

Panora TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2025

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FREE!

THE BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY 2025

THE VOTES HAVE BEEN
TALLIED! LOOK INSIDE
FOR FULL RESULTS.

PAGE 6

HAVE YOU "BIN
THERE" YET?

PAGE 28

TERRY TAUSZ KEEPS
THE MUSIC ALIVE

PAGE 34

CREAMY TOMATO
SOUP IS RICH WITH
SUN-RIPENED FLAVOR

PAGE 42



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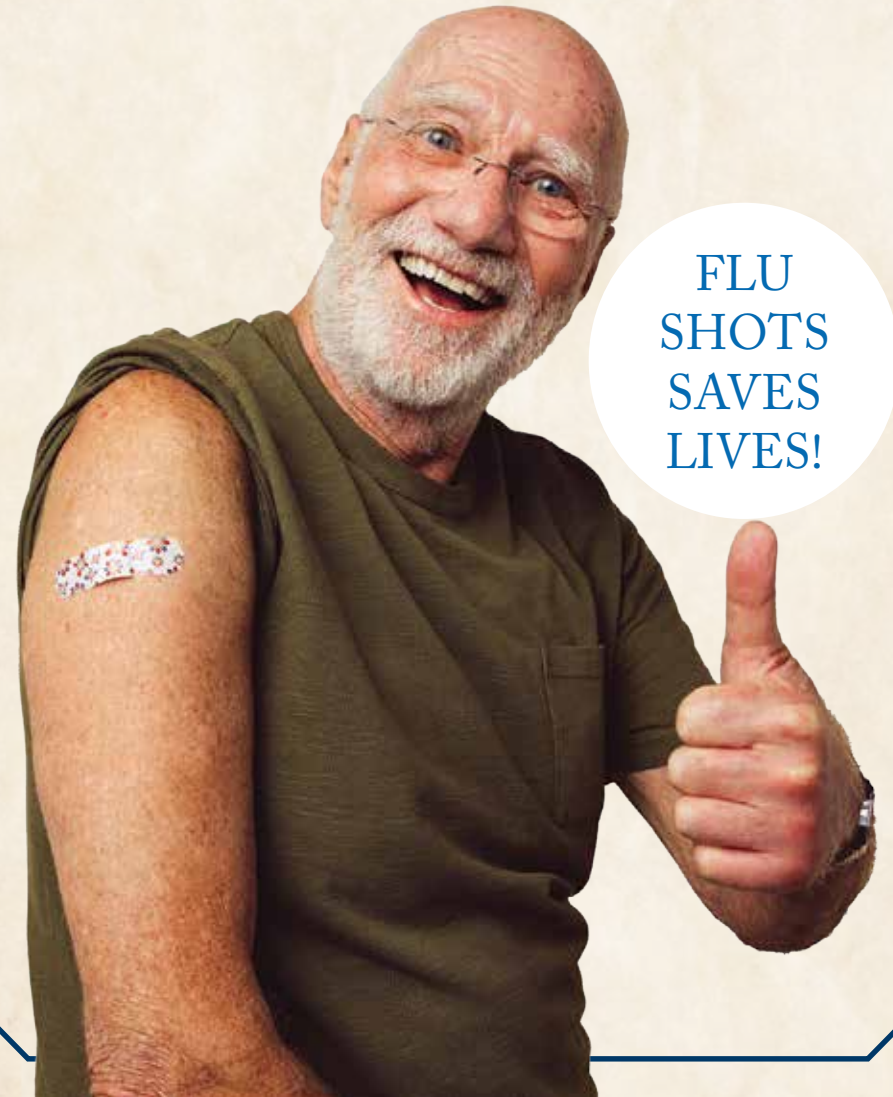
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FROM THE COVER: Kaylinn Smith, Kandi Meinecke and Miranda Meinecke at B&B Marketplace are winners in the Best of Guthrie County poll. Photo by Rich Wicks



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“You’re simply the best. Better than all the rest.”

If you were listening to the radio at all in 1989, you likely heard those words in the song “The Best” by Tina Turner. And, you are likely singing the song to yourself right now. You can thank me — or curse me — later.

But, what does it mean to be “the best”? Certainly, the answer is a matter of opinion. In fact, it is 100% opinion. Even so, being “the best,” by definition, means “excelling above all others in a particular area, offering the greatest advantage or satisfaction.” It often refers to “achieving the highest level of quality or performance compared to others.”

I can’t argue with that.

Many of you are familiar with the acronym SEO, which stands for “search engine optimization.” It is a service

some companies use to help their specific products or services show up higher in internet searches. Some say that’s cheating. In many ways, I tend to agree. A better approach than paying to make your product or service look better is to have a great product or service to begin with and then let it organically rank high in the search engines. In a way, that is what we have done with our Best of Guthrie County readers poll. You can’t buy your way into winning. You have to earn it.

We started the poll last year and had an incredible 471 votes cast from readers in 82 categories. This year, the num-



Shane Goodman

ber grew a whopping 36% to 642 votes. And, we don’t pre-load our poll with suggested answers. Each question requires a fill-in-the-blank response. That makes the process more difficult on our end to tally, but we think it is the only fair and accurate way to conduct a poll such as this.

Also this year, we added an event to formally announce the winners. It was an invitation-only experience with the top-three vote getters in each of our 82 categories invited. We held this formal Best of Guthrie County event at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds on Sept. 9 to a maximum-capacity crowd.

You will find the poll results in this issue of Panora Times and the September issues of Guthrie Center Times and Lake Panorama Times. We will provide links in our twice-weekly Times Vedette

email newsletter, too.

When you get a chance, I ask that you not only congratulate the winners of our 2025 Best of Guthrie County readers’ poll but also seek out their products or services and buy locally whenever you can. Then, you, too, will understand why they are “simply the best.”

Have a great month, and, as always, I thank you for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
Editor and Publisher
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THE BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY 2025

The votes have been tallied. Check out the full results.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest, until your good is better and your better is best.” That quote is generally attributed to Saint Jerome, an early Christian priest and theologian, born in Croatia, who lived approximately 347-419 AD. Although Saint Jerome never had the chance to experience Guthrie County, his perspective matches well with our annual poll to determine the Guthrie County people, places, events and businesses that are voted as best by our readers.

In 2024, we launched our first “Best of Guthrie County” poll, and we were pleased to see a total of 471 votes in the 82 categories listed. The 2025 poll surpassed the initial poll, with 642 votes cast. That represents an increase of more than 36% in votes received, which indicates our readers are becoming more engaged in the poll.

In 2024, and again in 2025, some categories saw a difference of only a very few votes separating the winners from the runners up, so every vote matters. We thank all of you who voted.

There are again 82 categories, but from one year to the next, there may be a few categories added and/or dropped as we refine the poll to match what resonates with our readers. We welcome any feedback on categories to add, exclude or change.

Some categories garnered many votes, while others had relatively few. Categories such as “Camping Spot,” “Barge Service,” “Dance Studio,” and “Dog Boarding Facility” may only apply to a subset of the population, so votes may be lighter in those categories. But, once again, every vote matters.

A concept to keep in mind is that our poll is “a snapshot in time.” In other words, circumstances may change after votes are cast. An individual may move away, or a business may close. But our results show the opinion of the



Nancy Armstrong and Molly Allen are all smiles over the Panora Library’s popularity.

voters during the time the poll was open.

Also, the poll does not hold strictly to the borders of Guthrie County. Communities such as Linden, Stuart and Adair are included, even though all or most of the municipality may actually reside outside Guthrie County.

The results listed show the winners and the runners up. The runners up are listed alphabetically and do NOT represent placement of second or third.

Our results show some repeats from one year to the next, which is to be expected. Some of these repeat honorees in the top three include Tribe Boutique LLC, Crafty’s Coffee & Gifts, Panorama Gardens, and B&B Marketplace.

In some categories, however, new names have shown up in our vote tallies of the top three. Some of the first-timers include The Captain’s Pick, The Color Nook, and Guthrie

County Sheriff Matt Harmann.

In conducting such a poll, it is natural to ask, “What makes something the best?” That is a complicated matter. For example, if asked to name the best burger you ever ate, your response would likely be based on a wide range of factors. How was the burger cooked? What ingredients were added? Where did you eat it? Who were you with? The votes in our “Best of Guthrie County 2025” poll are similarly subjective, so the results are to be seen as opinions, not facts. But, clearly, those listed below have been doing something right, and we applaud them for it.

