

# *Panora* **TIMES**

**DECEMBER 2025**

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## **HOLIDAY RECIPES MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT**

**TRADITIONAL AND FAVORITE EDIBLES  
FOR CHRISTMASTIME — AND ANYTIME**

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PROUDLY SERVES  
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OF HER LIFE AND  
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PEANUT BUTTER  
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THE TEST OF TIME**

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# Presenting the 2025 Grant Recipients from

In 2025, the Guthrie County Community Foundation awarded **OVER \$215,000** to organizations and groups who serve Guthrie County residents.



**Bayard Church of Christ**  
Summer meal program



**Boys and Girls Club of Central Southwest Iowa**  
Updated outdoor play area



**Casey Public Library Betterment Assoc.**  
Library updates



**Coon Rapids Ambulance Department**  
CPR training supplies



**Coon Rapids Fire Department**  
Bunker gear



**Coon Rapids Police Department**  
New AEDs for police vehicles



**Coon Rapids Thomas Rest Haven**  
Updated lighting



**Panora Community Center**  
Updated restrooms



**Friends of the Bayard Public Library**  
New outdoor digital sign



**Friends of the Guthrie Center Library**  
New programs and materials



**Guthrie Center Fire Fighters Association**  
SCBA replacements



**Guthrie County Arts Council**  
Classroom upgrades



**Guthrie County Conservation Board**  
New park signs



**Guthrie County Fair Foundation**  
New showring paving



**Guthrie County First Responders Assoc.**  
New EMS bags

**\$200,000+ is available to be awarded in Guthrie County in 2026**

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

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# the Guthrie County Community Foundation



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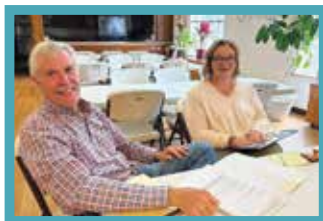
**Stuart Fire Department**  
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Now's the time to submit grant applications for 2026 funds. Funding is available to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and government entities that reside in Guthrie County or serve Guthrie County residents.

**The deadline to apply is midnight, January 31, 2026.**

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



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**FROM THE COVER:** Cheryl Castile shares some of her baked goods. Photo by Rich Wicks



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# A TASTY SPAMWICH HOLIDAY TRADITION

We dedicated our cover story this month to favorite holiday recipes, and why not? The Christmas season wouldn't be complete without the treasured family foods that pop up this time of year. From the elaborate five-course dinners to a simple cookie, most all of us have some connection with a family favorite.

Jolene's family introduced me to a family tradition they served each Christmas Eve. Her mother would make oyster soup and Spamwiches. Yes, Spamwiches — a holiday ritual for the Poraths.

I would have preferred a ribeye, but nobody asked for my opinion. So, I ate oyster soup and Spamwiches with Dean and Lois for a few years.

What exactly was this Spamwich, you ask? Well, to the best of my knowledge, it was chopped-up Spam, pickle relish and cheese toasted on half of a hamburger bun in the oven. At least that was the Porath version. I have to admit, it was delicious. The oyster soup? Not so much.

I recognize some of you may have never tried Spam, and for good reason. My friends who grew up on farms said, if they wanted meat, they got the real thing. For us city kids, though, canned meat was an alternative.

When Jolene and I started our own



Shane Goodman

family, we continued the Spamwich tradition with our kids, and we still serve them each Christmas Eve. The oyster soup has been replaced with a choice of potato soup or broccoli cheese soup, thank goodness.

I wrote about this Spam tradition in the past, and my email in-box was full the next day with favorite Spam recipes from readers. One person even mailed me a Spam coin bank. It was then when I began to understand the Spam-lovers cult. In a conversation with a grocery store manager about Spam, my eyes were opened even more. Just to put this in perspective, more than 44,000 cans of Spam are produced every hour. Hawaiians alone consume approximately 7 million cans of Spam per year. Barack

Obama even admitted he likes it.

Truth be told, I won't be rushing to Hometown Foods to buy Spam anytime soon, but I will continue to enjoy our Spamwiches on Christmas Eve, and I hope you can enjoy a few of your family favorites, too.

Merry Christmas, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
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## Happy Holidays, Neighbors

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# HOLIDAY RECIPES TO MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT

## Traditional and favorite edibles for Christmastime — and anytime

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Throughout recorded history, celebrations and feasting have gone hand in hand. It is deeply ingrained in humanity to enjoy special foods, often in large quantities, during major celebrations. In America, the approximately five-week span from Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's Day is especially noted for sumptuous meals and treats. Below are some local examples of traditional and favorite holiday edibles.

### FRENCH ONION SOUP BY CARLA WOOD

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 pounds onions, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 cup red wine
- 32 ounces reduced-sodium beef broth
- 6 slices French bread
- 6 ounces Gruyere cheese

Melt butter in very large deep pot on medium heat. Add onions; stir to coat. Cover and cook 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft and beginning to brown. Uncover and increase heat to medium-high. Add sugar and cook uncovered 10 minutes, stirring often. Sprinkle with flour; cook one minute. Stir in broth, wine and 1 cup water. Simmer uncovered 5 minutes.

**Notes from the cook:** A handwritten note on this recipe says, "The best ever." Growing up, my mom always had at least two kinds of soup she served on Christmas Eve.

### HAM LOAF OR BALLS BY CARLA WOOD

#### HAM LOAF:

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 pound ground beef

- 1 pound ground ham
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups graham crackers
- 1 cup milk

**Notes from the cook:** Sometimes, I use 2 pounds Fareway ham loaf and 1 pound ground beef.

#### SAUCE:

- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1 cup brown sugar

Mix first six ingredients and shape into loaves or balls. Blend sauce ingredients and pour on top. Bake at 350 F for 1 1/2

to 2 hours. Baste meat with sauce to keep from drying out.

**Notes from the cook:** This is a family request often for holiday meals.

### DRY-CURED GRILLED TRI-TIP BY CARLA WOOD

- 1 1/2 tablespoons kosher salt
  - 1 1/2 teaspoons pepper
  - 1 tablespoon chopped thyme
  - 1 tablespoon chopped marjoram
  - 1 tablespoon chili powder
  - Juice of half lemon
  - 1 tri-tip beef roast, 2 to 2 1/2 pounds
- Combine salt, pepper, thyme, mar-

joram, chili powder and lemon juice in small bowl. Rinse meat and pat dry. Rub spice mixture over meat. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Prepare a medium-hot fire or hear a gas grill to medium. Grill meat, turning frequently, to medium-rare (125 to 130 F). Remove and wrap loosely in foil. Let rest 30 minutes before slicing.

### HOMEMADE PECAN PIE BY CARLA WOOD

- 1 cup corn syrup (light or dark)
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted



Carla Wood surrounded by her holiday cooking.





Carla Wood's holiday traditional Grilled Tri-tip.



Carla Wood's onion soup.

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups pecans
- 1 9-inch pie crust

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place rimmed cookie sheet on center rack while preheating. Mix corn syrup, eggs, sugar, butter and vanilla. Stir in pecans. Pour into pie crust. Place onto cookie sheet and bake 60-70 minutes. Cool two hours. Variation: coarsely chopped walnuts may be substituted for pecans.

