

Panora TIMES

AUGUST 2025

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FREE!

'DIVE INTO THE FUN' AT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

**FAIR PARTICIPANTS SHARE
THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THE
LESSONS THEY HAVE LEARNED**

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**FARMERS STATE BANK
WORKS TO PROVE THAT
BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS
BETTER**

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SWEET MUSIC AT RACCOON
RIDGE MUSIC HALL**

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**CRACK CORN DIP IS
CREAMY AND CHEESY
WITH A TOUCH OF SPICE**

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AUG. 28-SEPT. 1
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

- 12 PM Open Class Art Hall Exhibits can start check in
- 4-7 PM Static Exhibit Building Open for exhibit check-in
- 5 PM 4-H, FFA Dog Show, followed by Open Class-Show Ring
- 5 PM-8 PM 4-H Foodstand Open
Subject to change
- 7:30 PM Art Hall Open Class entries in place at the Art Hall Building

THURSDAY, AUG. 28

Free Admittance to the Fair
Free Carnival Rides 5-9 PM
4-H/ FFA Weigh-In and Check-In Day

- 9 AM Open Class Art Exhibit Judging. CLOSED judging in the Art Hall
- 9 AM Open Class Ag Entries can check in
- 9 AM-10:30 AM Swine Weigh-In-Hog Barn
- 10 AM-2 PM 4-H/FFA Poultry and Rabbits Check-in-Small Animal Barn
- 11 AM-12:30 PM Sheep and Goat Weigh-In -Sheep/Goat Barn
- 11 AM-2 PM 4-H Foodstand Open
Subject to change
- 1 PM-5 PM Livestock Office Open
- 1 PM-3 PM Beef Weigh-In and Beef Ultrasound-Show Ring
- 3 PM-5 PM Junior Cattle Feeders Weigh-In-Show Ring
- 3 PM-4 PM Horse Check-In-Horse Barn
- 5 PM-9 PM FREE Carnival Rides
- 7 PM Bill Riley Talent Show at The Little Amphitheater at the fairgrounds. Rain site will be at the AC/C School. Contact Jessica Langgaard, 712-830-1202
- 7:30 PM Open Class Ag Hall Exhibits
Must be in building

FRIDAY, AUG. 29

Free Carnival Rides 1-10 PM

- 7 AM-5 PM 4-H Foodstand Open
- 7:30 AM-1 PM 4-H Livestock Office Open
- 8:30 AM Horse Show-East Arena
- 9 AM 4-H/FFA Swine Show-Show Ring
- 9 AM Cribbage Tournament.
Sponsored by the family of Milo Rees. Register with Rhonda Titus, 515-480-8782
Registration 8:30 AM
- 8 AM-5 PM Antique Tractor Display
Engines running periodically throughout the day
- 9 AM Open Class Ag Exhibit Judging
- 10 AM-6 PM 4-H/FFA Education Center Open
- 12:30 PM 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Show, followed by Open Class -Show Ring
- 1-10 PM FREE Carnival Rides
- 3 PM-Close American Legion Bingo Stand
- 4 PM Clover Kids Show-Show Ring

FRIDAY GRANDSTAND EVENTS

- 5:30 PM Register for Mutton Busting
Waiver must be signed
- 7 PM Grand River Rodeo
Free Grandstand Admission
NO Coolers may be carried in.



ADMISSION: Weekend Pass: \$35 | Day Pass: \$15

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

Free Carnvial Rides Noon-10 PM
Chainsaw artist will perform today!

- | | | | |
|------------|--|--------|--|
| 7 AM-5 PM | 4-H Foodstand Open | 1 PM | Bags Tournament (515 Cornhole)
Noon registration, \$20/ person, \$40/ team-\$250 payout |
| 7:30 AM | Registration for Fair 5K Run -Event Center. Contact Jess Carney 641-218-8933 | 1-3 PM | Bacon Buddies-Show Ring |
| 8 AM | Fair 5K Run | 1-3 PM | Make and Take Crafts, Pencil Bags with Cathy Ballard, Art Hall |
| 8 AM | Working Dogs Competition. Iowa Stock Dog Handlers Association-Horse Arena | 1-3 PM | Working Wood Carving Demonstration with Rex Schoonover & David McCool, Art Hall |
| 8 AM-5 PM | Antique Tractor Display, Engines running periodically throughout the day | 1 PM | Registration for Children's Pedal Pull-The Little Ampitheater
Up to age 12, Competition starts at 1:30 PM |
| 10 AM | Guthrie County Fair Parade
Parade information on website
Theme: "Dive into the Fun at the Guthrie County Fair 2025"
Parade Coordinator: Cathy Sheeder, 641-747-8226 | 4 PM | 4-H/FFA Rabbit Show, Open Class to follow-Show Ring |
| Noon | Check-In for Sand Volleyball Tournament-Volleyball Pit
\$60 team fee (3-8 players)
Contact Caley Vaughn at cvaughan@acgcschools.org | 4 PM | Laura Ernst Family Juggling and Aerial Show |
| Noon-4 PM | Face Painting and Balloon Artist at Event Center, Free! | 6 PM | Laura Ernst Family Juggling and Aerial Show |
| Noon-Close | American Legion BINGO | | |
| Noon-10 PM | FREE Carnival Rides | | |
| 12-3 PM | Livestock Office Open | | |
| 12-6 PM | 4-H/FFA Education Center Open | | |
| 12 PM | 4-H/FFA Poultry Show, Open class to follow-Small Animal Barn | | |
| 1 PM | Picking & Shelling Corn, Plowing and Other Antique Farm Demonstrations at the South end of fairgrounds | | |

SATURDAY GRANDSTAND EVENTS

- 4-6:15 PM Figure-8 Car Registration
- 7 PM Figure-8 Race
Car/Driver Entry Fee \$35, no gate fee.
Pit Pass-\$10 + Gate fee. No Coolers
Allowed in Pit Area or Grandstand.
For Rules and Questions Joe Vais, 712-304-0876

All schedules subject to change

TEAR OUT AND KEEP!



AUG. 28-SEPT. 1

LABOR DAY WEEKEND



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TEAR OUT AND KEEP!

SUNDAY, AUG. 31

Old Settlers Day: 70 years and older admitted FREE to the fair!

Free Carnival Rides 1-10 PM

Chainsaw artist will perform today!

- 7 AM-5 PM 4-H Foodstand Open
7 AM Church Service sponsored by the Local Association of Churches at The Little Amphitheater Working Dogs Competition, Iowa Stock Dog Handlers Association at Horse Arena
- 8 AM Antique Tractor Display, Engines running periodically throughout the day
- 8 AM-5 PM Livestock Office Open
9 AM-3 PM Bucket/ Bottle Calf Interviews
9 AM-11 am -4-H/FFA Education Center
10 AM-6 PM Education Center Open
10 AM 4-H/FFA Beef Show, followed by Open Show-Pen Barn/Show Ring
11:30 AM J.R. Hodges Award Announced
-Show Ring
11:40 AM 4-H Foundation Pie Auction
-Show Ring
11:30 AM-1:30 PM Kile Jackson Music-Little Ampitheater
Noon-4 PM Face Painting and Balloon Artist at Event Center, Free for kids!
Noon-Close American Legion BINGO stand
1 PM Picking & Shelling Corn, Plowing and Other Antique Farm Demonstrations at the South end of fairgrounds
1-10 PM FREE Carnival Rides
1-3 PM Crocheting Demo with Kim Langgaard, Art Hall
1-3 PM Make & Take Paper Crafts with Judi Zimmerline, Art Hall
1-3 PM Make & Take Diamond Art with Gail & Karen Shook, Art Hall
2 PM Keith West Magic & Illusion Show
3 PM Open Horse Show-East Arena
4 PM Keith West Magic & Illusion Show
4 PM-6 PM Monster Arm Wrestling Weigh-Ins, Competition Starts at 5 PM
5 PM Rabbit Hopping
6 PM -4-H/FFA Education Center
Introduction of the 2025 Fair Queen-Little Ampitheater

SUNDAY GRANDSTAND EVENTS

- 3 AM Nag Races-2 PM Sign-Up
Limit 35 teams
6 PM Sierra Griggs
8-11 PM Tyler Richton & The High Bank Boys
Free Grandstand Admission. NO Coolers may be carried in. Fireworks to follow

MONDAY, SEPT. 1

- 7 AM-1 PM 4-H Foodstand Open
9 AM Tractor Ride
Leave from fairgrounds, route and destination to be determined
9:30 AM 4-H/FFA Parade of Champions
-Show Ring
10 AM 4-H/FFA Premium Auction
-Show Ring
10 AM 4-H/FFA Static Exhibit project release-4-H/FFA Education Center
10 AM Open Class Art and Ag Exhibits Released
Noon-3 PM American Legion Bingo Stand
1 PM ALL Livestock Released
1:30 PM 2025 Fairgrounds camping renewals close at the Secretary's Office
2 PM Fairgrounds Secretary's Office closed
3 PM Fair Clean Up

THE LITTLE AMPHITHEATER SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

- 7 PM Bill Riley Talent Show

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

- 1 PM Pedal Pull Registration
1:30 PM Pedal Pull Competition
4 PM Laura Ernst Family
Juggling and Aerial Show
6 PM Laura Ernst Family
Juggling and Aerial Show

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 7 AM Church Service
11:30 AM-1:30 PM Kile Jackson Music
2 PM Keith West Magic & Illusion Show
4 PM Keith West Magic & Illusion Show
6 PM Introduction of the 2025 Guthrie County Fair Queen

ADMISSION

WEEKEND PASS\$35

DAY PASS\$15



FAIR QUEEN 2025

Shyann Young

Shyann Young is the daughter of Sara Young and Ray Young. Shyann is a recent graduate of ACGC High School. While at ACGC, she participated in volleyball, track, 4-H, band, choir, art club, drama, and speech.