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CAMPING SPOT

- Springbrook State Park
- Runners Up: Guthrie County Fair

Campgrounds; Nations Bridge Park

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DINNER SPOT

- The Captain’s Pick
- Runners Up: Pioneers Pub & Grub; Prime Time

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ATTORNEY OR LAW FIRM

- Bruner, Bruner, Reinhart & Morton LLP
- Runners Up: Bump & Twillmann LLP; Varley Law Office

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY AUTO PARTS STORE

- NAPA Auto Parts - Panora
- Runners Up: NAPA Auto Parts - Guthrie Automotive; NAPA Auto Parts - Stuart

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY AUTO SERVICE CENTER

- **Panorama Tire**
- Runners Up: Leonard Automotive LLC; M&L Service

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BANK

- **Guthrie County State Bank**
- Runners Up: Farmers State Bank of Yale; Iowa Trust

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BAR

- **The Captain's Pick**
- Runners Up: Owl's Nest; Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BARGE SERVICE

- **Lake Panorama Barge Services**
- Runners Up: Deluxe Docks & Lifts; Van Houten Barge Service

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BARTENDER OR SERVER

- **Max Monthei**
- Runners Up: Amanda Carl; Maddi Lynch

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BOUTIQUE

- **Tribe Boutique LLC**
- Runners Up: B&B Marketplace; Pearls & Lace

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BOWLING ALLEY

- **IncrediBowl**
- Runner Up: Stuart Bowl & Traditions Sports Bar

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CAR WASH

- **All Seasons Car Wash**
- Runners Up: Karl Chevrolet - Stuart; The Washing Machine

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CATERER

- **Café on the Hill**
- Runners Up: Cabbage Rose Restaurant; The Captain's Pick

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- **Panora Chamber of Commerce**
- Runners Up: Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce; Stuart Chamber of Commerce

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CHIROPRACTOR (PERSON)

- **Dr. Josh Calmer**
- Runners Up: Dr. Bailey Schreiber; Dr. Brandon Schreiber

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CHURCH

- **Panora United Methodist Church**
- Runners Up: Faith Bible Church; Hope Lutheran Church, Panora

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COACH

- **Cody Matthewson (ACGC)**
- Runners Up: Aly Dahlhauser (Panorama); Cameron Little (Panorama)



NAPA Auto Parts - Panora was voted Best Guthrie County Auto Parts Store.

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COFFEE SHOP

- **Crafty's Coffee & Gifts**
- Runners Up: B&B Marketplace; The Cup on 2nd

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

- **Panorama Days**
- Runners Up: Guthrie County Fair; Annual Yale 4th of July Celebration

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CPA (PERSON)

- **Lisa Calvert**
- Runners Up: Janet Dickson; Sarah Langgaard

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CUSTOMER SERVICE (OVERALL)

- **Lake Panorama Realty**
- Runners Up: Panora Fiber; The Captain's Pick

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405 E. Clay St., Panama
- FEB. 17** | 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic Church,
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- MAY 19** | 5:30 p.m. Twin Vines Winery,
2821 Hwy 44, Panama
- AUG. 18** | 5:30 p.m. To be determined

- Quarterly meetings
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BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DANCE STUDIO

- Main Street Dance Studios
- Runner Up: Adair Dance Academy

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DAYCARE

- Little Panther Daycare & Preschool
- Runners Up: Exploration & Learning Station, Stuart; Little Charger Early Learning Center

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DENTIST (PERSON)

- Dr. Larry Spray
- Runners Up: Dr. Ames Cross; Dr. Dan Nelson

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DOCTOR (PERSON)

- Dr. Josh Strehle
- Runners Up: Dr. Eric Ash; Dr. Steven Bascom

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DOG BOARDING FACILITY

- Mitzie Rue's Canine Corral
- Runner Up: Guthrie County Veterinary Services

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIAL

- Maggie Armstrong
- Runners Up: Matt Harmann; Steve Smith

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ELECTRICIAN (BUSINESS)

- Powell Electric
- Runners Up: Berger Electric; Miller Plumbing, Heating & Electric

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY EMPLOYER

- Guthrie County Hospital and Clinics
- Runners Up: Guthrie County; Panama Fiber

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ESTHETICIAN (SKIN CARE PROFESSIONAL)

- Lexi Blakely, Sapphire Skin Co & Spa
- Runners Up: Courtney Claussen (Revel Salon & Boutique); Laynie Reeves (Sapphire Skin Co & Spa)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY EYE DOCTOR (PERSON)

- Dr. Cassie Martinson
- Runner Up: Dr. Kyle Stadler

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY FINANCIAL PLANNER

- Dave Grove (Edward Jones, Panama)
- Runners Up: Brandt Gebel (Guthrie County State Bank); Melissa Loest (Edward Jones, Guthrie Center)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY FLORIST

- Panorama Gardens
- Runners Up: B&B Marketplace; Stuart Flowers & Gifts

Congratulations Chris Arganbright,

owner & operator at Bryton Insurance Agency

THANK YOU, GUTHRIE COUNTY!

I am honored to be nominated for Best Insurance Agent in Guthrie County. As an independent agent, I've always believed in putting people first – listening, advising, and protecting what matters most to you and your family. This nomination means so much to me because it comes from the community I am proud to serve. Thank you for your trust, your support and the opportunity to serve you.



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BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY GOLF COURSE

- Lake Panorama National Golf Course
- Runners Up: Guthrie Center Golf Course; Lake Panorama West Golf Course

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY GROCERY STORE

- Hometown Foods (Guthrie Center)
- Runners Up: Hometown Foods (Panora); Hometown Foods (Stuart)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HAIR SALON

- The Color Nook
- Runners Up: HairJesser by Jessica Alsted; Main Street Hair Design

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HAPPY HOUR

- The Captain's Pick
- Runners Up: Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar; Twin Vines

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HARDWARE STORE

- Lake Lumber
- Runners Up: Haver Lumber Company; Tractor Supply Company

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HEALTH CLUB/GYM

- Reshape Fitness Studio
- Runners Up: Active Health Solutions; Guthrie County Hospital Fitness Center

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HOME BUILDER

- Donovan Construction LLC
- Runners Up: Dave Arganbright Home Construction; JRL Builders

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR

- Donovan Construction LLC
- Runners Up: Dave Arganbright Home Construction; Laughery Construction LLC

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HOME PAINTER

- Kunkle Painting
- Runners Up: Baker Painting; Rikken Painting

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HVAC COMPANY

- Doug's Plumbing & Heating Inc.
- Runners Up: Controlled Environments; Miller Plumbing, Heating & Electric

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY INSURANCE AGENT (PERSON)

- Chris Arganbright
- Runners Up: Danielle Yonker; Robert Carr

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LANDSCAPING COMPANY

- Leiferman Outdoor Services
- Runners Up: Lakeside Landscapes; Wood Duck Landscapes

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- ✓ **BEST GC DOCTOR: JOSH STREHLE**
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CLOSER CONNECTIONS



Crafty's Coffee received the most votes for Best Guthrie County Spot for Dessert.

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LAWN CARE BUSINESS

- Keaton Rhoades Lawn Care
- Runners Up: JMJ Groundskeeping; Schwinger Lawn Service, Inc.

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LIBRARY

- Panora Library
- Runners Up: Casey Public Library; Mary J Barnett Memorial Library

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LOCAL BAND OR MUSICIAN

- Dale Menning & the Stardusters
- Runners Up: Jake Kemble; Kile Jackson

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY MASSAGE THERAPIST (PERSON)

- Jade Irlmeier
- Runners Up: Erica Matthies; Rylie Claussen

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY MEXICAN RESTAURANT

- Los Altos, Panora
- Runners Up: Los Altos (Stuart); Orchard Family Restaurant (Guthrie Center)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY NURSERY OR GARDEN CENTER

- Panorama Gardens
- Runner Up: Tractor Supply Company

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PARENT/CHILD DATE SPOT

- Casey Creamery
- Runners Up: Guthrie Center Aquatic Complex; Pedal-In

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PARK

- Springbrook State Park
- Runners Up: Michael Mills Memorial Park (Panora); Mitchell Park (Guthrie Center)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PASTOR (PERSON)

- Pastor Jeremy Poland
- Runners Up: Father Ray Higgins; Pastor Jolene James

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PEST CONTROL COMPANY

- Cyclone Pest Management
- Runner Up: Paul's Pest Control

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PHARMACY

- Dowd Drug
- Runners Up: Medicap (Panora); Wright Pharmacy

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHER

- Betty Cooper
- Runners Up: Mark Reno; Serenity & Bliss Photography

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY FIRST DATE SPOT

- The Captain's Pick
- Runners Up: Prime Time; The Port on Lake Panorama (now closed)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLACE FOR A FIELD TRIP

- Springbrook State Park
- Runners Up: Early Morning Harvest; Guthrie County Historical Village & Museum

LOCAL IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

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- Runners Up: Casey City Park; Guthrie County Veterinary Services

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- **Cameron Little (Panorama)**
- Runners Up: Aly Dahlhauser (Panorama); Bob Bolton (ACGC)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY VEHICLE DETAILING BUSINESS

- **Detailers Eye**
- Runners Up: Collision Concepts Inc.; Karl Chevrolet - Stuart

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- **William Frels**
- Runners Up: Abby Frels; Seth Worthington

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- **Twin Vines**
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- Runners Up: Café on the Hill; The Captain's Pick

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- **The Captain's Pick**
- Runners Up: Pioneers Pub & Grub; Prime Time

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- **Café on the Hill**
- Runners Up: Crafty's Coffee & Gifts; The Sunny Spoon

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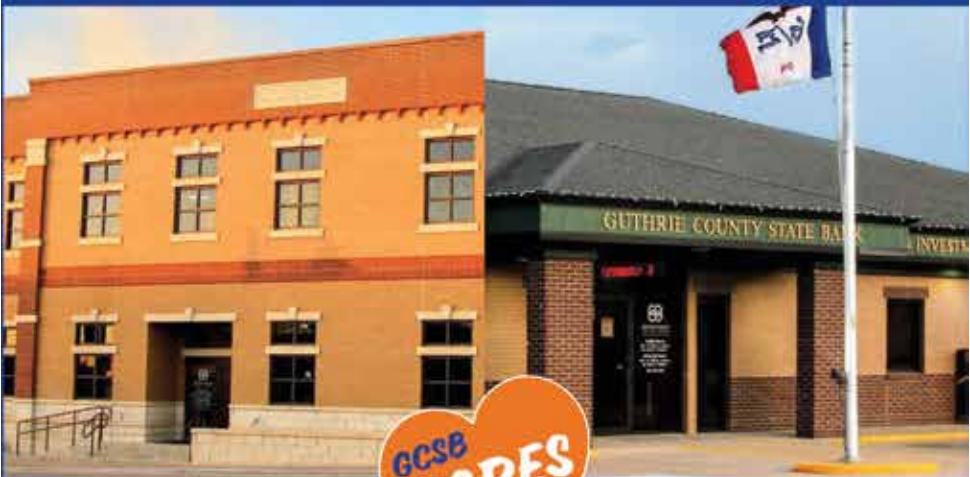
- **Crafty's Coffee & Gifts**
- Runners Up: Casey Creamery; The Captain's Pick

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COLDEST BEER

- **The Captain's Pick**
- Runners Up: Local Liquor; Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar ■



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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

NAKED. FREAKY. RELAY. ROSES. PRINCE.