#### **DUTCH APPLE PIE** **BY CARLA WOOD**

##### **PIE:**

- 1 homemade or store-bought crust
- 5 1/2 cups peeled and sliced cooking apples
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

##### **TOPPING:**

- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed



Pecan pie and apple pie made by Carla Wood.

- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, room temperature

Preheat oven to 375 F. Fit pie crust into pie plate. In large bowl, mix apples, lemon juice, both sugars, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg. Pile into crust.

Prepare topping: In medium bowl, mix topping ingredients until crumbly. Sprinkle over pie.

Bake 50 minutes.

**Notes from the cook:** This is always served at a holiday meal, with a scoop of cinnamon ice cream. Makes for a divine treat.

#### **SWIRL COOKIES** **BY ILENE OLSON**

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Assorted food coloring

Cream powdered sugar and margarine/butter and vanilla. Add flour and salt; mix



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Carla Wood sets a festive table.

well. On a large sheet of wax paper, press down dough. Make some ridges and valleys in dough, then add food coloring. I make 1 batch red and 1 batch green for Christmas. Knead the food coloring into the dough trying to not make it a solid color but two-tone (a swirl look). Roll into logs about 2 inches around. Chill, then slice about 1/2 inch thick and put on cookie sheet. These do not spread, so you can put them close together. Bake at 350 F for eight to 10 minutes.

**Notes from the cook:** This was a traditional cookie my mom (Bernice Adair) made every year for Christmas, and we have continued the tradition with our children and grandchildren. It is more of a butter or shortbread cookie and is not real sweet. Our kids think they are great with coffee.

### CAKE MIX COOKIES BY ILENE OLSON

- 1 dark chocolate cake mix
- 1/2 cup margarine or butter
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tablespoons water
- 1 cup chips — chocolate or peanut butter or mint

Mix all ingredients together. Chill and roll into balls. This will be a sticky dough. Roll in powdered sugar. Bake at 350 F for nine to 12 minutes.

**Notes from the cook:** I also make this using a lemon cake mix and add white chips or pecans. This is not a large batch, so I usually double it. This makes a very good, soft cookie and freezes very well, so it can be made ahead of time.

We have a family cookie-making day sometime before Christmas, and these are always included in both lemon and chocolate. I get some good-natured complaints because the dough is quite sticky and hands get messy, but they are worth it. They could be made any time of year, but it seems like it is mostly around the holidays

for us.

### EASY PENUCHE ICING BY HELENE CROWL

Melt in sauce pan 1/2 cup butter  
Stir in 1 cup brown sugar (packed)  
Boil and stir over low heat for 2 minutes  
Stir in 1/4 cup milk  
Bring to boil, stirring constantly  
Cool to lukewarm (120 degrees)  
Gradually stir in 1 3/4 to 2 cups powdered sugar.

Place bowl in ice water and stir until thick. Makes enough to spread on two 8-inch or 9-inch layer cakes or a 13x9-inch pan of brownies.

**Notes from the cook:** This was a favorite treat for the members of Panora First Christian Church, not just at Christmas but lots of functions at the church. Helene passed away several years ago, but this recipe was shared by her daughter, Julie Nortin.

### NEVER FAIL PIE CRUST BY ELLEN CAMPBELL

- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup lard
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix lard, milk and 1/2 cup flour and salt. Then add rest of flour. Makes crust for one 9-inch double crust pie or two single-crust pies.

### SOUR CREAM RAISIN PIE BY ELLEN CAMPBELL

- 2 cups raisins
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 3 egg whites

Cook raisins until tender. Then mix in bowl the yolks well beaten. Add sugar, flour and cream. Pour raisins into above mixture and cook until thick. Cool and pour into

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baked pie shell. Place in a 350 F oven and brown meringue. Use the three egg whites for meringue.

**Notes from the cook:** This was a family favorite of the Byron Campbell family from Guthrie Center. It continues to be a family favorite of Tom Campbell, Panora.

**BLUEBERRY JELL-O SALAD**  
**BY LINDA WENDL**

**JELL-O SALAD:**

- 20 ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
- 15 ounce package blueberries, drained (reserve juice)
- 1 cup water
- 6 ounce pkg blackberry Jell-O

**TOPPING:**

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 pint sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Combine pineapple and berry juice to make 1 1/2 cups. Add water, heat to boiling. Stir in Jell-O until dissolved. Add fruit and pour into 9-inch square pan; chill until set. Topping: Cream together cheese, sour cream and sugar. Add nuts. Spread on top. Cut into squares.

**Cook's notes:** Can substitute raspberries for blueberries, and raspberry Jell-O for blackberry Jell-O. This was originally called "congealed fruit," but I changed the name of the recipe.

**SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE**  
**BY LINDA WENDL**

- 5 large sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1 cup toasted pecans

Bake sweet potatoes at 400 F for 1 1/4 hours. Mash sweet potatoes. Combine but-

ter, sugar, eggs, vanilla and milk. Pour into pan. Simmer cream; add brown sugar and dissolve to soft candy stage. Remove from heat. Beat in melted butter and pecans. Pour over potato mixture. Bake at 350 F until hot.

**Notes from the cook:** I usually make this every Thanksgiving or Christmas.

**SUGAR PLUM COOKIES**  
**BY CHERYL CASTILE**

**COOKIES:**

- 1 1/2 cups unsalted butter, softened
  - 3 cups flour
  - 4 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
  - 14 ounces sweetened condensed milk
  - 1 teaspoon edible glitter
  - 1/2 cup sanding sugar
- FROSTING:**
- 3/4 cup vegetable shortening or unsalted butter
  - 2 cups confectioner's sugar
  - 2 teaspoons vanilla
  - 2 tablespoons milk

In large bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Add sweetened condensed milk and beat into butter. Add flour and baking powder. Mix until well incorporated. Cover bowl and chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 325 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

Pour glitter and sanding sugar into shallow bowl for rolling dough into.

Scoop out 1 tablespoon portions of dough. Roll each in glitter/sugar mix. Place each onto cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake 12 minutes.

Remove from oven, cool 2-3 minutes, then transfer to wire rack. When cooled, prepare frosting by beating butter or shortening in large bowl. Add confectioner's sugar one cup at a time, beating well. Beat in the vanilla and milk.

To assemble the cookies, put frosting into a piping bag or use butter knife. Place a dollop of frosting onto bottom of one cookie. Place another cookie bottom onto the frosting and gently press.

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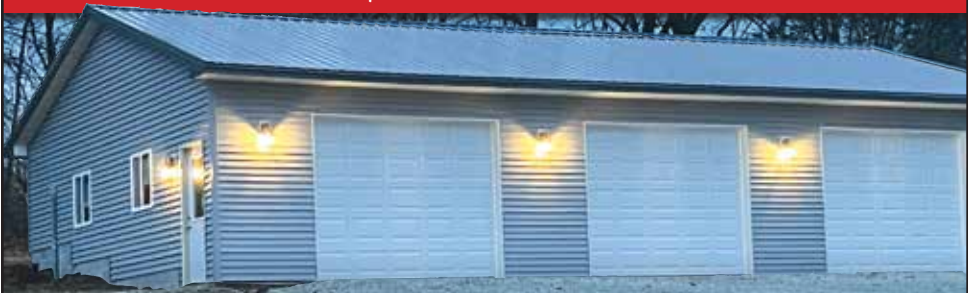
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Cheryl Castile shares some of her baked goods.