This fall, Shyann will be attending Iowa State University, majoring in Family Consumer Science Education.

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Beaver: Troy Schwartz
Dodge: Collin Clark
Cass: Jeremy Wolfe
Grant: Roger Richter
Jackson: Bryce Arganbright, VP
Orange: Mike Irlbeck
Penn-Stuart: Preston Drake
Richland: Nathan Olesen

DIRECTORS

Seeley: Mike Kenyon
Thompson: Greg Rochholz
Valley: Wes Clark
Union: Travis Clark, Pres
Victory: Matt Harmann
At Large "A":
At Large "B": Sage Bailey

ASSOCIATES

Bear Grove: Spenser Jorgensen
Beaver: Tom Reil
Cass:
Dodge: Michelle Halbur
Grant: Emma Vogl
Thompson: Kirk Rochholz
Seeley: Derek Betts
Union: Spencer Grove
Valley: Gabe Rowley
At-Large "B": Zack Brokaw

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS

Monday 8/25 9am-6pm
Tuesday 8/26 Noon-5pm
Wednesday 8/27 9am-7pm
Thursday 8/28 Noon-6pm
Friday 8/29 10am-5pm
Saturday 8/30 Noon-5pm
Sunday 8/31 11am-5pm
Monday 9/1 10am-2pm

EVENT CENTER HOURS

Thursday 8/28 Noon-6 PM
Friday 8/29 10 AM-7 PM
Saturday 8/30 Noon-7 PM
Sunday 8/31 11 AM-7 PM
Monday 9/1 10 AM-2 PM

WWW.GUTHRIECOUNTYFAIR.COM

‘COWS AND PLOWS’ — AND MUCH MORE

If you were born and raised in Guthrie County, you have likely attended many Guthrie County Fairs — and I hope you still do. Transplants like me have found the fair to be a wonderful experience as well.

This will be my fourth time attending the Guthrie County Fair, and I love it. The figure 8 races. The rodeo. The live music. The coronation of the queen. The camping. The talent shows. The parade. The antique tractors. Bingo. Cribbage. The 5K run. Monster arm wrestling. And, of course, all the fair contest entries and much more. I try to experience it all each year, and, like most of you, I keep coming back.

The Guthrie County Fair is a

homecoming of sorts, and not just for 4-H and FFA farm families. As Lilah Heinz Wilson points out in this month’s cover story, it’s not just about “cows and plows.” Even so, the fair does bring us all back to our rural roots — and we all have them, in one way or another.

Even if you are a city kid, being at the fair provides an appreciation and an opportunity to show respect to the ag community that is the economic engine for the area. You don’t have to wear a cowboy hat and boots to the fair, but if



Shane Goodman

you own some, you should certainly don them.

The Guthrie County Fair started in 1858 when some settlers gathered in the home of E.B. Newton — who is credited for creating a stage coach road across Guthrie County — to organize the Guthrie County Agricultural Society. From that meeting came the first fair, which was held in Guthrie Center east of the City Park. A tract of land west of the river was then purchased from William Tracy, the “pioneer editor of Guthrie County,” and this continues to be the location of the fairgrounds today. Fences, buildings, and a half-mile track were built for the 1885 fair, and entertainment back then consisted of acrobatic acts, patriotic

fireworks, horse and mule races, foot races, healthy baby contests, displays from the rural schools, and baseball.

I would guess that the Guthrie County Fair was the event of the year more than a century ago, and it still is today. I look forward to seeing you there during Labor Day weekend. ■

Shane Goodman
Editor and Publisher
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‘DIVE INTO THE FUN’ AT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

Fair participants share their experiences and the lessons they have learned.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

So far, the summer weather in Guthrie County has included lots of heat and rain, along with strong thunderstorms and damaging winds at times. But the Guthrie County Fair’s 2025 theme of “Dive into the Fun” is meant figuratively, because the fairgrounds have not flooded, and everything appears to be set for a wonderful fair for all involved.

Travis Clark, who serves as president on the board of directors of the Guthrie County Fair, shared his thoughts on this year’s events.

“What I think is unique about our county fair is the timing of it, being Labor Day weekend,” Clark said. “And the facilities; we have phenomenal facilities down there.”

Another unique feature of the Guthrie County Fair is the number of camping spots.

“Because we have 80-plus acres of land, we have a lot of camping spots, and it fills up every year,” Clark said.

With Guthrie County being a rural and agricultural county, the farm-related events are a mainstay. Clark shared his opinion of the most popular events at the fair.

“As far as 4-H or FFA stuff, the cattle show always brings in a big crowd,” he said.

“As far as the grandstand events, the last several years, every event we’ve had has had great attendance — so much that sometimes we’ve had to bring in additional temporary seating.”

Clark said he is proud to serve on the fair board.

“There are currently 16 directors and seven associate directors,” Clark said. “People may not realize the amount of time, time away from work and family, that the directors and associate directors devote throughout the year. That’s what



Julianna Schroeder shows some of her 4-H projects.

makes it all work. The planning for this year’s fair started right after 2024’s fair. We start planning it then and continue on every month.”

Currently, the fair’s website lists board members as Travis Clark (president), Bryce Arganbright (vice president), Emma Vogl (secretary), Derek Betts (treasurer), Travis Clark, John Knobbe, Tyler Carney, Troy Schwartz, Collin Clark, Jeremy Wolfe, Roger Richter, Mike Irlbeck, Preston Drake, Nathan Oleson, Mike Kenyon,

Greg Rochholz, Wes Clark, Matt Harmann, Sage Bailey, Spenser Jorgensen, Tom Reil, Scott McClellan, Michelle Halbur, Kirk Rochholz, Spencer Grove, Gabel Rowley and Zack Brokaw.

Clark pointed out that the success of the fair depends ultimately on a supportive community.

“A big thank you for all the year-round support from our sponsors and donors. It takes a lot of money anymore to put on the fair,” Clark said. “I hope the weather is

good so everyone can come out to enjoy it. There’s something for everybody, with the free carnival and rides, and all the shows.”

Clark recalled enjoying the Guthrie County Fair as a child and shared a favorite memory.

“I was in 4-H, and the Monday after the premium auction, we always had a water fight down by the animal barn,” he said.

FAIR PRICES AND SCHEDULE

- Admission to the fair is at the same



The grandstand music is a popular draw at the Guthrie County Fair.

rates as last year:

- Season pass \$35
- Day pass \$15
- Kids younger than 5 are admitted free
- Grandstand and carnival are free
- Active military members are admitted free

"Free" is a commonly used word in describing the fair. After gaining admission, most events and attractions are free. For example, the free carnival will run Thursday 5-9 p.m., Friday 1-10 p.m., Saturday noon to 10 p.m., and Sunday 1-10 p.m. Free face painting will be available Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

All events at the Little Amphitheater are free. Those include:

- Thursday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.: Bill Riley Talent Show (registration forms are due Aug. 25)
- Saturday, Aug. 30, 1 p.m.: Pedal Pull registration, with pulling to start at 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 30, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.:

Laura Ernst Family juggling and aerial show

- Sunday, Aug. 31, 7 a.m.: Church service
- Sunday Aug. 31, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Kile Jackson live music
- Sunday, Aug. 31, 2 p.m.: Keith West magic and illusion show
- Sunday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m.: Coronation of the 2026 Guthrie County Fair Queen

One popular annual part of the fair actually takes place outside the fairgrounds. The fair parade will be Saturday, Aug. 30, at 10 a.m. Those wishing to be in the parade should line up on School Street beginning at 9 a.m. The parade route will head north on Highway 25, then west on State Street.