"The Bad Guys 2"



"The Naked Gun"



"Freakier Friday"



"Weapons"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Panora Times

"THE BAD GUYS 2"

The original "Bad Guys" movie was great fun about a group of animals that robs banks and creates other hijinks. It was funny, smart and different than most kid films. Unfortunately, the sequel is nothing more than a reread of the first film — less the funny, smart and different parts. It appears to be a simple money-grab by the studio. Too bad. **Grade: C**



"THE NAKED GUN"

Liam Neeson taking over the role that Leslie Nielsen made famous back in 1988 sounded risky. Why would they mess with a film that many consider a classic? Will it work? I am happy to report that it not only works, but it works quite well. Plenty of big laughs and crass, off-color jokes. I laughed hard and often at a movie I feared would fail miserably. I was wrong. This is a funny movie. **Grade: B+**



"FREAKIER FRIDAY"

So far, I've reviewed six remakes or sequels and one original film. Here's No. 7. It must be summer. Whoever thought it would be a good idea to get Jamie Lee Curtis and Lyndsey Lohan back together to recreate the crazy hi-jinks of "Freaky Friday" was wrong. Way wrong. The story is dumb, and the jokes are lame. Why these two actresses agreed to this remake is a mystery to me. **Grade: D**



"WEAPONS"

Finally, an original idea and one of the best horror films I've seen in a handful of years. Like most films of the genre, the less I tell you, the more you will enjoy it. I can tell you that it has literally torn up the box office since it opened. "Weapons" is still in theaters, and that is exactly where this movie needs to be seen. And soon. **Grade: A**



"SKETCH"

This is another horror film that had the

misfortune of following in the footsteps of "Weapons," and it suffered because of it. The film was also weakened due to a lack of focus and special effects. It is the story of a child's drawings that are dropped in a "special" lake and somehow come to life. It is too scary for younger kids and not compelling enough for the older ones. Trying to be special to both groups was this movie's downfall. **Grade: B**



"NOBODY 2"

"Nobody 2" brings us back to the tale of a one-man wrecking ball who takes on bad guys and does so with a smile and smart-aleck remarks. Bob Odenkirk reprises his role from the first film, and the action scenes are equally solid. Unfortunately, the story is silly as he takes his family (including wife Connie Nielsen and father Christopher Lloyd) on a vacation to a Branson-like theme park where fights start almost at check in. The action is OK, but there is little to no story line to keep you involved. **Grade: C+**



"HIGHEST 2 LOWEST"

Any time Denzel Washington teams up with director Spike Lee, my level of excitement rises. "Highest 2 Lowest" gives us the story of a record company executive (Washington) whose son has been kidnapped and held for ransom. It is, as you might expect, a tense thriller with a satisfying twist ending. Washington is great, and Spike Lee is at the top of his game. "Highest 2 Lowest" is also director Lee's love letter to the City of New York. **Grade: A**



"EAST OF WALL"

This low-budget, independent film looks at a family living on a horse ranch in South Dakota. Times are tough, and money is short, but the work ethic and the love of their jobs are high. The South Dakota scenery is stunning, and the horse work is excellently filmed. **Grade: B**



"HONEY DON'T"

Ethan Coen wrote and directed this super-dark movie about a series of deaths in



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PANORA TIMES 

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"Sketch"



"Nobody 2"



"Highest 2 Lowest"



"East of Wall"



"Honey Don't"



"Relay"



"The Roses"



"Caught Stealing"

a small town. Coen doesn't skimp on sex or violence and also gives us some of the Coen brothers' quirky humor. It is edgy for sure but not at the level of " Fargo " or their other hits. Still it has its moments.

Grade: C+



"RELAY"

"Relay" is a brilliant film about a woman with company secrets that she intends to turn over to authorities. She is being tracked by "bad guys" but is being assisted through secure "relay phone messaging" that will keep her anonymous and safe. This movie is fantastic from start to finish and as tense as you might expect. Riz Ahmed and Lily James star in this thriller that will



have you guessing all the way to the end.

Grade: A

"THE ROSES"

Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman step into the shoes of Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner from 1989's "War of the Roses." He is an architect, and she is a master chef. Their relationship is strained, to say the least. The movie is a bitter and mean version of the original, and though it does have some humor, it seemed more uncomfortable than necessary. **Grade: C+**



"CAUGHT STEALING"

Austin Butler is a talented actor and knows his way around a fight scene. What happens when the movie is nothing more than one long fight scene and seems to get

more preposterous as it goes along? The answer is, you quit caring. If Butler punches one person, he punches 100 (maybe 200). In the real world, these people don't exist, and this movie wore out its welcome early and often. **Grade: D**



"PRINCE: SIGN O' THE TIMES"

To be able to see this concert film from Prince and the Revolution in an IMAX theater is a real treat. Obviously, the movie was not shot in IMAX, but the soundtrack holds up brilliantly. The movie also showcases not only the musical skills of Prince but also drummer Sheila E, who blows it away. If you get a chance, see this while it is still playing in Waukegan at the IMAX. **Grade: B+**



"Prince: Sign O' The Times"

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



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GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS HEAR ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

AUG. 26 - COUNTY PLAN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, RECENT HEALTH FAIRS

During the Aug. 26 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Health Service Director Jotham Arber provided an update on the status of the county plan for first responders (also known as EMR or emergency medical responders), as a way to improve response and response timing for medical emergencies. He said since Panora and Stuart have ambulance services, the EMR plan is focusing especially on areas where ambulance response time may take longer. Arber said training for EMRs is set to begin.

“On Sept. 3, we’re going to hold our first EMR class through DMACC here

in the county. I currently have six folks signed up,” Arber said. “I have one from Bagley, and I have three from Bayard. I have one from Guthrie Center, and I have one from the Panora area.”

Arber explained that EMRs are to provide basic life support services to stabilize a person in a medical emergency until a higher-level provider can take over. He said new EMRs would go through an orientation period.

“We’ll do a 90-day orientation with all responders that are coming on board with us before we let them out into the world,” Arber said.

Arber said EMRs need to clearly know what they can do — and, just as importantly, what they cannot do — while interacting on the scene of a medical emergency.

“They’re not going to transport

anyone,” Arber said. “They’re going to arrive on the scene to do what they need to do with the backpacks.”

Arber also reported on the success of recent health fairs at local schools. “We’ve done health fairs in Stuart, Panora and Audubon, and we’re going to do one in Guthrie Center Sept. 4,” Arber said. “In total, we have had 252 folks come through the doors between Panora and Stuart. We’ve done 19 haircuts. We’ve given out 79 backpacks. We’ve done 45 dental screenings, and we provided 310 meals.”

County Recorder Tristen Richard shared an update on operations in the recorder’s office. She discussed the various revenue sources for the department and where the funds go.

The supervisors approved the health service agreement between the county and the sheriff’s department (jail) as described by Arber. Su-

pervisor Maggie Armstrong said she is eager to see the expected cost savings under the agreement.

SEPT. 2 - OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong shared information she recently learned regarding possible uses for funds from the opioid settlement.

“Last week, I had a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting,” Armstrong said. “It was really interesting because somebody from Iowa HHS was talking about the Iowa Opioid Settlement dollars. When those dollars are handed down from the federal government, a portion goes to the State of Iowa and a portion goes to the counties. So, the state was actually asking the advisory council to give guidance on ways the state can help fund services around

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PANORA TIMES

www.panoratimes.com

"Hats off to the fair board. They do a really good job," Armstrong said.

"I get appointed to basically work with people through the process," Michael said. "Overall, part of it is making sure people know what their rights are through the process. It can

"I am working with the schools to try to get a 28E agreement drafted that would allow them to all share mental health services," Arber said.