**Notes from the cook:** I fill five Christmas cookie jars each Christmas — one for each of my four grandchildren and one for a great-grandson.

**GINGERSNAPS**  
**BY JAN HENDERSON**

- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Cream the shortening, sugar and egg until fluffy. Add molasses, then add dry ingredients. Form into balls the size of walnuts. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 12-15 minutes at 350 F.

**Notes from the cook:** This gingersnaps recipe is an old recipe from back in the late 1940s or early 1950s. My aunt's boyfriend worked at Nabisco, and he brought

the recipe home. My mother and my aunt stayed up all one night making the recipe smaller so it would be family size.

**GRANDMA GIBSON'S OATMEAL COOKIES**

**BY JAN HENDERSON**

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 cups lard
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Cook raisins in a little water until plump. Use some water in the cookie dough. Bake at 400 F until lightly browned.

**Notes from the cook:** This recipe came to me from a friend whose last name was Gibson. ■

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Alida Sarabia of the Chicago area recently donated children’s scarves she crocheted while visiting her son, Tony Sarabia of Panora, to the Children’s Clothing Closet (3C’s). Also pictured to the right are Mary Hamilton and Kathy Mahoney, volunteers at 3C’s.

Special to Panora Times

Alida Sarabia, mother of Tony Sarabia of Panora, was visiting from Chicago. While here, she crocheted more than a dozen children’s scarves that she donated to the Children’s Clothing Closet (3C’s) in Panora. The 3C’s organization relies solely on donations of clothing, bedding, towels and toys for children and families in the area. Cash donations are used to purchase new

underwear and socks. 3C’s continues to be blessed with strong community support. Anyone wishing to donate items may drop them off on Tuesday mornings or call Connie Ridgley at 641-755-2018. 3C’s is located north of the Panora United Methodist Church at 119 E. Main St. “I want the community to know how thankful 3C’s is for all of the support we receive throughout the year,” said Connie Ridgley, who leads 3C’s. ■

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[shane@gctimesnews.com](mailto:shane@gctimesnews.com).



**Q: WHAT YEAR DID THE  
GUTHRIE COUNTY HISTORICAL  
VILLAGE START?**

**A:** The museum started in 1968 with the acquisition of the Panora Depot from the Milwaukee Railroad. The depot was moved 10 blocks to its current location, 4 acres of land that was donated by the City of Panora.

**Q: WHAT IS THE TOTAL  
POPULATION OF GUTHRIE  
COUNTY?**

**A:** As of the 2020 census, the population for the entire county was 10,623. For the communities in the Panora Times coverage area, the population of Panora is listed at 1,091; Yale at 267; Jamaica at 195; Bagley at 233; and Linden, which is in Dallas County, at 200.

**Q: I HEARD THERE ARE MORE  
THAN 25 CEMETERIES IN  
GUTHRIE COUNTY. IS THAT  
TRUE?**

**A:** The county's website, [www.guthriecounty.gov](http://www.guthriecounty.gov), lists 37 cemeteries throughout the county.

**Q: HOW WERE THE CHRISTMAS  
LIGHTS INSTALLED ON THE  
TALL TREE ON THE SQUARE IN  
PANORA?**

**A:** As much as we would like to tell you that that were installed by Santa and his sleigh, that would be a lie. Instead, they were installed by the jolly members of the Panora Fire Department with the use of the crane hoist on the ladder truck as seen in the accompanying photo. ■

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EVENT

MORE THAN 180  
ATTEND BREAKFAST  
WITH SANTA IN PANORA



Oaklie Walker, Brookelyn Dorsett, Macy Peters, Alice Miller and Anna Miller are in the Christmas spirit.

BY SHANE GOODMAN  
*Panora Times*

The Breakfast with Santa and Camp  
Candycane craft events were held on

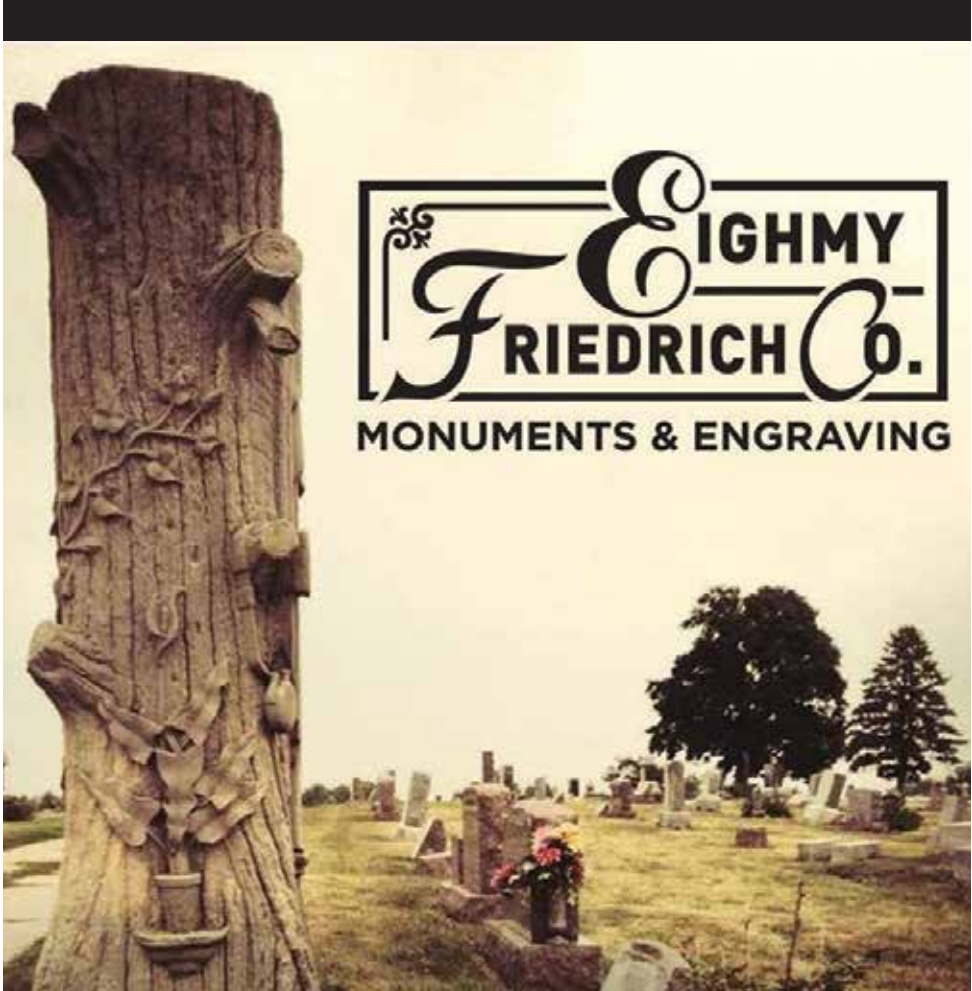
Saturday, Dec. 6 from 8:30-11 a.m. at  
the Panora Community Center. More  
than 180 people came out to see San-  
ta Claus and enjoy some cakes on the  
griddle. ■



**FAR LEFT:**  
Oaklee Long  
takes a moment  
to talk with jolly  
old St. Nick.  
**LEFT:** Larry  
Schick shares his  
Christmas wishes  
with Santa.