Other events will also be held during the fair. Beginning at 1 p.m. on Aug. 30 and 31, antique tractors will be on display, along with demonstrations of corn picking, shelling and grinding. The Lions Club will host bingo. A cribbage tournament will be



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Queen candidates pose for a photo shoot during the 2024 Guthrie County Fair.

held 9 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 29.

A sand volleyball tournament will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

"The Monster" arm wrestling tournament will be held on Sunday, Aug. 31. There is a \$15 entry fee for competitors. Weigh-in will be 4-5 p.m., with competition starting at 5 p.m. There will be divisions for men and women, righties and lefties, in various weight ranges.

Grandstand events at the fair will include:

- Friday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m., Grand River Rodeo
- Saturday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m., Figure 8 Races
- Sunday, Aug. 31, 3 p.m. Nag races
- Sunday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m. Sierra Griggs
- Sunday, Aug. 31, 8-11 p.m. Tyler Ritchton and the Highbank Boys

Another special event is the Guthrie County Fair 5K, which again this year will be organized through Synergy Wellness. Proceeds will support the 4-H Foundation. The 5K walk/run will have registration/check-in beginning at 7:30 a.m. on

Saturday, Aug. 30. The 5K begins at 8 a.m. and follows a flat and fun course. Registration cost is \$30 with a T-shirt or \$15 without. Those wishing to register beforehand can do so online at www.synergywellness5K-2025.itemorder.com

HEINZ WILSON DESCRIBES HOW HER FAIR ENTRIES HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS

Lilah Heinz Wilson, a 17-year-old junior at ACGC, has been a longtime participant in the Guthrie County Fair, and she agreed to share her experiences. Lilah's family has a long history of involvement with the fair. Her parents are Curtis and Christina Wilson.

"My dad was on the fair board, and my mom was in charge of the fair queen contest, so I've always been involved a little bit. Then I started 4-H in fourth grade, so this is my seventh year in 4-H, and I started in FFA in seventh grade," Wilson said. "I show animals and do static projects through 4-H, and then through FFA I have a broiler business, a market bird business, in which I show those chickens and then I sell them off for a profit."

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Static entries are part of Lilah Heinz Wilson's involvement in the fair.

Wilson described how her fair entries have changed over the years.

"As far as the static entries, I was really into photography when I was younger. Now, I do more of the clothing and poster-type entries about animals," Wilson said. "I've shown poultry and my dog. I showed rabbits for a while, and, one year, I showed a cow, but I found out that really wasn't my thing."

Wilson recalled what has been most difficult in showing animals at the fair.

"When I was younger, the hardest part was making sure my animals had feed and water, because it was the fair, so I wanted to go have fun," Wilson said. "Now, I find the hardest parts are the show days and the time management. This year, I'll have my poultry, which is Saturday. I'll have my dog, which is Wednesday night. Clothing will be in the static building."

Looking back over her years of entries at the county fair, Wilson shared some favor-



Lilah Heinz Wilson multitasks as a cheerleader and 4-H/FFA member at the Guthrie County Fair.

ite remembrances.

"My favorite memory is my first year, when I won Showmanship with my dog. It was my first year, so I wasn't really expecting to get anything," Wilson said. "Then, over the years, I've built upon my skills, which has gotten me more awards. I also show animals at the state fair. I've won a couple of things at the state fair with my



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Julianna Schroeder's garden box was named Grand Champion in 2024.

dog, and then I did show poultry there this year, and I got a blue ribbon and third overall. But it's not really all about the awards for me; I like to focus on the kids and help them with their animals."

Wilson has enjoyed her involvement with the county fair, 4-H and FFA, and she encourages others to do so as well.

"It doesn't matter where you live. You can be active in 4-H and FFA without living out in the country. And it's not just 'cows and plows.' You can do contests, you can run for office in your chapter, you can do community service, you can do educational presentations, you can do static projects," Wilson said. "It doesn't have to be just about the animals."

Wilson voiced appreciation to her parents for their support of her 4-H and FFA involvement, including at the county fair.

"They've been a big help throughout my

fair career. They're the ones who really got me into showing, and they got me outside the box when I was younger, because, otherwise, I never would have had the confidence to do this. I was a shy kid, and this has really helped me change, so I want to throw out a big thanks to them."

Although she is only about to begin her junior year in high school, Wilson already has a tentative career path in mind.

"I want to be an ag teacher," Wilson said. "I'm really hoping to go to Iowa State."

SCHROEDER IS EXCITED TO SHOW A CALF AT THE FAIR FOR THE FIRST TIME

Julianna Schroeder is 12 years old and entering seventh grade at Panorama Schools. Her mother, Lindsey, teaches at Panorama. The two recently sat to talk about Julianna's involvement in 4-H and

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Julianna Schroeder bonds with her Angus calf, Roo.

the Guthrie County Fair.

Julianna serves as her 4-H club's historian and has been involved in 4-H and submitting projects for the county fair since she was in fourth grade. She recalled that her very first fair project was a set of egg holders that she created from wood.

Since then, Julianna has submitted a wide variety of projects.

"I've done baking, garden box, crochet, nail art, a book holder woodworking project, a pearler bead flower project, and visual arts," Julianna said.

Julianna said her favorite project so far is a crocheted horse that she submitted this year. Lindsey explained that learning to crochet took lots of practice, but Julianna kept at it.

"She made a couple of practices ones first, and then she worked at it slowly over a few months," Lindsey said. "And it was selected to go to the state fair."

Another project Julianna submitted this year is her garden box.

"The Extension office sets it up. If you choose to do it, they give you the box, the soil, and the seeds," Lindsey said. "She got flower seeds. Then each kid grows their own version of the box, and then they

take them to the fair to be judged."

This year, for the first time, Julianna has a fair project that is alive. She is submitting her bottle calf (an Angus calf approximately 4 months old). Lindsey said the calf has been a learning experience for the whole family.

"We're new to this, too. Her dad and I have never had a calf either, so we're learning together," Lindsey said.

Julianna stated that her calf, named Roo, has been her most difficult project, because of the early hours for feeding her calf, and because Roo is not always cooperative.

"She's stubborn, so she doesn't want to walk most of the time, so I have to make her walk," Julianna said.

Lindsey described the process of showing a calf at the fair.

"As a bottle calf person, she will have an interview with the judge, to talk about raising it and all the things she did. She has to show it, they have showmanship, and she has a write-up to do, and they check the pen to make sure it's kept clean and tidy," Lindsey said.

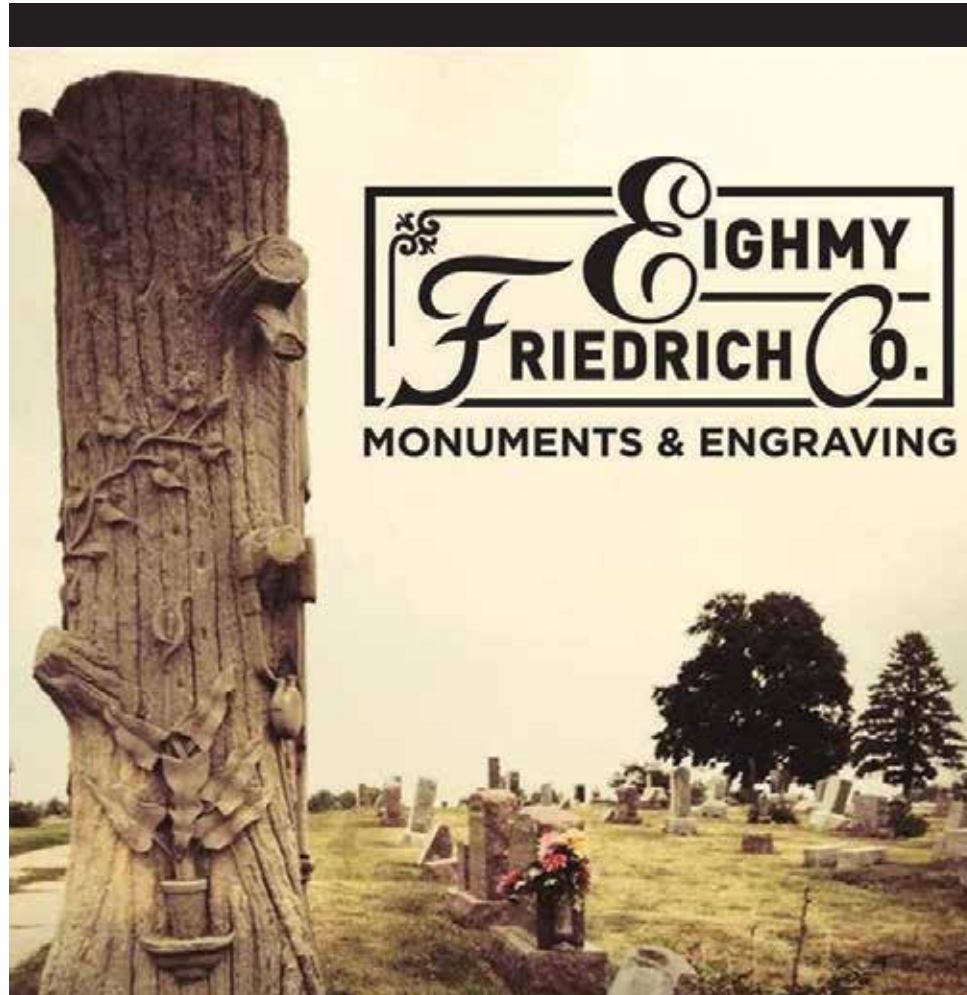
Julianna enjoys the various projects she has submitted, and she plans to stay in 4-H through her school years and to continue having projects at the fair. She said she doesn't mind the many hours of work involved in her projects, and said she enjoys seeing the fruits of her labor.