"We've had a pretty steady camping season," he said. "The holiday weekends were really busy. We've seen a lot of activity on the Raccoon

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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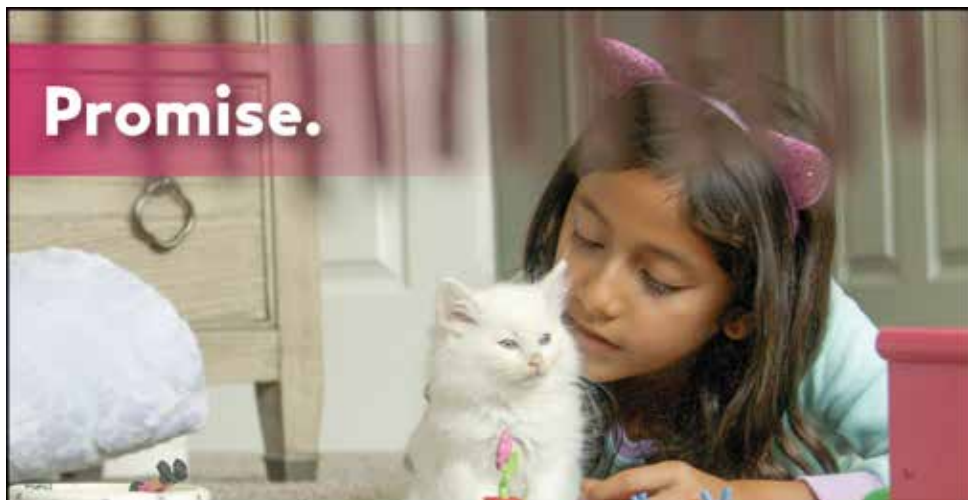
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HEALTH

GCH TO SEEK BIDS FOR CONFERENCE CENTER PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

During the Aug. 28 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, CEO Chris Stipe explained that groundbreaking for the hospital's proposed major construction/expansion plan will likely be delayed until the spring of 2026. He explained the delay is due to waiting for official approval from the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

"Because we're pushing the larger project start date to March, we could go ahead and build the conference center. The reason we would do that is to avoid having trailers (during the larger project). We were going to have the primary care clinic in a trailer," Stipe said.

Stipe said the conference center could be built over the fall/winter, and that space could then be used instead of trailers during the larger project.

"Instead of moving the clinic into a trailer, we would move the clinic into the conference center, and it would be a temporary clinic while we were doing phase one of the construction," Stipe said.

The trustees voted in favor of a resolution to seek bids, not to exceed \$2 million, for the conference center. The board retains the option of rejecting any or all bids.

Stipe also said the hospital plans to schedule "town hall" meetings to share

information with the public regarding the hospital's construction project.

"If there's a lot of interest, maybe we'll do more," he said.

Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson provided a monthly report on finances. He reported on the expected impact of the newly enacted "Big Beautiful Bill" on the Guthrie County Hospital. Johnson said there are two scenarios based on how the measures in the bill are implemented. Johnson said the expected impact is that the hospital would lose out on either \$3 million or half a million dollars over a five-year span.

Stipe explained the timing of the bill's impact on the hospital.

"Both of these scenarios are five-year scenarios that start in 2028 and end in 2033, so you've got a five-year impact," he said.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery said the hospital will be hosting a 5K run/walk event on Oct. 4 along with a health fair.

Because of holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas), the dates on the board's November and December meetings were changed. The November meeting was set for Monday, Dec. 1, and the December meeting was set for Monday, Dec. 29.

The board went into special closed session to discuss two matters.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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PANORA CITY COUNCIL PROHIBITS CAMPING IN CITY PARKS

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

AUG. 25 - PARK HOURS AND CAMPING; COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL FEE; NEW BASKETBALL COURT

At the Aug. 25 regular meeting of the Panora City Council, Councilmember Brian Dorsett led the meeting due to Mayor Curtis Thornberry's absence. The council considered proposed changes to the city's Ordinance 359, relating to park hours and camping. The proposed new wording states, "Camping is not allowed at city parks." The council approved the first reading and waived the second and third readings and voted unanimously in favor of the amendment as proposed. The amended ordinance will be in effect once it has been published in the city's official print publication.

On behalf of the Lions Club, Pat Subbert requested a reduced rental rate for the club's occasional use of the Community Center for fundraiser events. She said the current rate of \$175 is excessive. She told of the many ways the Lions Club has worked to better the community.

Councilmember Mark Sheeder agreed with the good performed by the Lions but objected to setting a precedent.

"There are a lot of good causes, so where do we draw the line?" Sheeder said.

The council discussed possibly creating a rate just for nonprofit organizations.

Councilmember Blake Michelsen pointed out that the council would then need to define "nonprofit," since some groups consider themselves nonprofit but do not have any official verification of that status.

The council chose to address the issue individually for now and voted to approve a \$90 rental fee for the Lions Club.

City Administrator Lisa Grossman said the concrete for the new basketball court has been poured, and lines will be painted when feasible.

SEPT. 8 - WATER/SEWER WORK

During the regular meeting on Sept. 8, the councilmembers had a discussion regarding the Title VI Physical Environment (Utilities Sanitary System, and the Water System) pertaining to the updates 2025 City Code of Ordinances. City Administrator Lisa Grossman and Public Works Director Ismael Galvan highlighted the most significant changes. One area of discussion was private citizens having water/sewer work done that involves the city's right of way.

"The big one that I want to talk about, we don't really have a specific permit. We have an application for work in the right of way," Grossman said. "The fees are \$150 to hook up to the water and the sewer each."

Galvan said he feels those fees are in line with other municipalities in the area.

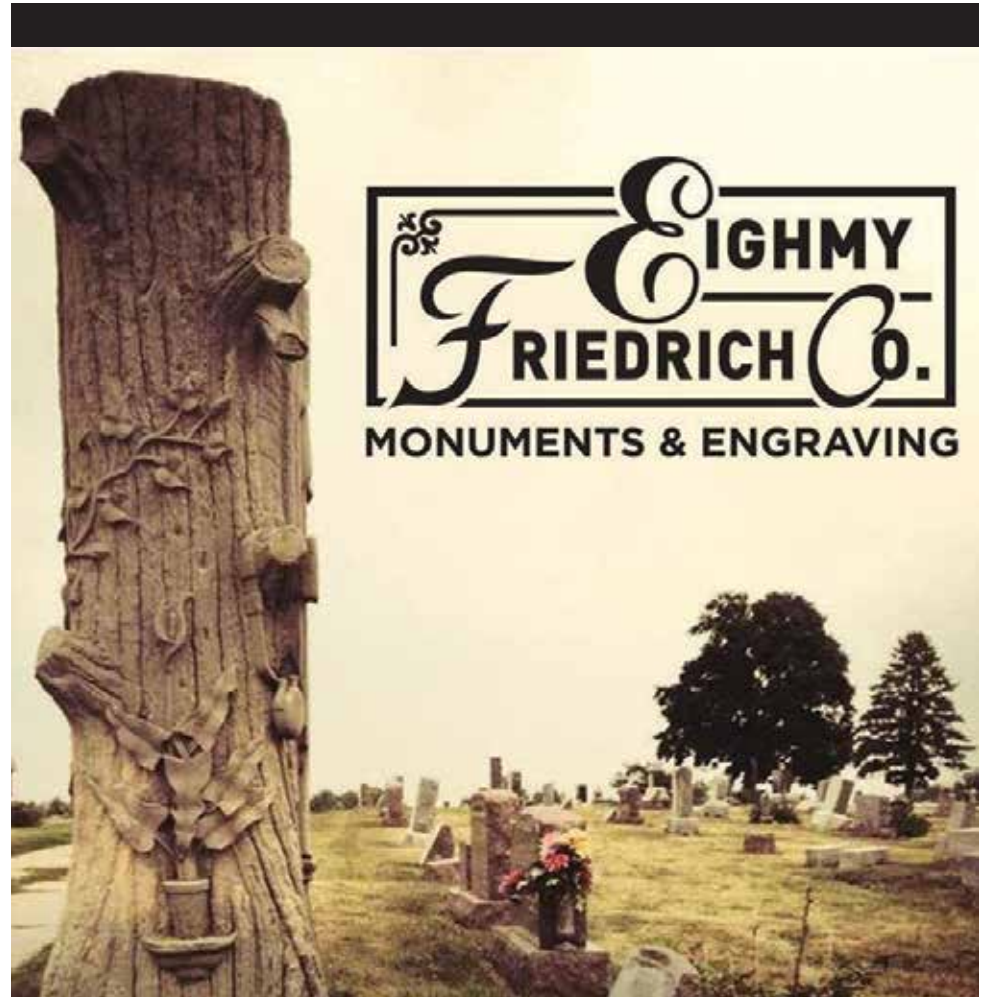
Grossman also said that the city could require an excavation permit and could require a bond from whoever is doing the actual work. That way, if problems arise that impact the city, they could have some options to cover the costs.

After discussion, Grossman said the ordinance could be worded to say the city "may require a bond." She explained this would allow the city some discretion based on the work to be done and the individual or company that would do the work. The council consensus was for Grossman to pursue that wording and bring it to an upcoming council meeting for consideration.

Galvan reported that the city completed the repair on the 12-inch sewer pipe along Highway 44, and the blockage has been cleared. He said the city will now be able to "camera" the area to inspect for any issues.

Grossman reported on progress at Michael Mills Park. She said the basketball court is installed, and the painting of lines is yet to be done.

