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

Q: IS THE PANORA FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUIRED TO HAVE A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS?

A: According to section 35.02 of the Panora Code of Ordinances, the Panora Fire Department is to consist of the fire chief, first and second assistant fire chiefs and as many firefighters as the city council may from time to time direct, but at no time less than 16.

Q: HOW MUCH IS A FISHING LICENSE?

A: In Iowa, you can purchase a fishing license online through the Go Outdoors Iowa website or at the Guthrie County Courthouse or Sparky's One Stop in Guthrie Center and Bayard. Residents younger than 16 years old can fish without a license but may need to pay a trout fee if fishing for trout. Annual fee is \$22 for a basic resident fishing license. A one-day license is \$10.50.

Q: HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO CAMP AT LENON MILL PARK, AND WHAT ARE THE RULES?

A: Camping cost is \$20 per night per camping unit. Camping sites are first-come, first-served. No reservations are accepted. A camping site is considered occupied when camping unit is on site and registration envelope is filled out and paid for. The shelter house can be reserved for \$15 for the day or first-come, first-served, if not reserved. Call 641-755-3061 to reserve the shelter house.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN THE YALE COMMUNITY BUILDING SEAT?

A: The Yale Community Building, located on Main Street, has two rooms avail-

able. The front room holds approximately 50 people. The large room holds approximately 300 people. If you are interested in renting the Yale Community Building, visit www.yaleiowa.com to verify that it is available. Proceeds are applied to building maintenance and Community Club activities. For more information, email rental@yaleiowa.com.

Q: DOES JAMAICA REALLY ONLY HAVE A POPULATION OF 200?

A: Not quite. The population was 195 at the time of the 2020 census. This is down from 224 residents in 2010 and 237 in 2000.

Q: I GOT CAUGHT IN THE TRAFFIC STOPS NEAR HOMETOWN FOODS ON MAY 10 IN PANORA. WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

A: Hundreds of runners crossed through Panora as part of the Market to Market Relay Race on May 10. The event started at sunup in Jefferson, and the 75-mile course ended in Des Moines. Teams of six to eight runners competed to see who could cover the distance the fastest. The 75-mile route was broken into 18 "stages" ranging from 2 to 6 miles each. Each team had one member run the first stage, then a different teammate ran the second stage, and so on. More than 200 teams had registered for the event. The relay ran on the Raccoon River Valley Trail, as well as some streets and gravel roads. Throughout much of the morning, the parking lot at Hometown Foods was full of team vehicles, as the event's teammates arrived and stocked up on food and drink. Local law enforcement, EMS and other citizens helped as the runners passed through Panora.

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THE SCOTCHEROOS THAT BECAME A FAMILY TRADITION

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Panora Times

"My mom's Scotcheroos are the best!"

The first time I heard one of my daughters say that, I was deeply honored — and I still feel that way every time I hear it. They often tell me about other versions they have tried and always end with, "They were good, but yours are the best!"

In our family, Scotcheroos are a must-have at gatherings, reunions, road trips and just about any occasion. These sweet treats deliver a perfect combo: smooth peanut butter flavor, a satisfying crunch, and a thick, rich layer of butterscotch-chocolate topping that keeps everyone coming back for seconds. I am happy to share the secrets behind their success, but I first must give credit

where credit is due. My friend Tammy Even gifted me this recipe more than 30 years ago at my bridal shower. I still have the recipe book my friends gave me that day, and I use it often.

NOW, THE SECRETS:

1. Use Special K cereal – it gives the perfect texture and structure. I know many recipes use crispy rice cereal, but trust me on this one. It is truly the ingredient that makes the difference.

2. Don't skimp on the topping – use one full bag each of semi-sweet chocolate chips and butterscotch chips.

3. Watch the syrup closely – this step can make or break the batch. Don't overcook or undercook it. Bring it just to a boil (for maybe a minute). The sugar crystals need to melt completely, or the syrup will turn gritty. But overcook it, and your Scotcheroos will be too

chewy

Here's a tip: Dip a spoon in the hot syrup, tap a little onto the counter, and taste it. If you can still feel sugar crystals, keep it on the stove a bit longer. The moment they are gone, pull it off the heat.