"I'm excited to be showing a calf at the fair for the first time," Julianna said. "And having things go to State."

Julianna recalled that the day she first met her calf, her parents hadn't told her the reason they went for a drive, and she thought something bad may have occurred.

"When my dad said we had to go somewhere to get something, I thought my cat had died," Julianna said.

Fortunately, the trip had a pleasant purpose, and Julianna has been working with Roo ever since. You will find them both at the Guthrie County Fair. ■



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PITT. SUPERMAN. SMOKE. SANDLER. DINOS. AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR.



“Elio”



“F1”



“Jurassic World: Rebirth”



“Superman”



“I Know What You Did Last Summer”



“Eddington”



“Smoke”



“Happy Gilmore 2”

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Panora Times

“ELIO”

The latest from the great animation studio tells the story of a young boy obsessed with space travel. Because it is a kid’s movie, he actually finds himself in space trying to diffuse a crisis. The story is weak, but the animation is fantastic. The crazy and wild creatures in this film had to be a blast to create and animate. This film is not one of Pixar’s best, but it wasn’t made for me. **GRADE: B-**



“F1”

Hands down, this is the best movie of the summer. Brad Pitt, who we have not seen in a while, is excellent as an itinerant race car driver who takes a job with an old friend driving an F1 race car. Rivalries and love affairs complicate his life as he competes to win the big race. The movie has a great cast from top to bottom, the acting is won-

derful, and the racing action is fantastic. My source says it will be back at the IMAX for a week in August. FridleyTheatres.com is your place to find out, and the IMAX is only 30 miles from Panora. **GRADE: A**



“JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH”

Also at the IMAX is the attempted restart of this classic action series. Mahershala Ali and Scarlett Johansson are both excellent (as always) as two adventure hunters trying to track down escaped dinos on a mysterious island. This is a fun, roller coaster ride of a movie, but, unfortunately, we have seen this one before. **GRADE: B**



“SUPERMAN”

The “Man of Steel” back on the big screen is cause for celebration, but the fun wore off quickly. Writer/Director James Gunn (“Guardians of the Galaxy” fame) takes too many liberties

with the character for my taste. I was leery of the return of Superdog, but it was actually my favorite thing about the movie. Overall, this was a missed opportunity to jumpstart the franchise. **GRADE: C**



“I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER”

This sequel to the 1997 Sarah Michelle Geller/Jennifer Hewitt horror film lacks creativity and any really good scares. Five former friends get together, and something bad happens to one of them. They decide to keep it a secret, and, the next thing you know, they are all being targeted by an unknown creepy guy. The movie has moments but too few to recommend it. **GRADE: C+**



“EDDINGTON”

Pedro Pascal has been a busy man this summer. This film plus “Material-

ists” and the next film on our list make him the man of the summer. Unfortunately, he took one too many summer of 2025 gigs. This movie, which also stars Joaquin Phoenix, is a bloody, violent mess. The violence is unrelenting. I seriously considered leaving mid-movie, but I was the only one in the theater, and it looks bad when a film critic walks out. In hindsight, I should have. **GRADE: D**



“SMOKE”

I’m a fan of Taron Egerton (“Blackbird” and the “Kingsman” series) but, here, he plays a flawed and very dark character. Too dark. Way too dark for me. I turned it off less than an hour into it. **GRADE: F**



“HAPPY GILMORE 2”

I am not a fan of Adam Sandler or his movies. The original “Happy Gilmore” was nothing more than a series of bad



"The Fantastic Four: First Steps"

jokes loosely tied together around the story of a good athlete who hit it big as a golfer. Sandler packed the first film with cameos from his buddies in comedy and sports. This time, we get the same story — and even more cameos. The movie is ridiculously stupid but does have more than its share of laugh-out-loud moments.

GRADE: D

"THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS"

I deliberately held the best for last. Believe it or not, this is the fourth time Marvel Studios has tried to launch this franchise. They finally got it right. Really right! This is an end-of-summer, comic book fan's treat. The actors all do their jobs well, the special effects are truly special, and the story is well told. This is the surprise film of the summer and sits on the shelf with "F1" as one of the best movies of the season. The great action, great acting and a great story will literally have you on the edge of your seat. It will also be back in the IMAX in August.

GRADE: A ■



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



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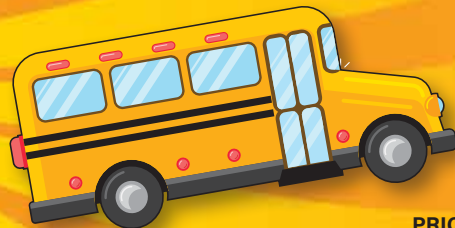
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SUPERVISORS BEGIN PROCESS AGAIN TO ASK VOTERS TO DESIGNATE EMS AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

JULY 22 - EMS DISCUSSION, COUNTY COURT CASES, HEALTH FAIRS, EXEMPTIONS

During the July 22 regular meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Steve Smith asked about the county's status on efforts to create a countywide EMS service plan. "Either we close the book on it, or we dive in again, starting very soon," Smith said.

Board members discussed that if they choose to actively pursue an EMS plan, there are many steps to the process with specific timelines. No formal action was taken at this time.

Guthrie County Attorney Dana Minter provided a quarterly departmental update. Minter said exact case counts are difficult to specify at any given moment because of the various types of cases and how they are coded.

"We have approximately 30 active district court cases, which are B felonies and above, roughly 80 district associated court cases, and then approximately 32 magistrate cases," Minter said. "We have 96 active payment plans. We have 33 payments plans that have prepared and sent out, and we're just waiting for those individuals to get those back to us. We have 57 plans that have been revoked."

Minter talked about the value of body camera video footage for any jury trial cases. She said juries in Guthrie County seem much more like-

ly to vote for a conviction when video evidence is available. Minter was asked about the most common illegal drugs seen in Guthrie County cases.

"A lot of meth. We see a fair amount of marijuana," Minter said. "We have had a few fentanyl cases, but not many, which is good."

Health Services Director Jotham Arber gave a departmental update. He shared information on plans for upcoming health fairs.

"We are going to be doing a health fair at every one of our school districts this fall," Arber said. "The goal is, one, to offer free dental screenings through Crawford County. Two, is to offer a physical. Three, to bring our own health professionals out there to talk about what resources we have."

Jessi Heimerman, Chief Deputy in the Assessor's department, presented a list of the various credit and exemption applications received, including the Homestead Tax Credit and other similar credits/exemptions. After discussion, the supervisors approved the applications as recommended by Heimerman.

JULY 29 - MORE EMS DISCUSSION, ROAD PROJECTS, PHISHING EMAILS

County Auditor Dani Fink shared information on possible timelines if the county wishes to pursue the possibility of a March 3, 2026, special election regarding a proposed countywide EMS plan. Fink shared the required timing of various portions of the pro-

cess. "The ballot language would have to be published no later than Jan. 1, 2026. So, the board needs to determine how much time you want to allow the advisory council to work," Fink said.

Fink explained that, depending on the supervisors' preferences, the process may need to begin as early as next week.

County Engineer Josh Sebern shared details about the proposed road project on County Road P28 between Stuart and Panora. He explained that some portions would only need an overlay, while other sections would need more work. Sebern also told of the funding availability. He said he would hope to be accepting bids on the project sometime between December 2025 and February 2026.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong summarized her understanding of Sebern's information.

"I think the majority of us need to understand where we are financially; what we can do with our budget. And then, perhaps, a timeline. I know you said we don't need to make a decision today, and we can't today. But knowing exactly when we do need to make those decisions will be helpful for the board," Armstrong said.