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, Oct. 13 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Interested persons may attend in person or electronically by visiting the website <https://meet.goto.com/cityofpanora> or by phone 1-312-757-3121 (Access Code 295-099-701, Audio PIN 220#). ■



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The Panthers started their season against ACGC on Thursday, Aug. 28.



Rhaica Spencer and Laicey Lutz run together during the Madrid Cross Country Meet on Sept. 4.



No. 11 Gavin Lindstrom rolls out to pass against ACGC on Thursday, Aug. 28.



Panorama's No. 21 Cruz Crandall threw four passing TDs in the Panthers' 28-22 win over South Hamilton on Sept. 5.



Zach Hayden and Bladyn Wearmouth during the Greene County Invitational on Sept. 11.



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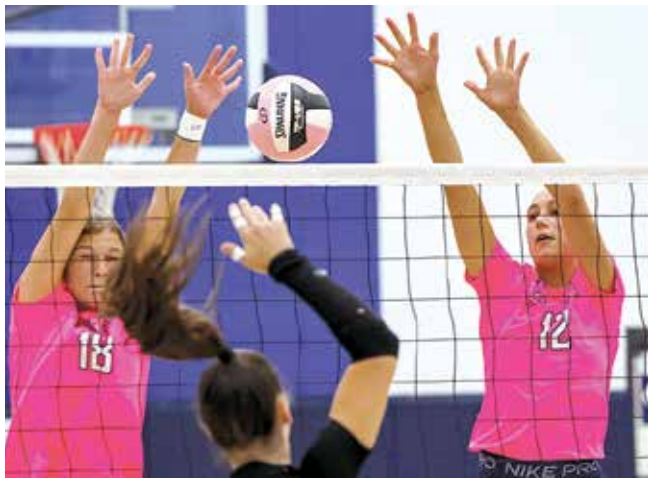
A group of Panorama defenders force a fumble against Earlham on Sept. 12.



No. 4 Gracie Recker tries for the spike, set by No. 3 Nerea Gimeno Perez, against ACGC on Sept. 11.



No. 19 Elah Molloy and No. 7 Evelyn Hummel keep the ball alive during a match against ACGC on Sept. 11.



No. 18 Alexis Olson and No. 12 Ashley Crees rise for the block against an ACGC player on Sept. 11.



A pack of Panthers during the Greene County Invitational on Sept. 11.

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EDUCATION

PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES PURCHASE OF COMPUTER LAB DEVICES

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

The Panorama Community School District Board of Education met in regular session on Sept. 8 with all members present. The board reviewed bids for computer science/CAD lab devices and approved the expenditure of up to \$33,500 for such devices.

The board reviewed and approved contract recommendations and resignations. New contracts included Rodney Huggins (after school shuttle, effective Sept. 30, 2025), Harley Sawyer (elementary paraeducator, effective Sept. 8, 2025) and Josie Baumgartner (elementary paraeducator, effective Sept. 8, 2025).

Resignations included Jauclyn Curry (elementary paraeducator, effective Aug. 28, 2025), Amber Merial (elementary paraeducator, effective Aug. 28, 2025), and Krist West (bus driver/after school shuttle, effective Sept. 27, 2025).

In the Good News portion of the meeting, Coach Greg Thompson noted the cross country teams performed well at Madrid on Sept. 4 with many personal best times. Coach Mollie Lint noted the volleyball team won its home-opener Sept. 2. Football won its home opener against South Hamilton Sept. 5, and FFA member Brooklyn Haines was crowned Guthrie County Fair Queen.

The next regular school board meeting is set for Monday, Oct. 13 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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Panora ASK TIMES



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Q: HOW MANY STOPLIGHTS ARE LOCATED IN GUTHRIE COUNTY?

A: The Iowa DOT says they do not own or operate any traffic signals in Guthrie County. However, Guthrie County does have a blinking red light at the train tracks in Stuart and a few on top of stop signs around the county. If you are curious, Butler County, located in northeast Iowa, is said to be the only Iowa county with no stoplights of any sort — or four-lane roads, a hospital, a movie theater or a fast food chain.

Q: I AM GOING TO BE DIGGING UP SOME PLANTS IN MY YARD. DO I NEED TO CALL THE UTILITIES AND HAVE MARKER FLAGS INSTALLED? AND HOW MUCH NOTICE DO I NEED TO GIVE THEM?

A: Yes, you should always call for utility locates (DIAL 811) prior to doing any digging. And, you should call at least 48 hours (two working days) prior to starting the work.

Q: I HEARD THE FARMERS MARKETS MAY CONTINUE INDOORS IN PANORA. IS THAT TRUE?

A: Yes. Panorama Gardens, 3055 Highway 44, will be holding a Morning Market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Co-owner Landon Loftsgard said they hope to have baked goods, arts and crafts vendors, produce, meats, food trucks, salsa and basically anything that would be at a traditional farmers market. If all goes well, they hope to eventually add live music, too. The Market will start Sept. 27 and plans to run through May 2.

Q: WHAT ARE THESE "CALTROPS" THAT I HEARD THE GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WARNING PEOPLE ABOUT?

A: A caltrop is a spiked device typically made of metal that is designed to impede the movement of vehicles by puncturing tires. Historically used in warfare, caltrops have four spikes arranged so that one always points upward. The Guthrie County Sheriff's Department issued a warning due to an increase in motor vehicle flat tires caused by caltrops apparently being placed on roadways. Anyone who experiences this or has knowledge of the situation is asked to contact the Guthrie County Sheriff's Department at 641-747-2214. ■



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HAVE YOU ‘BIN THERE’ YET?

Like other “bin style” stores, Justin Rockwell’s store uses a pricing system that lowers prices daily each week.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

Bin There is the name of a new store in Panora that combines the fun of “treasure hunting” with the environmentally friendly slogan of “reduce, reuse, recycle.” Owner Justin Rockwell explained how his business came to be.

“My wife, Brandi, started buying and selling online, with Old Soul Millennial, and her business online grew and grew so much that we needed more space. So, she opened in a location in town, and there was still an overflow of product and nowhere to keep it. People donate stuff to us, and we don’t like to tell anybody no,” Rockwell said. “Then, I had the idea of having a bin-style store, so here I am.”

Rockwell noted that the generosity of the community has been impressive, proving that there is a large supply of items that do not yet need to be discarded.

“I’d say 90 to 95% of the items are donated,” Rockwell said. “It gives the locals somewhere to donate stuff, and then it gives the locals somewhere to find affordable things. And, it keeps things out of the landfill.”

Rockwell’s store is located at 111 E. Main in Panora, next to The Color Nook.



ABOVE: Bin There offers clothes at affordable prices. **INSET:** Justin Rockwell invites everyone to see what is available at Bin There in Panora.

When weather conditions allow, some items are placed outside along the sidewalk.

“We’re open Wednesday through Sat-

urday. Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., as of now,” Rockwell said.

Like other “bin style” stores, Rockwell’s

store uses a pricing system that lowers prices daily each week. On Wednesday, all items are \$4, then \$3 on Thursdays, \$2 on Fridays, and \$1 on Saturdays. Be-

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Housewares, décor, books and more at Bin There.

cause of this, customers sometimes play a “waiting game” hoping that a certain item will still be available later in the week. Rockwell said that is part of the fun built into the pricing schedule.

“You’re rummaging through a bin, just kind of digging for treasure. That’s all part of the game. Sometimes it’s ‘you snooze, you lose,’” Rockwell said.

Rockwell occasionally offers additional sales, such as a recent “everything is \$1” sale to celebrate reaching 500 followers on the Bin There Facebook page. Rockwell said the store’s Facebook page is the best place to keep up on any sales or special events.

Housewares and clothing comprise

the majority of the store’s inventory. Rockwell is glad to be able to provide quality items at affordable prices. He pointed out that many children’s items (clothing, toys, furniture) are in nearly new condition but are available simply because a child outgrew them, and he knows some families operate on a tight budget.

Rockwell strives for quick turnover of his inventory, so items that have not been promptly sold are donated and/or recycled, as able.

“Some people say this is like a year-round indoor garage sale, and I say ‘absolutely.’ I have no problem with people thinking of it that way,” Rockwell said. ■

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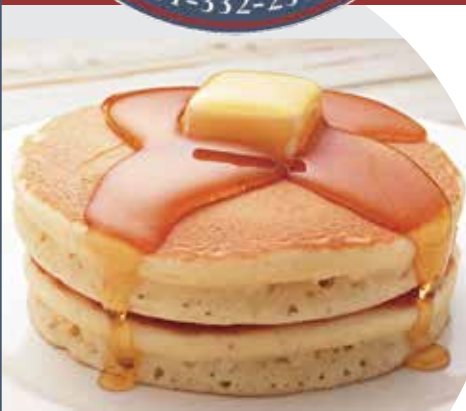


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RECREATION

REPAIRS ON LAKE PANORAMA DAM TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Special to Panora Times

The Lake Panorama Association (LPA) will lower Lake Panorama by approximately 5 feet in October to perform scheduled maintenance on the dam. This follows a routine inspection conducted in December 2024 that revealed wear on hydraulic cylinders that have been in service for 20 years.

LPA management says repairs will include cylinder replacement and other minor improvements to hydraulic lines and the spillway. The Weitz Company, which handled the previous replacement of the dam cylinders, was awarded the contract with engineering support from Shive-Hattery.