Event volunteers Chelsey Miller, Erica Matthies, Ben Hayes, Dave Grove, Dani Fink,  
Amanda Creen and Pam Beardsley.



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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

THE BOSS. FRANKENSTEIN. ANOTHER PREDATOR. NUREMBERG. AND THE RUNNING MAN.



"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere"



"Frankenstein"



"Die My Love"



"Anniversary"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Panora Times*

"SPRINGSTEEN: DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE"

I have never watched the FX series "The Bear," but my wife, Sue, is a huge fan. So, off we trot to see her favorite actor from "The Bear," Jeremy Allen White, take on the mega-star Bruce Springsteen. I am a huge Springsteen fan, especially his album "Nebraska," so I went in with some hesitation. I was blown away by the film and by White's performance as The Boss. His performance will get him at least an Oscar nomination, if not more, for this role. It is one of the year's best films.  
**Grade: A**



"FRANKENSTEIN"

This is quite the transition from "Springsteen" to "Frankenstein," but I'll

try my best. Guillermo Del Toro is a wonderful writer and director and has given us some truly special movies including his dark version of "Pinocchio" and his Oscar-winning film "The Shape of Water." Here, he takes on one, if not the, greatest horror stories of all time — this time as the writer AND director. The film opens with a harrowing shipwreck in icy waters and the escape of something truly horrifying. I wish I had read the original Mary Shelley novel so I could compare the two. The film seems so over the top that I just wonder how many liberties were taken with the original text. I can also admit that Mel Brooke's classic comedy, "Young Frankenstein," ruined this movie for me. Still, it is superbly filmed and extremely well-acted. **Grade: B+**



"DIE MY LOVE"

It is possible that your brow has just

furrowed as to what this film is. I've seen the movie, and mine is still furrowed. It is story of a young couple played by Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson. The cast also includes Sissy Spacek and Nick Nolte. That's why the film is so puzzling. How do you take that great cast and make a movie that is so dark and depressing that the urge to leave was ever-present? Essentially, we watch this woman struggle with postpartum depression for nearly two hours. It is dark, it is depressing and it is well worth skipping. **Grade: D**



"ANNIVERSARY"

This hardly promoted film is full of talent not unlike the old Robert Altman films where everyone is recognizable but you are not sure from where. A large family with many secrets is gathered to celebrate an important anniversary, but trouble is brewing. This film is so reminiscent

of the politics we see on television every day and is a truly damning look at those politics. It is very well made and acted but a little too close to reality for me. Still, it is worth finding. **Grade: B+**



"PREDATOR: BADLANDS"

Yes, another sequel to the far superior Arnold Schwarzenegger film released in 1987. For the first time, a sequel tries something different, and it works — really well. A solo predator is on a planet and being tracked by evil things. When he happens upon a nearly destroyed sentient being (voiced beautifully by Elle Fanning) who is in need of rescue, he steps in to help. She adds a level of context that these films have lacked including, of all things, humor. Who knew that this series needed humor, but it is very en-



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"Predator: Badlands"



"Nuremberg"



"Now You See Me: Now You Don't"



"The Running Man"

tertaining and well worth seeing. **Grade: B+**

### "NUREMBERG"

Admittedly, I might have skipped a few history classes in high school, so this story was fresh to me and, quite frankly, super engaging. The trial to hold the German leadership responsible for the near annihilation of the Jewish people is indeed difficult to watch, but the story-telling and acting are at a level that you will be reminded of when Oscar nominations are announced. Obviously, the subject matter is intense and truly horrifying, but the story is so well told and acted that this will be an easy



pick for my top 10 list this year. **Grade: A**

### "NOW YOU SEE ME: NOW YOU DON'T"

I guess there was a previous sequel to the first film that I must have completely missed in this series, which started in 2013 about a group of magicians who get together to create mayhem and steal things — big things. While I obviously can't speak about the first sequel, I can tell you this one is dead on arrival. They have managed to take the fun and charm of the first film and turn it into action and silly dialogue. It's not a bad movie — just a boring one. **Grade: C**



### "THE RUNNING MAN"

In 1987, Richard Dawson and Arnold Schwarzenegger gave us a futuristic view of a game show where one man has a chance to escape his fate by competing in a deadly game of hide and seek. The action and the humor were wonderful, and I'm happy to tell you they are again in this sequel. Glen Power is excellent in the Schwarzenegger role, and Josh Brolin takes on the role as the baddie with Trumpian flair. The action is fun as Powell turns the tables on Brolin's character, giving the audience both in the film and in the theater someone to cheer for. Director Edgar Wright delivers



the goods as he did in his outstanding film "Baby Driver." This is one to catch in the IMAX if you can. **Grade: A**

I wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons. See you at the movies. ■

*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 DISCUSS EMS AS ESSENTIAL SERVICE

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

**NOV. 25 – SUBDIVISION REQUEST, AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OPENING**

During the Nov. 25 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, a public hearing was set regarding the proposed Calmer Minor Subdivision (29-80-30 near Highway 4).

Chris Whitaker of Region XII explained. “Mr. Calmer requested a minor subdivision of about four acres north off of Highway 4, near Panora,” Whitaker said. “The Planning and Zoning Commission did review this a week or so ago and did recommend approving this.”

The public hearing was set for 9:30 a.m. during the supervisors meeting on Dec. 9.

The supervisors accepted the resignation of Vicki Gubser from the Guthrie County Regional Airport Authority Board.

Those interested in applying to fill the vacancy will be able to access the application form on the county’s website.

The supervisors voted to adopt Resolution 26-13 (Second Appropriation Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026).

**DEC. 2 – PROPERTY SALE, AGENCY ON AGING REPORT, FLU SHOTS**

During the Dec. 2 meeting, County Attorney Dana Minter about the sale of county-owned property to private individuals/entities. She summarized that one of the key factors the county should consider in any potential property sale is weighing the benefits of a sale versus the benefits of continuing to own the property.

“If the board has a piece of property that they would like to dispose of, they put that in a resolution, set a public hearing and allow the public an opportunity

to voice either their agreement or disagreement,” Minter said.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said the supervisors will “do the math” regarding any potential sales to be sure the board makes the decision that is best for the county.

Sandra Jackson from Elderbridge Agency on Aging provided an annual report and discussed the Fiscal Year 2027 county match request. She shared information on funding cuts the agency has faced, including the ending of COVID funds.

“The demand is still there, but our dollars are fewer,” Jackson said.