County Treasurer Brenda Campbell provided her department's annual report.

The county's IT (Information Technology) Administrator, Brian Hoffman, also provided a report.

"We did a phishing simulation training in April," Hoffman said. "We

had 181 phishing emails reported." Hoffman encourages staff to always report such emails, because he expects the actual number may be much higher.

AUG. 5 - EVEN MORE EMS DISCUSSION

The supervisors discussed the possibility of again declaring Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as an essential service in the county.

Board chair Maggie Armstrong summarized the current situation.

"Because the measure did not pass in the last election, we basically start from zero. So, the first step would be to, if this board so chose, to declare it an essential service," Armstrong said. "This is just the very beginning of the very first step."

Supervisor Mike Dickson suggested a different approach.

"The measure failed. We probably should be looking at other options," Dickson said. "There is the option of Chapter 357F, which is the Emergency Medical Services districts. That's another option there. We also have the first responders; I think we should give some time and see how that works out."

Armstrong added that state legislative issues could also impact the county's options.

"There was a lot of talk at the state capitol this past session about EMS, and from what I've heard, it's going to be a topic of conversation again. Just from a planning perspective, I think it would be a good idea for us to start

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the essential service conversation. It's not an essential service until a vote is passed. So, depending on what happens in the state legislature, we're ready to go," Armstrong said. "What I don't want to happen is for us to just sit and wait through the legislative session and not be ready to go."

Armstrong added that she does not see a March 2026 special election on EMS as a realistic option.

"That timeline is too accelerated," she said.

The supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of publishing the initial public notice to begin the process of designating EMS as an essential service. Mike Dickson voted against.

Jamie Lindsay, Human Resources Coordinator, provided an update on the county's hiring and training of employees.

Beth Watson, Veterans Affairs Administrator, shared a June quarterly report on her department.

County Engineer Josh Sebern told of the status of the P28 road project (Wagon Road) north of Stuart. He described the options of making the roadway slightly wider or keeping the width the same, which would allow for more distance to be improved. No formal action was taken.

AUG. 12 - HEALTH FAIRS, WASHED-OUT ROADS, DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Health Services Director Jotham Arber provided a departmental update. He shared information about health fairs to be held at local schools.

"We've got a health fair tomorrow (Aug. 13) in Stuart. We'll be offering free physicals, free dental screenings, we'll have free haircuts for kids, free backpacks with school supplies and hygiene supplies, some socks and other things. We'll grill up some hot dogs, and there will be a resource table," Arber said. "We'll also do it Aug. 19 in Panora, and Aug. 20 in Guthrie Center, and then over at Audubon Aug. 21."

County Engineer Josh Sebern offered a departmental report. He also told of continuing efforts to address washed-out areas of gravel roads in the county.

"Yes, we are aware the roads are washed. We are going to try to get around as quickly as possible," Sebern said. "It's State Fair week, so we have some staff that are out, but we're working on it, in between rainstorms."

Auditor Dani Fink also gave a departmental status report.

AUG. 19 - SEVERE WEATHER POLICY, ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Discussion was held on the county's proposed severe weather policy.

"There's been discussion around essential and nonessential worker compensation. We reached out to all department heads to request a list of essential workers or essential positions who would respond in the event of a severe weather emergency, so we can identify who is expected to report in that event," Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said.

Armstrong went on to share information on efforts to streamline the pay plan for times when the courthouse may be closed due to severe weather.

"If the courthouse closes, all county offices close. So that means those nonessential workers would get an eight-hour workday of pay," Armstrong said.

The supervisors then discussed how to address the essential workers who would be expected to work during the severe weather event. The consensus was that those essential workers would be paid regular time, unless the event required overtime work, in which case those workers would be paid overtime.

Armstrong also suggested how to handle situations in which a non-essential worker was unable or unwilling to report to work during severe weather when the

courthouse was still open.

"If there's somebody who feels uncomfortable, can't get out, doesn't want to drive, they would need to use time from a bucket, whether that's vacation or comp time or personal time, if they're going to choose not to come to work," she said.

Supervisors Steve Smith and JD Kuster said if this becomes the policy, it will need to be clearly communicated to essential workers to avoid surprises.

No formal action was taken on the issue at this time.

Facilities Director Brandon Thompson shared information about the proposed War Memorial expansion and sidewalk repair project outside the courthouse. The supervisors approved the plans as presented.

The supervisors appointed Beth Watson to serve as Guthrie County's representative on the Region XII Housing Authority Board of Directors.

Health Services Director Jotham Arber was scheduled to address the supervisors but had a conflict arise, so the supervisors tabled his report to the Aug. 26 meeting.

The supervisors meet regularly on 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 APPROVES SKATE PARK, SECURITY CAMERAS

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

JULY 28 - ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE, TRUCK SALE, ALCOHOL LICENSE

During the July 28 meeting of the Panora City Council, councilmembers discussed Resolution 25-29, which would authorize participation in the Iowa State University Electric Grid Resilience Toolkit Collaborative Cohort. City Administrator Lisa Grossman explained that if Panora participates, it would be as a type of "test subject" before the program would potentially be offered statewide. The resolution states, in part, "recent disasters such as the 2020 derecho have demonstrated the need for communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from electrical disruptions."

The council unanimously approved the resolution.

"We are one of five communities that were selected to work with Iowa State through a grant they received through the Iowa Economic Authority," Grossman said. "I think we're going to learn a lot."

The council discussed disposition of the city's 2003 red Chevrolet pickup truck, which the city no longer needs. Grossman suggested selling the truck on the govdeals website. The council approved this suggestion.

As part of the consent agenda, the councilmembers approved a 12-month Class C Retail Alcohol License for Los Altos Mexican Restaurant LLC.

AUG. 11 - APARTMENTS TOUR, SKATE PARK, SECURITY CAMERAS, FLAG PAINTING

Immediately prior to the regular meeting on Aug. 11, the council and other city staff toured the new apartments being built at 113 East Main St. Developer Tim Schutte showed the progress. When the apartments are completed, an open house event will be announced.

The councilmembers then returned to city hall for the regular council meeting.

Josh Gotter addressed the council to ask for approval to add a skate park at Michael Mills Park, west of the tee ball fields. He explained that no funds are being requested from the city. Gotter said he will lead fun-

draising efforts to fund the project, including seeking grants.

Concerns of the council included the possibility of illegal activity at the park and noise at night. Gotter said signage would be installed to clearly state the park hours. Councilmember Blake Michelsen said the location of the park makes monitoring activity in the park somewhat easier. He also suggested a fence around the skate area for safety. Gotter agreed to that request.

Regarding the concerns about noise or illegal activity at night, Gotter said signage would clearly explain park rules and hours.

"It would fall under the rest of the park's rules. When the lights go out, if you're there after hours, you're trespassing," Gotter said.

The council indicated the city would want to be involved in determining the exact location of the skate park once the dimensions are known. The council unanimously voted to allow a skate park as requested.

Panora Park & Rec Board Member Abby Pudenz then asked the council to consider allowing the installation of security cameras in Michael Mills Park, at no cost to the city. The cameras would be under city control regarding access to the recorded information. The council approved the request.

Lance Scott addressed the council regarding his frustration with repeated sewer backup into his basement (203 W. Clay St.). He explained that it appears to be due to needed repairs on the city sewer lines nearby. Mayor Thornberry acknowledged Scott's frustration and said the city is working to make the needed repairs that will then allow the lines to be fully scoped, which should allow any specific problems to be addressed.

Connor Deardorff addressed the council with his request to be allowed to paint an American flag design on an inside wall at Veterans Auditorium as his Eagle Scout project. The council approved the request.

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





Activities Director Bruce Dahlhauser addresses the school board about a proposed Activities Handbook.

PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES ELECTION FOR \$19.6 MILLION BOND PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

During the regular meeting of the Panorama School Board on Aug. 18, Maggie Armstrong, speaking on behalf of the Panorama Yes committee, addressed the board and submitted the petition that was circulated to get signatures in favor of the bond issue. She said there are 311 signatures of registered voters.

Board member Mark Cates thanked Armstrong and the other committee members for their work in getting facts to the voters. The board approved the resolution ordering an election on the issuance of \$19.6 million in General Obligation school bonds for the planned project.

Superintendent Kasey Huebner asked the board to consider approving the purchase of two used school buses from the Wayne Community School District for \$75,000 total. He said the two buses would be used for activities, and that the buses are a good deal at the price. Hueb-

ner said Panorama generally uses newer buses on regular routes and assigns older buses to activities. He added that the purchase, if approved, would be contingent on Panorama staff visually inspecting the buses before purchase.