LPA Members who own boats, docks and boat lifts were encouraged by LPA to contact their service providers before Labor Day to schedule removal and winterization. While lake use is not prohibited during the drawdown, LPA strongly discourages boating due to exposed underwater hazards. Members who have not yet contacted their service providers are advised to do so immediately.

The lake drawdown will also impact downstream users of the Middle Raccoon River. Beginning Oct. 1, river flow into the Middle Raccoon River will exceed seasonally normal levels. This will continue until the lake has been lowered by 5 feet, which should take 10 to 14 days. Recreational users, especially kayakers and fisherman, are advised to exercise caution during this

time. For questions about safe flow levels and river access points, LPA recommends contacting Guthrie County Conservation for guidance. Guthrie County Conservation manages public entry and exit locations along the river and is a resource on responsible use of the Middle Raccoon River.

Once the cylinder replacement project begins, flow in the Middle Raccoon River will be variable depending on the phase of the project and rainfall that occurs. LPA management says they will continue to discharge water to ensure the minimum required flow will be met, or exceeded, at all times and that they are committed to meeting all Iowa Department of Natural Resources guidelines for minimum outflow to ensure uninterrupted operations for the City of Panora's potable water treatment facility and the protection of aquatic life that exists downstream.

LPA management says the timeline for refilling the lake will depend on rainfall received within Lake Panorama's watershed, noting that they cannot forecast if the lake will freeze at normal pool level or at a lower level. They stated confidence in projecting that the lake will return to full pool level prior to the 2026 boating season. If the lake freezes below normal pool level, LPA says that level will be maintained throughout the winter and until the ice has melted from the lake.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact the LPA Office via email at lpa@lakepanorama.org. ■

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BUSINESS

DREAM ACRES HOUSING IN PANORA RECEIVES \$199,999 WORKFORCE HOUSING TAX CREDIT

Special to Panora Times

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) recently announced \$35.9 million in workforce housing tax credits to support development in 36 counties across the state.

The awards will fund 63 projects expected to create nearly 2,000 new residential units — 1,217 in large communities and 752 in smaller towns.

“When families can find quality, affordable homes, they put down roots — and that gives businesses the steady workforce they need,” Debi Durham, director of IEDA and the Iowa Finance Authority, said. “It’s that kind of stability that keeps our communities strong and our economy moving forward.”

IEDA received 137 applications requesting about \$83 million in tax credits. Of the \$35 million available for fiscal 2026, \$17.5 million was specifically reserved for projects in Iowa’s 88 least-populated counties. Applications were evaluated on readiness, financing, community impact, developer experience and innovation.

Origin Homes, a rural, custom homebuilder that builds in all 99 Iowa counties, has one of the projects with its Dream Acres Housing in Panora, creating five housing units with a total tax credit of \$199,999. Origin is on its fourth year of the Rural Housing Initiative.

“Origin Homes is fortunate to continue to collaborate with so many talented communities across the state and the list of those wanting to partner is growing quickly. Panora’s leaders had their housing studies complete, with single-family home types in mind, and the home lots ready to build,” Matt Daniels, director of operations for Origin Homes, said.

Origin plans to build five ranch homes in Panora’s Dream Acres public-private neighborhood, developed by Panora Fiber. The homes will range from two-three bedrooms, all around 1,400-1,500 square feet with finished and unfinished basements. The homes are three blocks from main street and one block from Panora’s schools and Little Panthers Daycare.

“Right now, we have employers struggling to fill key positions, young families who want to stay but can’t find a home and newcomers ready to join our community — if we can find them homes. Origin has a proven track record across rural Iowa and their initiative is built on collaboration, local insight and long-term vision,” Panora Mayor Curt Thornberry said.

The Workforce Housing Tax Credit program supports projects that redevelop abandoned, vacant or deteriorated properties. For more information about the program, visit iowaeda.com/workforce-housing-tax-credit. ■

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HOBBIES

TERRY TAUSZ KEEPS THE MUSIC ALIVE

Panora resident's collection includes dozens of miniature jukeboxes and two full-size classics.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

The purpose of any museum is to keep something “alive” and available for people to experience in the coming years/decades/centuries. Terry Tausz of Panora is passionate about keeping the classic rock and roll music of the 1950s and 1960s alive, and he has accumulated a massive collection of music records, juke boxes, concert posters and other memorabilia.

Tausz explained that his first collection was sports cards and sports autographs, which he accumulated during his junior high and high school years. Tausz spent much of his life in the Rock Rapids area.

During his working years, Tausz was a teacher and volleyball coach. He is now retired and living in Panora to be closer to his daughter, Michelle Recker, and her family. Terry's wife, Patty, passed away earlier this summer.

As a lifelong fan of early rock and roll music, Tausz gradually began amassing memorabilia from 1950s and 1960s rock and roll performers. His collection now includes records (45s and LPs), band T-shirts, guitars and jukeboxes.

Despite the wide array of music memorabilia Tausz has accumulated, he downplays his collection as just a fun hobby.

“Another guy and I have about 35 signed guitars. Four or five of them are country performers, but the rest are rock and roll,”



Terry Tausz owns two full-size jukeboxes and dozens of miniatures.

Tausz said. “I don’t consider myself to be much of a collector. What I’ve got is pretty much small peanuts compared to some collectors. I tend to be a little choosy about what I buy, and I don’t have enough room

to display all of the things I have.” Tausz also collects posters. “My all-time favorite poster is this Wes Reynolds poster,” Tausz said while holding up the unique poster of the musician.

In the mid-1960s, as rock and roll music was catching on in America, musicians strived to find their niche. Reynolds performed with a band known as The Blood-thirsty Executioners. This may have been

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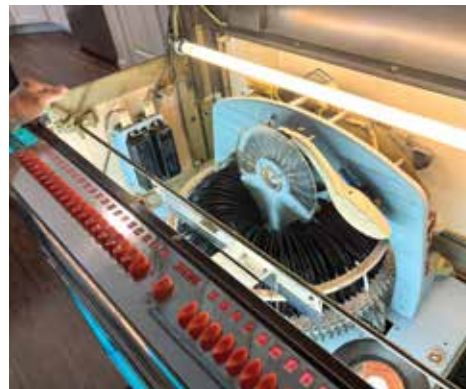
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The Rock-Ola jukebox still works as if it were brand new.



The inside of the 1973 Rock-Ola jukebox is a thing of beauty.



Terry Tausz's Wurlitzer jukebox plays records vertically.



Terry Tausz has a signed poster from a scary-sounding mid-1960s band.

a precursor to performers such as Black Sabbath and Alice Cooper, who later used morbid or demonic imagery and costumes to catch the audience's attention.

Tausz recalled Reynolds' music and stage presence.

"He's like Jerry Lee Lewis. He had a couple of different groups. He had the Bloodthirsty Executioners, and he had the House Rockers," Tausz said. "I guess when he'd play with the Bloodthirsty Executioners, they'd come out in black, with hoods on, looking like they were ready to chop someone's head off."

The most unusual part of Tausz's collection is his jukeboxes. He has dozens of miniature jukeboxes and two full-size

classic jukeboxes. One is a 1968 Wurlitzer Americana, while the other is a 1973 Rock-Ola 450. Both jukeboxes still work, and Tausz aims to keep it that way.

"The advice I've always gotten from two friends who work on these things is, 'Play them, play them, play them,'" he said. "You need to play them all the time, because the longer they sit, the harder it is on them. I try to play mine every day."

The Wurlitzer holds 100 45-rpm records (singles) and plays them vertically, while the Rock-Ola holds 80 and plays them horizontally.

Tausz recalled when his first jukebox needed repair, and he was given the contact information for a gentleman who had

experience doing so. The two became friends and ended up buying a number of vintage jukeboxes, which they would clean, repair and bring back into working order. They would then offer them for sale to others who wanted to have a nostalgic way to hear early rock and roll.

"We sold a lot of jukeboxes," Tausz said.

Tausz has amassed many autographed items, including T-shirts, posters and photos. Many collectors have a "Holy Grail" item that they strive to find. For Tausz, he fulfilled that quest years ago.

"That is the Wes Reynolds poster. It's from about 1965 or 1966," Tausz said. "To me, that was my Holy Grail."

Tausz said he is not actively seeking to

add to his collection, but he occasionally finds something he wants, or friends will give items to him.

Because of his love of classic rock and roll, Tausz was invited by a friend to become a board member for the South Dakota Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Tausz has never been a musician, so he wasn't sure at first if he wanted to accept the offer.

"He had been asking me for about six months when I finally agreed to do it. I finally looked at it as one way that I could help keep the music alive. That was important to me," Tausz said. "I was an active board member from October 2008 to August of 2014. That is a time that I wouldn't trade for anything." ■

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ALENKA KORBAČKOVÁ SMITH

1988-2025

With deep sorrow, we announce that our beloved Alenka passed away far too soon, on June 25, 2025, at the age of 36.

She was born on July 21, 1988, in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. She began preschool in Handlová, where she grew up surrounded by music, dance, mountains and forests. At the age of 15, she moved with her family to the historic town of Trenčín, which became very dear

to her heart and where she always loved to return. For more than 10 years, she devoted herself to piano and dance, both of which accompanied her throughout her childhood and teenage years. Her academic path led her from high school in Handlová, through the Secondary Medical School in Trenčín, and finally to the Catholic University in Ružomberok, where she earned a degree in journalism.