She requested an increase of 10 cents in the rate paid by the county for services and estimated that would result in about \$1,000 in additional cost to the county annually. No decision was made at this time.

Health Service Director Jotham Arber offered a departmental report. He shared information on the county’s status on

providing immunizations.

“I don’t have our November numbers in here, but we had a lot of November flu shots,” he said.

The supervisors discussed the Guthrie County Airport Authority board vacancy and a possible deadline for interested applicants to fill the vacancy. The supervisors voted to set a deadline of Jan. 2 for applicants. If needed after that date, the supervisors will look into additional ways to find potential airport board members.

**DEC. 9 – EMS PATH, RELAY RACE**

The supervisors held a discussion about the path ahead regarding the possibility of declaring EMS as an essential service. There was discussion that for the matter to be decided by voters, the best options for when to hold such an election would be September or November of 2026 or March of 2027. The September and March options would be a special elec-



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Armstrong said she has safety concerns regarding having a running event

Armstrong also shared her opinion that runners may not become shoppers at the conclusion of such an event, so the retailers may not see the targeted benefit. There was discussion with Dudley about scheduling a different type of event. Supervisor JD Kuster talked of the possibility of having some type of “poker run” in motorized vehicles rather than a running event. He told of the poker run events he has helped with in the past. No vote or formal decision was made at this time.

Panora EMS Director John Delavergne shared that the three services currently

Smith suggested that the supervisors

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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# THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS

PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO PANORAMA TIMES



No. 1 Brayden Prescott looks for the pass against Greene County on Nov. 21.



No. 44 Brayden Galvan leads Panorama in assists with 4.8 per game, pictured here against Greene County on Nov. 21.



**PANORAMA GIRLS WRESTLING:** Back row: Ava Johnson, Addison Wagner. Front row: Emma Walker, Dafne Hernandez.



No. 5 Reed Draper skies for the layup against Greene County on Nov. 21.



No. 11 Cruz Crandall leads Panorama in scoring at 15.3 points per game, pictured here against Greene County on Nov. 21.



Panorama's Caleb Prescott works for the fall during the Dan Christensen Invitational on Friday, Dec. 12.



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Alyssa Hall, Natalie Waltz, Gracie Recker, Miley Nolan and Ella Carico, Laicey Lutz and Cadence Peterson.



No. 14 Lexi Galvan searches for a teammate against Greene County on Nov. 21.



No. 13 Nerea Gimeno Perez drives into the paint against Greene County on Nov. 21.



Panorama's Austin Wagner gets control of his opponent at the West Central Valley quad on Dec. 9.



No. 3 Lydia Lleshi avoids the Greene County defender on Nov. 21.



No. 5 Ines Gimeno-Perez controls the dribble against Greene County on Nov. 21.

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# PANORA CITY COUNCIL REVISITS ISSUE OF HUNTING WITHIN CITY LIMITS

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

**NOV. 24 MEETING - CENTRAL  
PANORA URBAN RENEWAL AREA**

During the regular meeting of the Panora City Council on Nov. 24, the council held a public hearing on the proposed expansion of the Central Panora Urban Renewal Area. “We had our consultation meeting, which nobody attended, and then we had our Planning and Zoning meeting, and the Planning and Zoning Commission was very agreeable to the project,” City Administrator Lisa Grossman said.

The council unanimously approved several resolutions related to the project, including setting a public hearing for Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

**SIDEWALK SALES**

Discussion regarding recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commis-

sion regarding sidewalk sales in the Business Commercial and Historic Business Commercial districts.

“Their recommendation is to continue to allow sidewalk sales, but to limit the time,” Grossman said. She added the recommendation for an allowable time of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The council consensus was to ask Grossman to draft an ordinance change for the council to consider at an upcoming meeting.

**GOOSE HUNTING**

The council considered a request to allow Joey Dyer to hunt Canada geese within city limits on ag zoned land owned by Ethan Boyer. “Are we going to have people coming every week wanting to have permission?” Brian Dorsett asked. “Do we put a limit on it?”

There was discussion about possibly just approving the land owner to “police the issue,” so the city wouldn’t need to make individual approvals for hunters, but Mayor Curt Thorn-

berry voiced his opinion that the city should approve or deny each hunter’s request, since the firearms would be used within city limits. The council approved the request. The council may ask the landowner and/or Police Chief Reising to discuss the issue with the council.

**DEC. 8 MEETING -  
MORE ON GOOSE HUNTING**

During the regular meeting on Dec. 8, the council returned to a previously discussed issue of citizens being allowed to goose hunt on a private property within city limits.

“A number of things have been brought up. I don’t know that anybody’s against it, but I think everybody’s just trying to understand how it works,” Mayor Curt Thornberry said.

Several citizens have been granted approval to hunt geese on a property. Police Chief Matt Reising had been asked to attend and was asked for his input. Reising said he did not have any specific concerns on the issue.

Councilmember Mark Sheeder suggested

that when such approvals are given, it should specify no rifle usage or shotgun slug usage.

Councilmembers voiced concerns that the city and the property owner may not know who could be hunting. After discussion, the council consensus was, for any future such requests, to have the applicable property owner bring any requests to the city for consideration. City Administrator Lisa Grossman will draft a form for such usage in the future.

**MORE ON SIDEWALK SALES**

The council discussed and approved the first reading of Ordinance 360, amending the time-frame of sidewalks sales to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and noted that exceptions could be allowed for special events. The council waived the second and third readings and approved the ordinance.

**WATER EXEMPTION REQUEST**

The council approved the written water exemption request for 2025 Highway 4, Panora, known as the Calmer Minor Subdivision.

## Crawford joins Bryton Insurance Agency, expanding services to include life insurance

Bryton Insurance Agency, 128 W. Main St. in Panora, welcomes Hope Crawford as the newest member of its team. A Panora native, Crawford brings a strong foundation in client service, insurance knowledge and community values to her role as an independent insurance agent.

Crawford graduated from Iowa State University in December 2022 and recently returned to the area after living in Ankeny. Before joining Bryton Insurance, she worked as a recruiter at Grinnell Mutual, where she developed an understanding of the insurance industry and a passion for helping others navigate important life decisions.

With licenses in both personal and life insurance, as well as her associate in general insurance (AINS) designation,

Crawford is well-equipped to guide clients through coverage options with clarity and care. Her addition to the agency marks an exciting milestone — Bryton Insurance is now offering life insurance for the first time, expanding its commitment to comprehensive protection for families and individuals.

Crawford is excited to serve her hometown and surrounding communities, offering personalized insurance solutions with empathy, professionalism and a focus on long-term peace of mind.

Crawford can be reached via email at [hope@brytoninsurance.com](mailto:hope@brytoninsurance.com) or by phone at 641-755-2123.



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HEALTH

# CAROTHERS TO JOIN GCH TRUSTEES

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

During the Dec. 1 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, the trustees voted to appoint Mary Jane Carothers onto the board.

Chief Nursing Officer Mandy Schiefert reported on fire extinguisher training that was recently completed with 62 employees. She also explained the hospital will soon obtain a new ventilator, which she noted will be user-friendly.