“Our route fleet is in really good condition,” Huebner said.

The board members unanimously approved the purchase as described by Huebner.

The board members unanimously approved the purchase of a new auditorium lighting console at a cost of \$10,546.

The board held a first reading and discussion of the proposed Activities Handbook. Activities Director Bruse Dahlhauser talked about the handbook. He summarized some areas in which the proposed handbook clarifies issue that were previously vague. The board approved the first reading.

No one spoke during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. The board’s next regular meeting is set for Sept. 8. The public is welcome. ■

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HEALTH

GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL LOOKS TO PURCHASE PANORA CLINIC BUILDING

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

During the July 24 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, CEO Chris Stipe explained the hospital's interest in purchasing the building that houses the Panora clinic.

"I do have a meeting scheduled with the landlord of the Panora clinic next week to sit down and work on getting on the same page about the purchase price," Stipe said.

Danielle Lauzon, clinical safety and quality coordinator, reviewed the most recent quality improvement measures. She also reported on the status of training employees in a program called MOAB (Management of Aggressive Behavior).

"We did send one employee to MOAB training. We sent her to the train-the-trainer class, and we're going to send two more employees to that, and then those three individuals will train all of us on MOAB," Lauzon said.

Lauzon also reported that the hospital is obtaining personal safety alarm devices that staff can wear and activate if they need immediate assistant to maintain safety.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery shared information about an ongoing fundraiser event.

"We have a raffle that we're doing now through Labor Day weekend. People have been generous in putting some packages together for us," Flanery said, adding that seven packages will be raffled off, with each package valued at more than \$1,000.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Aug. 28 at 3 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

PANORA COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY STAFF SEE PROGRESS ON NEW APARTMENTS

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

On Aug. 11, developer Tim Schutte showed Panora city staff the progress on the new apartments being built on the upstairs level at 113 E. Main St. in Panora. Once the work is completed, an open house event will be announced. ■

RIGHT: Panora councilmembers and city staff tour the new apartments.

BOTTOM LEFT: Flooring and cupboards have been installed.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Tim Schutte shows the progress on the apartments being constructed at 113 E. Main St. in Panora.



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EVENT

PANORAMA DAYS SHATTERS RECORDS, BUILDS EXCITEMENT FOR NEXT YEAR

Special to Panora Times

Panorama Days 2025 will be remembered as a record-breaking year for Panora's beloved summer festival with the largest-ever turnout for both the 5K Run/Walk and the Kids Fishing Derby. Crowds filled the streets for the parade, enjoyed live music, and cheered on community favorites like the Chicken Drop, Bass Fishing Tournament, Bags Tournament, and more.

"This year was a shining example of small-town pride," Chamber Coordinator Erica Matthies said. "From sunrise events to late-night music, the community showed up in full force to celebrate, participate and make memories together."

Share your feedback and win chamber bucks

The chamber is asking the community to help shape future celebrations, whether you attended Panorama Days 2025 or not. Every completed survey will be entered into a drawing for Chamber Bucks, which are redeemable at participating local businesses.

Surveys must be completed by Aug. 31 to be eligible for the drawing. Include your name and email. Fill out survey here.

2025 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

5K Run/Walk – The largest field yet with top times from Luke Kading (19:23), Paul Kading (19:35) and Kiera Andersen (19:36).

Kids Fishing Derby – A record 114 kids participated with Alister Livingston reeling in the biggest fish at 20 inches to take top honors.

Bass Fishing Tournament – 15 boats competed; Nolan Ponstein won with 19.74 pounds and the tournament's biggest bass at 5.12 pounds.

Parade – A showcase of floats, antique cars, tractors, golf carts and more. Winners included Guthrie County State Bank (Commercial), Panora Garden Club (Organization), and Off Course Golf Carts (Golf Cart Category).

Alumni Golf Tournament – The team of Crandall, Grove, Pudenz and Uhlman took the win while Mark Benton thrilled spectators with a hole-in-one on hole No. 8.

Music & Entertainment – Live performances kept the town square buzzing, complemented by food vendors, family fun and the always-popular Chicken Drop.

LOOKING AHEAD: PANORAMA DAYS 2026

Next year, Panora marks 175 years since its founding, and the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary.



At the Panorama Days Cribbage Tournament Tom Smith was tournament champion. Dave Coffman took second place followed by Jillian Ortnier in third and Joe VanDrasek in fourth.

"Panorama Days 2026 (July 31 – Aug. 2) will be our most memorable festival yet," Matthies said. "We are planning expand-

ed events, historical tributes and special highlights to honor our past while celebrating our future." ■



A street dance with live music from Oreo Meatwagon was held on Friday, Aug. 1 on Main Street.



The Panorama Days Kids Fishing Derby set a new record with 114 kids participating.



The ISU mascot Cy and friends were present during the parade.

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FARMERS STATE BANK WORKS TO PROVE THAT BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

It should be no surprise that the smallest bank in Guthrie County, in one of the smallest communities, is able to provide outstanding customer service. Farmers State Bank President Scott Stanley explained why that is no coincidence. He added that despite being a small bank, FSB offers a wide range of services and financial products.

"We're here in Yale, and this is our only location. We offer all types of deposit accounts, checking, savings, money market, IRAs, CDs, all types of loans. We've got three universal lenders here for commercial, consumer and agricultural," Stanley said. "We can do all mortgages, home equity loans, personal loans, auto loans, commercial and agricultural operating lines of credit, and we offer ATM cards and debit cards, along with our online banking, mobile banking with remote deposit and bill pay, and also notary. That's a service that we offer for free."

Stanley shared the history of the bank. Although FSB wasn't the first bank in Yale, it is the only one remaining. FSB officially opened on March 21, 1921, and was approved to begin operations as a state-chartered bank. The initial bank capital of \$30,000 was provided by 35 stakeholders.

Following the stock market crash of 1929, public trust in financial institutions plummeted, leading President Franklin Roosevelt to declare a nationwide bank holiday on March 6, 1933, suspending all banking transactions for four days. Many banks did not survive the crisis.

"FSB was the only bank in Guthrie County to reopen after the bank holiday, making it the oldest bank in Guthrie County," Stanley said.

Another notable event in the bank's history was a bank robbery in October of 1931. A framed front page of the Guthrie County Vedette newspaper dated Oct. 22, 1931, now hangs on the wall in the bank and tells the story of two robbers who forced bank



Farmers State Bank President Scott Stanley makes customer service a priority.

employees Jay Hemphill and Ray Hitchens into the vault and made off with more than \$4,500, which is the equivalent of about \$95,000 today. The two robbers were later arrested and put on trial for the robbery.

Stanley noted the bank has experienced consistent growth over the years. In 1935, the bank had assets of \$246,012.04 and three employees. Since then, every decade has seen growth with the bank showing nearly \$70 million in assets in 2025 and six employees (Heather Deardorff, Amber Lopez, Jeramy Randol, Kegan Schultz, Scott Stanley and Jenny Van Gundy).

Presidents of Farmers State Bank over the years have included William Cordis (1921-1951), Francis E. Culver

(1952-1964), Jay W. Hemphill (1965-1972), C. V. Lyons (1973-1976), Jay C. Hemphill ((1977-1993), Doug Hemphill (1994-2021) and Scott Stanley (2021 to present).

In explaining what makes FSB unique, Stanley pointed to small-town values.

"It sounds cliché, but we plant a lot of seeds out in the community to grow relationships through contact and trust, and our customer service is second to none," Stanley said. "There's no phone tree to go through."

Another thing that makes FSM unique is something that the bank does not do.

"At this point in time, we don't charge any loan fees," Stanley said.

He told of a recent bank examination, during which the bank examiner said he was not aware of any other banks that do not charge loan fees. Stanley says that helps keep rates low.

"Our loan rates are ultra-competitive in the market," Stanley said.

But despite the small size compared to urban banks, Stanley stressed that FSB offers all of the protections customers expect, including electronic alerts (e-alerts).

"You can set pretty much all the standards you want. So, if you set a low balance of \$5,000, and it drops below that, you'll get a text message or an email so you can immediately correct that, so you don't get dinged



Farmers State Bank has been a landmark in Yale for many years.

with any type of service fees,” Stanley said.

As a small bank, FSB employees help look out for their customers, including today’s financial scams.

“We have roughly 1,100 checking accounts. I believe we’re the smallest bank in Guthrie County. We pride ourselves on being more than a bank,” Stanley said. “We’ve had several instances of customers getting contacted by scams saying your grandchild needs money. Well, we had a customer who had already sent some money, and we caught that. Then they came in and wanted to wire another \$25,000,” Stanley said. “Long story short, we did not send the money. The customer left upset with us, but came back the next day in tears, thanking us because they found out it was a scam.” ■



A 1931 robbery made headlines.