Alenka was full of courage and adventure. Although as a child she could not imagine life outside Slovakia, destiny led her across the ocean. She first traveled to Hawaii as a student with three of her dearest friends through a Work and Travel program. There, fate brought her together with her future husband, and, soon after, their precious daughter Leila was born.

After seven years on the Hawaiian Islands, the family briefly lived in Oregon before settling in the charming town of Panorama, Iowa. Even after her 12-year marriage ended, Alenka remained in Panorama with her beloved daughter, Leila,

creating a home in the little house of her dreams.

Throughout her life, Alenka worked in many corners of Europe and the United States — from Starbucks in London, to McDonald's and Turtle Bay in Hawaii, to The Lake Panorama Pizzeria in Panorama, and finally to Target in Des Moines, where she worked in recent years. Wherever she went, she shared kindness, dedication, humility and joy.

She will be forever remembered for her love of life, her generous heart and, above all, her devotion to her cherished daughter, Leila. She loved the sea — in Italy, where she had traveled since she was a little girl, in Rhodes during her teenage years, and in Hawaii, which became her second home. Alenka knew how to embrace life, no matter how difficult, and faced every challenge with remarkable bravery.

For the past five years, she fought the most aggressive form of cancer and an unseen evil — a battle she endured with extraordinary strength, courage and gratitude for each day.

She is survived by her beloved daughter, her Slovak family — including her parents, sister and godchildren — and her American family — including her ex-husband and his mother — as well as her extended family and many friends in Slovakia and the United States.

Alenka was a loving mother, daughter, sister, godmother, friend, patient partner supporting other cancer patients, and a wonderful person with a sensitive soul and a bright sense of humor. Her passing leaves an emptiness that nothing can ever fill.

The Funeral Service took place on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. with Holy Mass at the Methodist Church, 119 E. Main St., Panorama. A Celebration of Life followed at Crafty's Café Panorama, 102 W. Main St., Panorama, at 3:30 p.m.

Alenka bravely carried the heavy burden of her illness, which ended here on Earth so tragically for all of us. Yet, her spirit remained unbroken. She will live on forever in our memories and hearts.

One day, in another life, we will share a coffee together in Hawaii, orange chicken in Panorama, Caesar salad in Rhodes, Parmesan with balsamic in Lido di Jesolo, fresh bread rolls (rožok) in Bratislava and drink Vinea in Trenčín.

Her light, her laughter and her love will never fade. ■



MARILYN BURNS

1933-2025

Marilyn Ann Burns, daughter of Harry and Lucille (Sawyer) Bingaman, was born Nov. 6, 1933, in Greenfield. She passed away Sunday, Aug. 24, 2025, at the Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center, at the beautiful age of 91.

Marilyn graduated from Greenfield High School in 1951. She then set out for New York and found employment with MaBell Telephone Company. She moved back to Iowa and worked at the Des Moines Annex Post Office, Milwaukee Railroad Agent in the 1960s and for 23 years at the Perry State Bank, Jamaica branch.

Raising her children and grandchildren were the center of Marilyn's life. Her favorite pastime was birdwatching and annual bird counts she and husband Gene would attend every year. They bird banded Kestrels for the National Audubon Society. She loved her work with the genealogy group at the Jamaica Library and many other various community organizations.

She was a member of the Faith Bible Church in Panorama.

Marilyn is survived by her daughters, Chris (Cameron) Sutherland of Yale and Kim (Jeff) Bauer of Bagley and her stepchildren, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by many of her family members including her husband, Gene, and daughter, Hallie Burns.

Funeral services were held at noon on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama, with visitation starting at 10 a.m. until service time. Burial was in the Richland Township Cemetery, rural Guthrie County. ■

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PATRECIA EMLEY

1948-2025

Patrecia Emley, age 76, of Slater, passed away Friday, Aug. 22, at the Israel Family Hospice House.

Patrecia Ann (Hodges) Emley was born at Guthrie Center on Nov. 12, 1948, the eldest daughter of John and LaVaun Hodges. She grew up on a farm near Yale and graduated "Class Valedictorian" from Yale-Jamaica-Bagley Consolidated High School in 1967. Pat was an accomplished musician, active in band and high school state competitions. Her talents went beyond music, attending a ballet school of dance instructed by the internationally renowned Betty Mae Harris in Boone. Pat attended Drake University, majoring in music.

Pat was united in marriage with her high school sweetheart, William Emley, at the "Little Brown Church" in Nashua on March 16, 1968. They made their first home in Long Beach, California, while Will served in the U.S. Navy. She was the proud mother of one son, Troy Matthew.

While Will was serving in the U.S. Navy, Pat found

employment in a clerical position with the County of Los Angeles in the Department of Social Services. She advanced to the position of "Supervisor."

Pat and Will moved to Ames in 1974. While Will attended Iowa State University, Pat found employment as a Budget Analyst with the Ames Laboratory on campus. She was employed with the Ames Laboratory for 40 years, retiring in 2015.

Pat and Will joined the North Grand Church of Christ in 1975. Pat used her God-given talents at the church. She played the piano, organ and keyboard regularly for 39 years.

As a hobby, Pat knit and crocheted. For a few years, she entered many of her creations in the Iowa State Fair, earning a showcase full of ribbons. In 1994, the Iowa State Fair offered the "Fastest Fingers in Iowa" competition. Pat was crowned the very first "Champion." She was the reigning champion for several more years. Later in life, she crocheted hats for babies in hospitals and the annual North Grand Christian Church garage sale.

Pat enjoyed traveling and camping. She and Will traveled all over the United States, exploring historical sites, observing

natural wonders and experiencing regional cultures. They visited most of the national parks in the United States and Canada, and many state parks. She enjoyed the cultural experiences. When the grandchildren were old enough, they became involved in the explorations.

Pat enjoyed retirement, with more time for the activities she wanted to do. She operated her life at the pace she enjoyed.

Mourning the loss of Pat is her husband, Will Emley; son, Troy (Jordan) Emley; grandchildren, Nolen Emley, Elizabeth (Brandon) Venneman and Spencer Emley; brother, Mike (Susan) Hodges; sister, Joy (Alan) Barnhart; and several beloved church sisters, brothers and family friends.

A Celebration of Life service was held at 11 a.m., Friday, Aug. 29 at North Grand Christian Church with a visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the North Grand Christian Church Music Ministry.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.adamssoderstrum.com

Adams Funeral Home in Ames assisted the family with arrangements. ■



PATRICIA KAY TRENT

1937-2025

Patricia Kay Trent, 87, daughter of Carson and Wilma (Howell) Downing, was born Oct. 21, 1937, at home near Monteith. She passed away Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at her home near Monteith.

Patricia graduated from Panora High School in 1955. In 1955, she married William Kinsey, and to this union four children were born: Julie, Trudy, Kathy and Kurt. They made their home on a farm south of Panora. Patricia spent her time raising her children

and being a farm wife. In 1975, Patricia and Bill divorced. On Dec. 31, 1979, she married Merle Trent, enlarging her family with Debra and Sandy Trent. Just five months after they were married, Pat and Merle were caring for Sandy's 6-week old and 2-year old girls while she recovered from a stroke.

Patricia was a cook for congregate meals for a short time following the divorce. Then later, she found her passion as a volunteer for EveryStep Hospice for the past 22 years.

Grandma "Cookie," as she was known to her grandchildren, was always prepared for a visit with cookies. Pat was well known as an excellent baker making hundreds of beautiful wedding cakes and much-loved, cute kid's birthday cakes. Spending time with grandchildren was the greatest joy of her life, putting a huge smile on her face.

She enjoyed time spent with friends playing cards. Many, many people received birthday and anniversary cards from her annually; she rarely missed

one. She also enjoyed spending time with her lifelong friends "The Butt Sisters." When together, it was always a "hoot."

Being outside and tending her garden was important to Pat. She would always say, "Unfortunately, mostly pulling weeds."

She was a member of the Sunshine Club and the Morrisburg Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Julie (Doug) Davis of Panora; Trudy (Ed) Woolman of Stuart; Kathy (Dave) Olson of Delta, Colorado; and Sandy Trent of Waukee; 15 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; brother, Robert Downing of Linden; and sister Jeri Jean (Doyle) Motsick of Panora. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Merle; son, Kurt Kinsey; step-daughter, Debra Trent; and sister-in-law, Mary Lou Downing.

Funeral services were 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Burial was in the West Cemetery, Panora. Visitation was Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. until service time at the funeral home. ■



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50 YEARS AGO



From Guthrie Center Times, Sept. 17, 1975

NEW HAWK. A pleasant addition to the Panora-Linden football team this fall is exchange student Chris Nirode from West Berlin. Nirode, a soccer-style kicker, gives P-L an extra offensive weapon. Last week he kicked a field goal against Dexfield. Holding is Kevin Wood, a sure-handed junior end.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 5, 1985

DONATE RESOURCE BOOKS. Members of the Panora-Linden Future Homemakers of America used proceeds from chili suppers last school year to purchase a set of encyclopedias for the high school. Students and instructor Bette Donahey recently presented the \$800 set to librarian Sally Meixner, seated left, with Sheila Trent, FHA president. Standing are Amy Dove, Tami Wilcoxson, Lory Simmons, Kristi Jorgensen, Daffnie Kemble, Teresa Mills, Laura Moore and Mrs. Donahey.