"The foundation approved the purchase of a new ventilator," she said. "That is a huge win, not only for our staff, but there are patients who have the capability of doing a bypass, which is not something that we offer right now."

Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson reported that open enrollment for employees recently closed, and that it went well. She added that retention is currently at 89.3%, which is an increase from the previous month's measurement of 85.9%.

Board Chair Mike Underwood asked An-

derson about any ongoing staff vacancies that are particularly challenging.

"Dietician," Anderson said. "It's really hard to find. We're looking for a part-time dietician and for them to be in-house."

CEO Chris Stipe voiced appreciation for the excellent work done at the hospital in all departments.

"It's kind of flattering to be the CEO of a hospital that's in the top 10% in the country in every area that we measure," Stipe said. "I hope that we can continue to be consistent with that."

The board went into a special closed session to discuss two matters: a matter related to the purchase or sale of real estate, and to evaluate the professional competency of an individual.

Because of the Christmas holiday, the next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Monday, Dec. 29 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



Mary Jane Carothers

EDUCATION

# PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES PURCHASES OF VEHICLES, HVAC UNIT

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

At the Dec. 8 meeting of the Panorama School Board, the board unanimously approved the replacement of the Middle School gym rooftop HVAC unit, from Carroll Control, at a cost not to exceed \$32,000.

The board also unanimously approved the purchase of two vehicles. Two Chevrolet Suburbans will be traded in on a 12-passenger van to better accommodate activities. A new pickup will also be purchased for hauling and ag-related events. The total cost of both vehicles, after trade-ins, is not to exceed \$70,000.

Superintendent Kasey Huebner reported on Panorama's status regarding Arti-

ficial Intelligence (AI).

"As a district for the January meeting, we will look at the first draft of an AI policy," Huebner said. "Teachers have been attending AI professional development programs."

In the Good News portion of the meeting, the recent college application day was noted as a success with 90 applications completed. Mark Dorhout reported that middle school classes went out during class time to seed specific areas in the prairie. The high school choir sang at an Iowa Wild hockey game and also sang at the WSO luncheon at Faith Bible Church.

The board's next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 13 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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# IOWA TRUST PROUDLY SERVES THE PANORA AREA

Besides Panora, Iowa Trust Bank has locations in Emmetsburg, Clive and Sac City.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Those new to the Panora area may not realize the long roots that Iowa Trust Bank has in the community. Iowa Trust’s President-Panora and Chief Retail Officer Julie Dent-Zajicek shared information on the history and the offerings the bank provides.

“The bank was originally established in 1959 as Panora State Bank, serving local families, farmers and small businesses. I worked with Panora State Bank since 1991. In 2018, Panora State Bank merged with Iowa Trust & Savings Bank, joining an organization whose values and commitment to community are closely aligned with Panora State Bank. The merger strengthened our ability to provide expanded services while maintaining the trusted local relationships the community had always relied on,” Dent-Zajicek said.

Iowa Trust Bank was founded in 1929. Besides Panora, Iowa Trust Bank has locations in Emmetsburg (headquarters and original location), Clive and Sac City. Services offered include personal and business deposit accounts, lending (agricul-



Iowa Trust Bank is located at 120 E. Main St. in Panora.

tural, mortgage and commercial), treasury management services, and more.

For those unfamiliar with the term “treasury management services,” Dent-Zajicek explained.

“Those are a suite of products that are focused on businesses and the needs of commercial businesses,” she said. “It includes things like access to ACH services, access to QuickBooks, fraud protection

products and things like that.”

Dent-Zajicek pointed out the benefit of Iowa Trust’s multiple branches.

“One of the strengths of Iowa Trust is the way our branches work together as

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### ANNUAL MEETING

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- 12:30 PM: Business meeting and drawings for door prizes





Pam Beardsley, Julie Dent-Zajicek, Angella Losee, Trudy Hastings and Trista Johnston during the recent Panora Holiday Open House event.

one team. If a customer's local branch is busy, staff at another branch step in immediately to help, ensuring quick service and support. It's a true team-first environment, and our customers feel that every day," Dent-Zajicek said. "That collaboration across locations is something we're especially proud of, because it reflects who we are: committed, people-focused and always ready to go the extra mile."

According to Dent-Zajicek, Iowa Trust in Panora offers customers the best of both worlds, blending small-town interactions with a broad range of services.

"In Panora, we have six employees. One of them is part-time. Our customers do see some additional faces because we're fortunate in that some of our retired employees choose to come back and work for us as we need them," Dent-Zajicek said. "The merger was really a good fit for us. What makes us special is the fact that you can help customers on a personal level when you know your customers, but yet you can provide them with all of the same services that they could get at a larger bank. And we want to make sure that we give our employees the skills and the tools they need to provide good service to our customers."

Dent-Zajicek shared that the bank continues to be an active and giving member of the local community.

"We support our local schools, youth programs, economic development efforts," she said.

Dent-Zajicek also stays personally in-

involved in the community, having served on groups such as the Guthrie County Community Foundation, Tori's Angels Foundation, Panora Economic Development Group, Little Panthers Daycare and Preschool, and others.

Although Iowa Trust has no immediate expansion plans at the Panora branch, Dent-Zajicek said the bank continues to bring in new services to keep pace with changes in the banking industry.

One of the major changes in the modern financial world is the prevalence of fraud and scams. Dent-Zajicek said Iowa Trust and her staff are well-versed on helping protect customers from these dangers.

"I really do feel that one of our key responsibilities, not only to protect the bank, but to protect our customers, is educating customers about fraud," Dent-Zajicek said. "Educating and trying to discover potential fraud as quickly as we can. At Iowa Trust, we have hired a fraud specialist. She's available to all of our branches."

Scams continue to evolve in new and creative ways, so Dent-Zajicek encourages customers to rely on known staff when these attempts occur.

"The fraudsters are just really good," Dent-Zajicek said. "One thing I try to tell our customers is that any one of us can be a victim of fraud; it's not something to be embarrassed about. So the best thing you can do is call your bank and talk to the person you know. Make sure you're creating the call, not someone calling to you." ■

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# WENDL'S EARRINGS ARE MEMENTOS OF HER LIFE AND TRAVELS

Panora woman says she owns approximately 170 pairs.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Throughout her adult life, Linda Wendl has enjoyed earrings. She noted that while she never chose to purposely start a collection, she now owns approximately 170 pair, so she admits the term “collection” probably fits.

Wendl recalled when she first started wearing earrings.

“It started when I pierced my ears in high school. I pierced my own. And then, when I got to college, one girl wanted me to pierce her ears, so I did,” Wendl said. “From then on, I’d get knocks on my door at all hours of the night with girls asking if I could pierce their ears. It’s one of those things that I probably shouldn’t have done, but I did.”

Although her method was neither high-tech nor sterile, none of Wendl’s “patients” suffered infection or other problems.

“I used a bar of soap behind their ears, and just a needle and thread, and I would put it into the soap and then pull it through,” she said.

With her ears pierced, Wendl gradually started accumulating earrings that she liked. Many of the items in her collection have been purchased from her travels within the USA and abroad.