Give these a try and let me know what you think. Do you have recipe traditions you would like to share? Send them my way at jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com. Happy snacking!

Jolene

Goodman

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



- 6 cups Special K
 cereal
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1.5 cups peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 12-ounce package of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 12-ounce package of butterscotch chips



Let sugar and corn syrup come to a boil in saucepan on the stove. Do not let boil long, just until



sugar is not crystalized. Remove from stove. Add peanut butter and vanilla. Stir. Add cereal. Press into a 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Let cool. Melt all chips in a microwave-safe bowl in the microwave. Spread over bars. Allow topping to set before cutting and serving. Enjoy!



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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.





Several correct answers on last month's photo of Sue Shackelford's yard at 1278 Highway 25, Bagley, and the first person with the correct answer was Tim Chapman. Have a guess on the location of this month's photo? Have one to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com.



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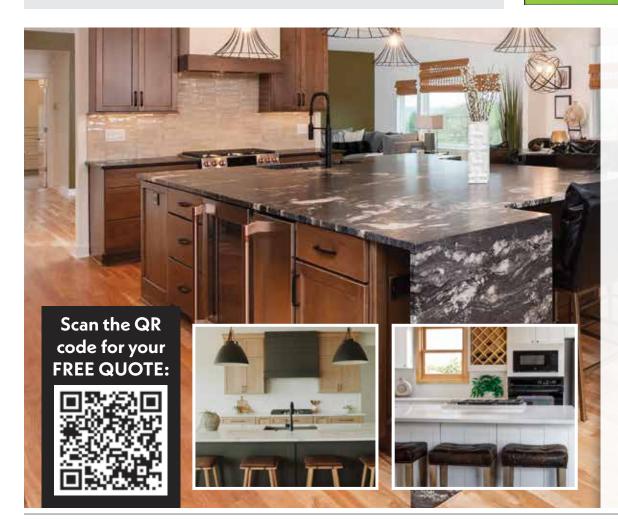
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BAGLEY

Bagley United Methodist Church

401 Main Street, PO Box 40 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.



5405 Chimra Road, Panora 515-222-1520

Sunset Realty

Panora United Methodist Church

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



Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

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

Catholic Mass: Sunday 8 a.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. Confession: Sunday 7:30 a.m., Wednesday and Thursday 7:45 a.m. Adoration: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.



2106 Highway 4, Panora http://panoralutheran.com 641-755-2051

Sunday School /Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m. Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. Bible Study: Tuesday 11 a.m.



YALE

Yale Church of Christ

304 Lincoln, Yale church-of-christ.org 641-757-1104



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Iowa State University Athletic Director

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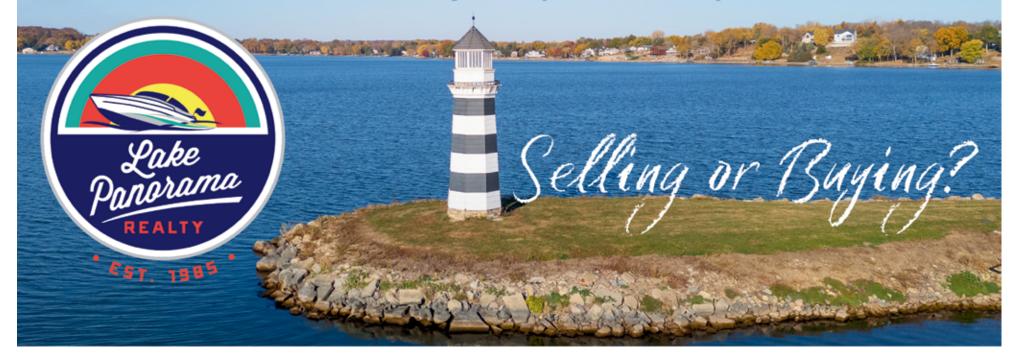
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