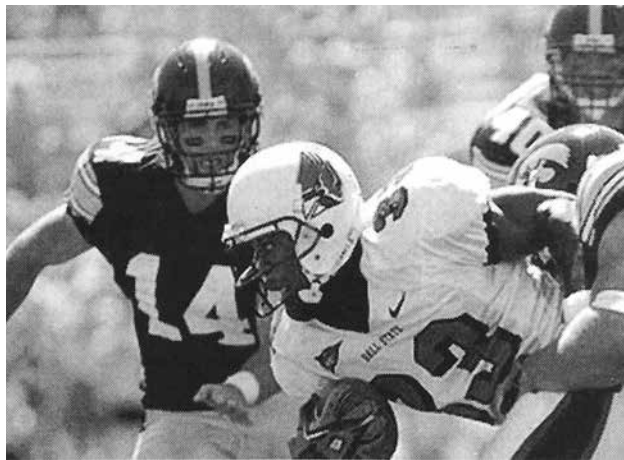
30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 28, 1995

STUDENT CHOICES. Alicia Heiland is crowned Panora Homecoming Queen by King Clifford Jensen during a coronation ceremony at the high school gym Thursday night. They were selected by the student body.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Sept. 7, 2005

TOP HAWK. Former Panora High School prep Devan Moylan (14) races in to help an Iowa teammate bring down a Ball State runner in Iowa City Saturday. Moylan, a strong safety, was the leading tackler for Iowa with four solo stops and one assist. He is a junior who has not red-shirted.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Sept. 10, 2015

SURROUNDED BY WATER. This home located one mile west of Bagley on Highway 141 was surrounded by water after about 7 inches of rain was reported to have fallen in Guthrie County Sunday night.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Aug. 13, 2020

PHS GRAD AWARDED ARCHWAYS GRANT. Taylor Raibikis is a recipient of a \$2,500 grant from the Archways to Opportunities program that McDonald's offers to its employees. Taylor is the daughter of Mike and Kris Raibikis, and a graduate of Panora High School, and is currently attending Buena Vista College. She is working toward a major in music education and a Minor in music performance. She has been working the past three years for Raccoon Valley Partners Inc, a franchise owner of 14 McDonald's locations in the Des Moines metro area and the owner of the Stuart McDonald's location. ■





Nearly 300 people attended the Tori's Angels Gala on Sept. 11.

NEARLY \$200,000 RAISED AT TORI'S ANGELS EVENT

Special to Panora Times

Approximately 300 people attended the 2025 Tori's Angels Gala at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds Event Center on Saturday evening, and close to \$200,000 was raised.

"We want to thank those attending or donating," Julie Dent-Zajicek, CEO and chairman of the organization, said. "We also want to thank the many Tori's Angels volunteers who organized and staged the event. We extend a special thank you to Brian and Melissa Bahrenfuss, who coordinated volunteers from Panorama and ACGC, and worked with members of the Greenfield and Villisca Lions Club who volunteered to help during the event."

Highlights of the evening included a welcome from the first sponsored child and namesake, Tori Heckman, and hearing from two of the sponsored families: Casey and John Wheeler, parents of Everleigh, and Christina DeShaw, mother of Ava.

Barb Bahde was honored for 14 years of service as secretary/treasurer of the foundation. The Greenfield Lions also presented a donation.

Tori's Angels Foundation, founded in 2011, assists Iowa children with life-threatening medical challenges. Benefits

provided include insurance copays and deductibles, prescription medicine approved by insurance, travel expenses associated with treatment including mileage, airfare, lodging and meals.

Each child is supported from date of acceptance to his or her 19th birthday. Tori's Angels has supported 187 children to date. In 2024, the foundation provided benefits in the total amount of \$646,500.

The cost of support has nearly tripled since 2022, and the board has taken several steps to promote sustainability. These steps include working with a consultant on growth strategies, purchasing donor management software to improve donor relations, expanding the footprint with a Des Moines fundraising committee, and the decision to hire an administrative assistant to manage communications and coordination. Anyone interested in the position can email admin@torisangels.org. A job description will soon be available at www.torisangels.org.

"We thank Guthrie County Community Foundation and Ten Squared Men of Guthrie County for grants that will assist with expenses associated with our initiatives to manage growth," Dent-Zajicek said.

More information on Tori's Angels can be found at www.torisangels.org. ■

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SCENES FROM A DAY AT THE 2025 GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

BY SHANE GOODMAN
Panora Times

Another Guthrie County Fair is in the books, but the memories will last for a lifetime. From the midway to the grandstand and the bingo hall to the show barns, fair attendees and participants will remember these experiences for years to come. ■



Oakley Wheatley enjoys a ride on the carousel horse.



Ilana Baumert and her calf.



Riggin Wheatley and Chance Wheatley try their luck at tossing ping pong balls.



Kanion Hacker, Benson Hildebrand and Marcus Hildebrand.



Jack Nesbit, Colton Farrant, Maddox Wirt and Able Wirt found time to toot their own horns at the Guthrie County Fair Sunday evening.



Scott Mineart and Brandon Thomas go head to head in the arm wrestling tournament.

PHOTOS BY SHANE GOODMAN | PANORA TIMES



Tessa Knapp, Khloe Rylie and Natalie Solorzano



Lydia Jorgenson catches a few ducks in the midway games.



Sierra Griggs performed on Sunday evening.



Leah Kastner and her calf.

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RECIPE

CREAMY TOMATO SOUP IS RICH WITH SUN-RIPENED FLAVOR

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Panora Times

There is something special about cooking with ingredients grown from your own backyard. Recently, I was watching our grandson at my daughter and son-in-law’s house. He and I ventured outside to check on their garden and discovered a bumper crop of tomatoes. Since the weather was cool, I decided that a batch of tomato soup for dinner would serve the harvest well. Our grandson, just 8 months old, is already a curious observer in the kitchen. He keeps me company from his high chair, happily armed with a dozen measuring cups to toss and a few snacks to keep

him content. This creamy tomato soup, made with an abundance of fresh-picked tomatoes and a blend of herbs, is rich with sun-ripened flavor. Paired with a golden, melty grilled cheese on homemade sourdough, it was the perfect fall dinner — simple, cozy and made even sweeter by sharing it together with my grandson. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

CREAMY TOMATO SOUP

Total time: 45 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3-4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive or avocado oil
- 2 pounds fresh tomatoes (about 6 large), blanched, skins off and chopped
- 2 cups chicken broth (low sodium preferred)
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 -3/4 cup heavy (whipping) cream
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Salt and pepper, basil, oregano — more of everything than you think



- Pinch of rosemary
- Fresh basil or parsley (optional, for garnish)

Directions

Heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and sauté for about

5 minutes until soft. Add garlic and cook all for 2 more minutes. Add tomatoes and cook for 10 minutes. Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes, uncovered. Stir occasionally. Blend until smooth by using an immersion blender and scooping the mixture into a traditional blender. Return soup to the pan. Add whipping cream and honey and stir. Season with salt, pepper, basil, oregano and other herbs of choice. Simmer for 5 more minutes. Serve immediately. Garnish with fresh basil or parsley. This pairs well with a grilled cheese sandwich on sourdough bread. Enjoy! ■



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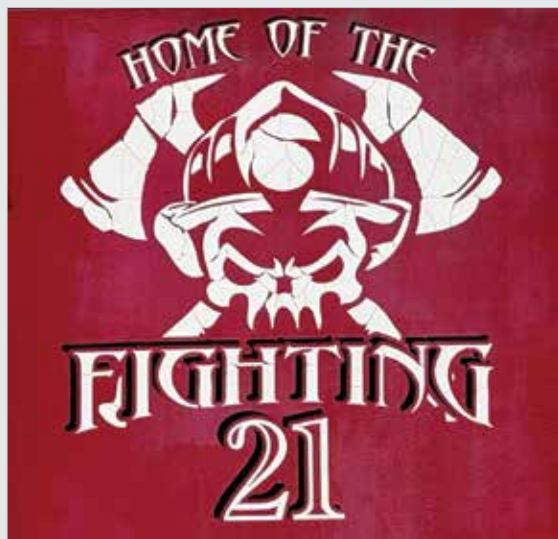




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LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



Lots of correct answers on last month's photo of the unique tree house on the property of Ryan Wambold and Molly Allen at 203 East Market St. Panora. Beth Buttler had the first correct response. Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com. ■

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LINDEN

Linden United Methodist Church

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PANORA

Church Of The Brethren

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www.calvaryraccoon.com
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Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.



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641-755-2227
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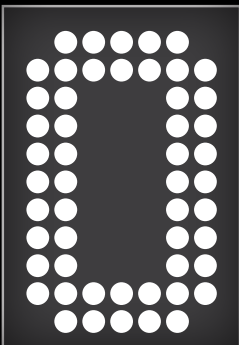
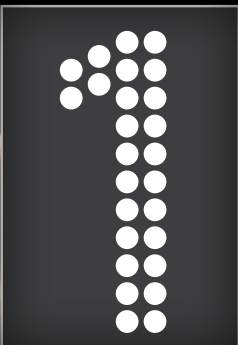
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