Eye-catching earrings bring a smile to Linda Wendl.

“Most of my earrings, I’ve gotten when I travel. They’re fun to buy, and they don’t take up much room, so I’ve got earrings from a lot of different countries, and I have a lot that have been

gifts,” Wendl said. “And, I’ve got seasonal earrings — Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick’s Day.”

As Wendl looked through her assorted earrings, she recalled how, when and

where each was acquired. She showed a few unmatched earrings that have lost their mate, but Wendl has kept the singles for sentimental reasons — and in case the matching earring would show

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"I love turquoise and American Indian jewelry," Wendl said. "I gravitate toward turquoise a lot. Anytime I see someone wearing American Indian jewelry, I notice it right away."

Wendl's collection is all about the memories and meaning behind each pair rather than any monetary value. "Nothing is really valuable; they're just fun," she said.

Over the years, as Wendl's collection grew, she began to need a convenient way to keep them all organized. Luckily, she found an easy solution with a commercial earring display rack.

"When Younkers sold out, they had this display for \$25, so I put this on my dresser with the earrings I wear the most," she said.

When asked to point out her favorite pair of earrings, Wendl said she does not have one. Instead, she simply looks for a pair that matches well with whatever clothes she wears on a certain day.

While the majority of Wendl's earrings are for pierced ears, she showed a few pairs of clip-on earrings, which are among the oldest items in her collection. She said she seldom wears those, because they simply are not comfortable.

"After a while, they pinch," Wendl



Earrings with matching accessories.

said.

Wendl said she doesn't purposely set out to add to her collection, but it just happens naturally. She explained with a smile that a familiar pattern has emerged.

"Every once in a while, I'll go shopping with a friend and I'll realize I forgot to put on earrings, and I'll say, 'Oh, I'll have to buy some... darn.' ■

# EVENT

## A CRISP AND FROSTY TURKEY TROT



Carley Van Gundy, Kylie Doran, Hallie Arganbright and Jaden Johnson commemorate their completion of the Turkey Trot.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Thanksgiving Day dawned with frosty but sunny conditions (18 F) for the sixth

annual Reshape Turkey Trot 3-mile run/walk at Twin Vines Winery. After finishing, participants gathered indoors for muffins, coffee and hot chocolate. A total of 58 participants were involved. ■

# The holidays are coming up

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# TEN SQUARED MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GROUPS DONATE \$36,300 TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

BY SHANE GOODMAN  
*Panora Times*

For the first time, the Ten Squared Men’s and the Ten Squared Women’s groups chose the same organization to donate to, providing combined total contributions of \$36,300 to New Opportunities.

The Ten Squared Men had its final meeting for 2025 on Nov. 18. The three presentations were New Opportunities, Guthrie County Sports, and Guthrie County FFA and 4-H Stable Barn. The group selected New Opportunities, which was presented by Steve Smith. The total gift from the men will be \$21,000. This brings the total giving for the 10 Squared Men for 2025 to \$59,900 and the total since the group began to \$479,650. Any men interested in becoming a part of the group should send an email to [b.monaghan@gcsbank.com](mailto:b.monaghan@gcsbank.com) and request to be added for 2026.

On the same evening, the Ten Squared Women also selected New Opportuni-

ties. The total gift from the women will be \$15,300. No additional information on the Ten Squared Women’s Group was available as of press time. Any women interested in becoming a part of the group should send an email to [10squaredgc@gmail.com](mailto:10squaredgc@gmail.com) and request to be added for 2026.

The two gifts were combined, and a check was presented to New Opportunities Director Rhonda Huggins for \$36,300.

New Opportunities is located at 400 State St. in Guthrie Center. The Family Development Center is the information, application and referral center for all of the income eligible programs offered by New Opportunities to serve families, individuals and elderly people of Guthrie County.

The Guthrie County Family Development Center serves income eligible residents in Guthrie County with back to School Supplies, Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Christmas Gifts for Children, as well as Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), utility crisis assis-



Steve Smith, Kristin Crouthamel, JoAnn Johnson, New Opportunities Director Rhonda Huggins, and Barry Monaghan

tance, weatherization, food pantry, clothing, family development and self-sufficiency program, financial literacy counseling and more.

For more information on New Op-

portunities, call 641-747-3845, ext. 6020 or visit [www.newopp.org/services/outreach/guthrie-county](http://www.newopp.org/services/outreach/guthrie-county). ■



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# OBITUARIES

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



**DONALD L. HAMILTON**  
1939-2025

Donald L. Hamilton, 86, son of Charles and Ruby (Jensen) Hamilton, was born at home on March 13, 1939, in Hampton. He passed away Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at the Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center.

The family moved to Des Moines in 1951, and Don graduated from East High School in 1957. Following high school, he served in the Iowa National Guard. On Sept. 20, 1959, he married Mary Kay Keating, whom he met on a blind date. To this union, three children were born, Connie, Keith and Diane. In 1970, the family moved to Panorama, where Don

was the golf course superintendent at Lake Panorama. He later became the Water Superintendent at Lake Panorama for 21 years. Don retired from Lake Panorama in 2001. He then went to work, part-time, for Twigg Funeral Home until 2018.

Don was a member of the Panora United Methodist Church, where he was Lay leader for more than 40 years, taught Sunday School, worked with youth, was a Lay speaker, and led Bible studies. He enjoyed sharing the Gospel with people of all ages. He was an associate leader with Campus Life Clubs. Don was past president of the Iowa Golf Course Superintendent Association and past member of the American Water Works Association.

He enjoyed fishing and woodworking. All throughout his life, Don enjoyed spending his time helping others, no matter if it was family, friends or strangers. His greatest joy this side of heaven was his wife, Mary Kay. She was not only his wife, but his best friend, counselor and spiritual partner. Don believed when God made angels, he used Mary Kay as a pattern.

Don was very proud of his family. He enjoyed being together for all family gatherings and holiday celebrations. He fondly remembers camping trips, fishing with his children and grandchildren. He was proud of all their achievements in school and their careers.

Don is survived by his wife, Mary Kay Hamilton of Panora; children, Connie (Carroll) Gustin of Panora, Keith (Michelle) Hamilton of Georgia, and Diane (Mark) Smith of Slater; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; brother, Richard (Sue) Hamilton of Indiana; sister, Barbara Nobbman of Tennessee; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; mother and father-in-law; sisters, Crystal Hamilton, Judy Bolton and Linda Porter; sister- and brothers-in-law; and a nephew.

Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, at the Panora United Methodist Church. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery, Panora. Visitation was Dec. 11, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. ■



**CHARLES 'CHUCK' HAWLEY**  
1940-2025

Charles "Chuck" Mason Hawley, 85, son of Merle and Alice (Underwood) Hawley, was born Nov. 7, 1940, in Anamosa. He passed away Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, at his home surrounded by family.