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Panora ASK TIMES



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

**Q: WHERE DOES THE
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES SITUATION STAND
NOW IN GUTHRIE COUNTY?**

A: On Aug. 5, the Guthrie County Supervisors approved the publishing of an initial public notice to begin the process of designating EMS as an essential service in the county. This is the first step in the process of bringing the matter to a vote again. The timeline for a special election is still under consideration, as are other options.

**Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT OUR
HOSPITAL WILL BE HAVING
SOME IMPROVEMENTS. WHAT
ARE THEY, AND HOW MUCH
WILL THIS COST?**

A: Guthrie County Hospital just received a \$37 million USDA loan that will be used to expand and renovate the facility, including a 16,000 square foot addition that will include a behavioral health room in the ER, an MRI room, exam rooms and lab space. Other improvements include updates to the nurse call technology, new digital master and area alarm panels, and new sleep ventilators, as well as a fire suppression system for the ambulance garage and renovations to the dining hall and kitchen.

**Q: WHAT DAY DID SCHOOL
START?**

A: For Panorama students in grades K-12, the first day of classes was Aug. 25. Panorama preschool began Aug. 27.

**Q: WHO ARE THE NEW
PANORAMA TEACHERS THIS
YEAR?**

A: The start of the 2025-2026 school year at Panorama Schools will see five new teachers.

Anna Arganbright is teaching Middle School Language Arts. Arganbright is a Panorama graduate who says she enjoys reading and time with her family.

Ali McDermott is teaching in the fourth grade. McDermott recently graduated from the University of Iowa and is eager to become involved again in the community she grew up in. In her free time, McDermott says she enjoys spending time with family and friends and being outdoors at the lake.

Jaylin Woodward is teaching in special education. She credits her fifth-grade math teacher with helping steer her toward a career in education. Woodward says she enjoys reading, scuba diving and soccer in her free time.

Alex Meuer is teaching sixth grade at Panorama. She says she is excited to begin her career here where others have been so welcoming. In her spare time, Meuer says she enjoys crafts, cooking, games and spending time with her cat, Cassie.

Katie Sedars is teaching in special education. She believes meaningful relationships with students is the most important part of being an educator. She says she enjoys time with friends and family and unwinding with Netflix.

**Q: HOW ARE ROAD NAMES
DETERMINED IN GUTHRIE
COUNTY?**

A: The specific naming of rural roads in Guthrie County follows a pattern that is helpful to know. There are six types of road names (highway, road, avenue, street, trail and lane). Highway is the name for any federal or state highway. Road is the name for a paved county roadway. Avenues are generally north/south gravel roads. Streets are generally east/west gravel roadways. Trails are long and often winding gravel roads. Lanes are short gravel roads, usually dead ends.

Avenues have names, starting alphabetically at the western edge of the county. So, if you were looking for Apple Avenue, it would likely be very close to the western border of the county, while Dogwood Avenue would be about three miles further east.

Streets have numbers, generally starting with 100th Street at or near the northern border of the county, and street names increase by ten for each mile. In other words, 140th Street is most likely one mile south of 130th Street.

The general rules above do have exceptions for a variety of reasons, but knowing these can help drivers make sense of what initially seems random, and it can ease drivers in navigating to specific destinations. ■

COMMUNITY

PANORA-LINDEN CLASS OF 1985 CELEBRATES 40TH REUNION



Special to Panora Times

ABOVE: The Panora-Linden Class of 1985 held its 40th Reunion. Pictured are Boyd Burnham, Charlie Billbrey, Steve Gibbons, Matt Knapp, Dave Perrigo, Kenny Smith, Lenard Kerr, Jeff Burchfield, Stephanie

Coleman Roberts, Andy Arganbright, Karla Downing Palmer, Kimberly Teale Johnson, Mike Donahey, Brenda Flanery Campbell, Wendy Beckman Pawling, Carmen Maben Morris, Susie Kembler Giildenzopf, Steve Bell, Wendy Wall Burnett, John Holbrook and Sean Thompson.



LEFT: Some students also gathered with long-time sixth-grade teacher Shirley Hughes at the Panorama Alumni Banquet on Saturday, Aug. 2. Front: Andy Arganbright, Shirley Hughes, Wendy Wall Burnett and Susie Kembler Giildenzopf. Back: Travis Burchfield, Jeff Burchfield, Kimberly Teale Johnson and John Holbrook. ■

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Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. 2-3 years of experience in the financial industry, bank operations, and/or sales is recommended. Knowledge of bank accounting, operations and regulatory guidelines is helpful but not required.

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COMMUNITY

PANORA-LINDEN CLASS OF 1975 CELEBRATES ITS 50-YEAR REUNION



Special to Panora Times

The Panora-Linden class of 1975 celebrated its 50-year reunion recently. Pictured are, back row: Jerry Gallatin, Gary Smith, Janet (Barks) O'Brien, Tom Glade, Tom Ferree, Nancy (Bennink) Lemke

and Greg Arganbright. Second row: Sharyl (Ulrich) Traylor, Melanie (Hotle) Eckert, Karla (Hansen) VanWinkle and Ilene (Adair) Olson. Front row: Dave Arganbright. Attended but not pictured: Bruce Parker and Gloria (Shelley) Keltner. ■

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COMMUNITY

P-L CLASS OF 1966 GATHERS FOR 59-YEAR REUNION

SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



Special to Panora Times

Members of the Panora-Linden class of 1966 met Sunday, Aug. 3 at Crafty’s Coffee Shop in Panora for their reunion. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing with lots of laughter, along with great food catered by Cafe on the Hill.

Attending were, front row: Marie Jenkins Penington, Ronda Easley Hafner, Connie Reynolds Richey, Rexanna Marchant Ketelsen and Cindy God-

win Love. Back row: Nyal Hodges, Jim Vandevanter, Linda Lynam Jordan, Sharol Mercial Williams and Ron Tryon.

Messages were received from the following classmates who could not attend; Jim Peck, Lloyd Reese, Larry Anderson and Ron Long.

Deceased classmates are Jeanette Pote, Tom Berkley, Richard Mills, Bill Curry, Jack Stonehocker, Murray Williams, Alan Ketelsen, Dennis Bullard and Ron Van Pelt. ■



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THOMPSONS MAKE SWEET MUSIC AT RACCOON RIDGE

Gary and Linda Thompson are in the RidgeRunners band, which plays a blend of country and bluegrass music.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

Gary and Linda Thompson live on 40 acres of beautiful timberland near Nations Bridge Park in southern Guthrie County. But, instead of keeping all that beauty to themselves, they welcome others to come enjoy it with them. Gary opened Raccoon Ridge 3D Archery, and the couple later opened Raccoon Ridge Music Hall, at 3281 298th Lane. Because the Thompsons live a mile off the main road, it is a well-kept secret but definitely worth the drive.

Linda explained that the idea for the music hall came to her from God on a sleepless night. So, the couple built and opened the music hall, which also rents out as a wedding venue or for engagement parties, graduations, fundraisers, reunions and other events. But the most commonly recurring events are the Sunday music jams and dances. The music hall includes seating for up to 200 people, sound and lighting equipment, and a full kitchen.

“We built it in 2001, right before the Twin Towers fell,” Linda said. “He already



Gary and Linda Thompson welcome friends new and old to Raccoon Ridge.

had his archery three years before that.”

The Thompsons now play in a band called RidgeRunners, which plays a blend of country and bluegrass music. Ridge-

Runners band members include Gary and Linda, Diana Wilson, Al Wilson and Mark Howard.

Gary grew up playing music.

“I was in a high school band, playing rock and roll,” Gary said.

However, Linda was not initially musical.

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RidgeRunners play their blend of country music.

"Not me. My family liked music, but nobody played it," Linda said.

Linda explained that her introduction to playing music came at Gary's urging. During a music jam at their place, there was a shortage of musicians, so Gary encouraged Linda to learn to play. Although Linda was initially unsure about playing in front of others, she said everyone was encouraging as she learned.

Through the fall months, the music hall maintains a schedule of Sunday afternoon dances. The schedule of bands can be seen at Raccoon Ridge Music Hall's Facebook page. Upcoming scheduled dances include Aug. 31, Sept. 7 and Sept. 28. The Sunday events run from

2-5 p.m., and attendees are welcome to bring their own snack and beverage, and/or enjoy food provided in the kitchen. Some Sundays ask a \$10 admission fee, while others ask a freewill donation.

"We are so blessed out here, and God has done it, and that's what we are trying to share. We've met so many wonderful people. They come from all over," Linda said.

Because the Thompsons enjoy their land, music and visitors, they plan to continue what has brought fun and fellowship to so many.

"As long as we can do it, we're going to do it," Linda said. ■

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Garden Club.

One nominator noted how JoAnn is one of the most influential people he has ever met.

"She has inspired so many people to make the most of what you have. Her talent has been shown throughout the Panorama community. She is the first person to speak up, step up and follows through till the job is done."

Another wrote how JoAnn is an outstanding leader who has contributed to the betterment of Panorama, Lake Panorama and Guthrie County.

"I have had the privilege of knowing JoAnn for nearly two decades. Throughout the course of our friendship, I have always been impressed by how JoAnn inspires others to join her in her volunteer pursuits. ... I appreciate how JoAnn encourages the next generation of leaders in our community. ... JoAnn has always been someone who supported and encouraged me. She is someone who I knew would give me an honest opinion and offer me her support to navigate whatever challenge laid ahead."

A third nomination letter stated how JoAnn's love for Guthrie County is evident in every project she undertakes.

"Her tireless advocacy at both a state and local level, collaborative spirit and ability to inspire others make her a true role model. She approaches every challenge with com-

passion, determination and a genuine desire to uplift those around her, embodying the qualities of an exceptional citizen. ... JoAnn has been a pillar of public service in our community for many years, consistently demonstrating her passion for improving the lives of those around her. She has tirelessly advocated for the people of Guthrie County with a deep sense of care and responsibility. Her contributions have left an indelible mark on our community, fostering growth, unity and pride. Additionally, JoAnn has taken a leadership role within the Panorama Garden Club, where her vision and hard work has helped transformed Panorama's Main Street into a vibrant, beautiful space that residents and visitors cherish. Her efforts in beautifying the town reflect her commitment to creating a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing environment, boosting community pride and local business."

Yet another nominator said, "Look at the pretty pink flowers around Panorama! JoAnn was instrumental in getting that project rolling. The Panorama Garden Club has many members and others have also played a vital role, but Joann's leadership paved the way. This beautification project has enhanced Panorama in such a beautiful, positive way. ... JoAnn has volunteered her time in more ways than I know. Her proactive spirit, kindness and advocacy demonstrate

why she is a deserving candidate for Panorama's 2025 Citizen of the Year, embodying the qualities of a true community leader and encourager."

Another nominator noted how JoAnn leads by example.

"She does not seek the spotlight, yet her work shines throughout the Panorama area — in the lives she touches, the policies she helps shape, and the landscapes she helps beautify. Her integrity, energy and compassion make her a pillar of our community."

THE CRITERIA FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR INCLUDED:

Any service performed for the betterment of Panorama that the nominator deems worthy.

No restrictions on the number of years a person can be nominated.

Winners cannot be considered again for 10 years.

Nominees must be a citizen of Panorama or Lake Panorama.

Nominees must be nominated in writing, signed by the nominator.

PREVIOUS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR WINNERS:

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- 1990 Galen Bymer
- 1991 Duane Miller

- 1992 Mary Beidelman
- 1993 Mary Jones
- 1994 Hugh & Merna Teale
- 1995 Dave Arganbright
- 1996 Ron Reynolds
- 1997 John Dungan
- 1998 Dale Grotjohn
- 1999 Cheryl Castile
- 2000 Frank Teale
- 2001 Dave Olson
- 2002 Carolyn England
- 2003 Pat Finnegan
- 2004 Julie Dent-Zajicek
- 2005 Dave Beidelman
- 2006 Judy Contner
- 2007 Chris Arganbright
- 2008 Vickie Ditsworth
- 2009 Barb Wollner
- 2010 Bette Donahey
- 2011 Joan Allen
- 2012 MJ Brown
- 2013 Karen Sievers
- 2014 Joe Scheiring
- 2015 John Rutledge
- 2016 Josh Arganbright
- 2017 Curtis Thornberry
- 2018 Jaime Waddle
- 2019 Bill and Connie Ridgley
- 2020 COVID YEAR (NONE)
- 2021 Chaille Crandall
- 2022 Tom & Ellen Campbell
- 2023 Kirby Klinge
- 2024 Matt Harmann ■



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CRACK CORN DIP

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Panora Times

There’s something special about recipes that come from family, and my daughter, Samantha, has a corn dip that fits the bill, especially when made with fresh Iowa sweet corn. There is nothing quite like the flavor of corn picked at its peak — crisp, juicy and naturally sweet. Every summer, when the corn stands start popping up around town, we know it is time to whip up a big bowl of her famous dip. It is creamy and a little cheesy with just the right amount of spice, and that fresh sweet corn takes it to the next level. Whether we are hosting friends, heading

to a potluck or just craving a snack on a hot afternoon, this dip is a hit. Served with tortilla chips or fresh veggies, it disappears quickly. I like that it has become part of our summer tradition, and now we’re sharing it with you, straight from our kitchen and Iowa’s golden fields. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

CRACK CORN DIP

Ingredients:

- 5.25 cups of fresh corn plus 1/2 each red and green pepper, finely diced (for the off-season use 3-15 oz cans fiesta corn or Mexicorn, drained)
- 1 can Rotel, 10 oz (reg or hot), drained
- 1 can jalapenos, 6 oz, drained and diced
- 1/2 cup green onions, sliced (5 stalks), optional
- 2 cups cheddar, shredded
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Pinch of sugar
- Handful fresh cilantro leaves, chopped



Directions

Mix all the ingredients excluding bell peppers in a bowl. Refrigerator for 3-4 hours before serving.

The dip will thicken as it sits in the fridge. Add peppers right before serving. Enjoy! ■



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YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



From Guthrie Center Times, Aug. 24, 1975

A SUNDAY DRIVE ON TUESDAY. With his wife and pooch mounted on a hay wagon, Kenneth Bullard of rural Panorama putt-putts slowly home on the shoulder of Highway 44.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Aug. 29, 1985

STATE FAIR CHAMPS. A women's water fight team from Panorama Saturday won top honors in state fair competition. From left, Lisa Carper, Pat Gardner, NaDean Allen and Mari Love.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Aug. 3, 1995

SIXTH, SEVENTH GRADE SOFTBALL. Front row: Amy Clark, Cari Culbertson, Betsy Leo, Jodi Watts, Amy McCurdy, Laura Jontz and Maggie Gerlich. Second row: Melissa Clouse, Heidi Kenney, Amanda Lynam, Jessica McDivitt, Jessica Blome, Katie Petersen. Back row, Coach Rod Stanley, Michelle Harmann, Leah Hutchins, Michelle Krause, Tonya Krause, Jenny Kepple and Melaya Robson.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Aug. 24, 2005

DANCING TALENT. Garrett Simmons, 7, and Alexa Herbert, 6, of Guthrie Center, danced in the Bill Riley Talent Search on the Riley Stage at the 2005 Iowa State Fair Tuesday, Aug. 16.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Aug. 13, 2015

FOLLOW THE SIGNS. Tom Jeschke helps with set up on Wednesday afternoon at Lake Panorama National Golf Course in Panorama in preparation for this weekend's Broker's International Iowa Open.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Aug. 13, 2020

RARE DERECHO HITS AREA. A rare meteorological phenomenon called a derecho, a straight-line wind storm that can cause heavy rain, flash flooding, hurricane-force winds and tornadoes, struck across much of Iowa on Monday, causing power outages, downing power lines and snapping tree limbs as it moved through the area. The storm began in mid-morning and was out of the area by about noon, leaving its powerful impact in its wake. In this photo, a large elm broke off and crashed through the garage of Kevin and Lonna Naumann, 318 West Lane in Panorama, damaging a pickup parked inside. ■



AREA CHURCH GUIDE

▶ SUBMIT CHANGES OR UPDATES TO SHANE@GCTIMESNEWS.COM

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.



Lutheran Church of Hope

5405 Chimra Road, Panora

515-222-1520



Panora United Methodist Church

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

www.panoraumc.org

641-755-2655

Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.

Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

220 N. First St., Panora

www.st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com

641-747-3843

Catholic Mass: Sunday 8 a.m.;

Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m.

Confession: Sunday 7:30 a.m.,

Wednesday and Thursday 7:45 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.



Saint Thomas Lutheran Church

2106 Highway 4, Panora

<http://panoralutheran.com>

641-755-2051

Sunday School /Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study: Tuesday 11 a.m.



YALE

Yale Church of Christ

304 Lincoln, Yale

church-of-christ.org

641-757-1104 ■



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No correct answers on last month's photo of the sign at Guthrie County Historical Village. Have one to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com. ■

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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2002 State Street Guthrie Center

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Resource Navigation

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Referral Services

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Realtor
641-757-2858

Leslie Anderson
Realtor/
Office Admin

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