Chuck graduated from Olin High School and Upper Iowa University. On July 20, 1963, he married Karen Manley in Springville. In 1963, he started his teaching career at Mormon Trail, Humeston, for four years. He then went on to teach two years at Wayne of Corydon. In 1969, he started his long career teaching and coaching at Panora-Linden, which later became Panorama

Schools. Along with teaching general science, biology, speech and drama, he coached girls track, softball, cross country and basketball through the years. In 1997, he retired from teaching. Chuck received his school bus driver's license when he was 16 and drove bus for himself and the other students while still in school. He also drove the bus for his teams while he was coaching. Following his retirement from teaching, Chuck would drive the bus for Panorama until 2013.

Chuck enjoyed fishing, hunting, softball, camping, four-wheeling and motorcycle riding. He also was the camp host at Nations Bridge for 15 years. Chuck was an avid St. Louis Cardinal and Iowa Hawkeye fan.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the First Presbyterian Church in Guthrie Center where he served two terms as church Elder and was a very active member. He was a former member of the United Methodist Church. He was also listed in the Who's Who of the Methodist Church.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Karen Hawley of Panora; sons, Todd (Liz) Hawley of

Maryville, Tennessee, and Tim (Rosana) Hawley of Urbandale; daughters, Jyl (Cliff) Willoughby of Roxboro, North Carolinian, and Debra Lemke of Guthrie Center; grandchildren, Emily (Ty) Cramp, Tarah (Gary) Smith, Lou Hawley, Kellyn Hawley, Eryn (Tyler) Moff, Devon (Hannah) Lemke and Lexi (Derek Wilson) Lemke; great-grandchildren, Mason and Kaitlyn Cramp; brother, Dale Hawley of Manhattan, Kansas; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter-in-law, Fran Hawley; sisters, Ruth (Marvin) Clark, Laura Lee (Glen) Thumma, Wilma (Gene) Delancey, Linda (Ken) Gravert and Irene Hawley; brother, Wayne Hawley; and a sister-in-law, Jan Hawley.

Memorial services were at 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church, Guthrie Center. Visitation was one hour prior to the services at the church. Lunch was served following the services at the church.

Twigg Funeral Home, Panora, was entrusted with his services.

Memorials may be left to the First Presbyterian Church, Guthrie Center or to Hospice of the Midwest. ■



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# OBITUARY

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**DALE BETTS**  
1953-2025

Dale Craig Betts was born Oct. 30, 1953, in Richland, Washington, at the U.S. Military Hospital at Camp Hanford to Richard and Lois Betts. Dale was raised on a farm south of Jefferson. He attended Jefferson Community School until graduation in 1972. During his school years, he participated in wrestling, baseball, FFA and 4-H. He earned money doing chores for neighbors and working at a local feed mill while also helping on the family farm. He enjoyed modifying cars and motorcycles. He shared many stories of drag racing with friends and a month-long motorcycle adventure out west with

minimal money and no plan. What an adventure!

Dale met the love of his life, Connie Clause, at Spring Lake and married in 1974 in Grand Junction. They made their home south of Jefferson. Dale continued to help on the family farm and welded at Ideal. Dale and Connie became parents to two children: Alan and Jessi.

In 1981, they moved to their permanent farmstead near Winkleman Switch and began farming on their own. He and Connie worked side by side caring for their livestock and began to start their own row crop farming. Dale continued to use his welding skills at Osmundson and later Scranton Manufacturing while farming. Eventually, he gave up the welding jobs and focused on his own operation. As the years went by, they continued to expand their row crops and cow herd until they eventually had 200 cow calf pairs. Dale took great pride in his cow herd.

Dale always had time for his kids, making sure they learned skills and life lessons that would carry them through their lives. He took time to attend the many activities they were in, and he was the same when he became blessed

with four grandkids. He was a grandpa who made time for them fishing at the river, riding ATVs, teaching them hands-on skills or going to their activities.

Dale passed away Dec. 16, 2025, at the age of 72 years. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Connie; son, Alan Betts (Tanya) of Jefferson; daughter, Jessi Riley (Andy) of Rippey; four grandchildren: Kara Heick (Eric), Cole Betts, Brent Riley and Max Riley; brother, Gary Betts (Alene); sister, Betty Hoyle (Kirby); mother-in-law, Dorothy Clause; in-laws Reg Clause (Mary), Linda Clause (Guy), Mary Ann Haver (Ed), Cindy Stubbs (Mark) and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at Mary Greeley Medical Center, Greene County Medical Center and UnityPoint Hospice for their wonderful care of Dale. Also, thank you to those who have helped our family or reached out during these last three months.

Visitation for Dale Betts was held from 4-6 p.m. on Dec. 22, 2025, in the Greene Room at the Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson. Services by Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home and Cremation Care, Jefferson. ■

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# OBITUARY

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## LILLIEN PAULINE GILSON

1939-2025

Lillian Pauline Gilson, age 86, of Guthrie Center, died on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025, at her home and surrounded by loved ones. She was born on March 30, 1939, in Monteith.

Lillian is known throughout the community for her quiet servant heart and hard work. From baking pies in her busy kitchen to leading considerable fundraising efforts or

serving as a caregiver for many friends and family members who needed an extra hand, she diligently cared for the needs of others and always put them first. She spent her entire life loving those who needed it most.

She will always be remembered for her superior card-playing abilities, her excellent eye for finding just the right piece in tricky puzzles and her great love for children. She had a gentle way of making every child feel valued and treasured, as her lap was always full of children being rocked to sleep, reading a book, doing a craft or playing a game of pretend. As they grew older, she continued her commitment to them by being their biggest cheerleader at sporting events, music concerts, plays and other activities.

Lillian is survived by one sister, Mabel (Mike) Hamling of Granger;

sister-in-law, Jeanie Michaelson of Guthrie Center; daughter, Peggy (John) Byrd and daughter-in-law, Roberta Gilson, all of Guthrie Center; grandchildren, Penny (Kory) Schramm of Johnston, Travis (Karla) Gilson of Grimes and Tara Reed of Guthrie Center; step grandchildren, Lee (Ali) Byrd of Ankeny and John (Kim) Byrd of Bloomfield; 14 great grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews who affectionately referred to her as "Auntie." Lillian is preceded in death by her parents, seven brothers and two sisters, her loving husband of 42 years, John, and her son, Rick.

Because of her love of children and helping those in need, Lillian requested that memorials be directed toward St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. ■

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# YESTER YEARS

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## 50 YEARS AGO



From Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 17, 1975

**GOING FOR TWO.** Panora-Linden's Kim Heiland splits Guthrie Center's defense to flip a shot goalward. From left to right are Guthrie's Judy Sebert, Jenni Webb and Cindy Clark.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Dec. 26, 1985

**THE BUCK STOPPED HERE.** Kendall Kipp of Yale bagged a 16-point buck that weighed 250 pounds while hunting south of Panora Thursday. Kipp reported he was hunting with a party of 11, and all got their deer. Throughout the county, a large number of deer were harvested by hunters during the shotgun season, which ended Friday.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Dec. 7, 1995

**DOZEN VETERANS.** The Panorama wrestling team features 12 letter-winners this year. Front row, Chris Hicks, Troy Wirt, Phillip Keys, Ryan Johnston, Matt Kenney and Jesse Kirk. Back row, Tom Strodthoff, Rob Vogel, Brad Klinkefus, Joe Farley, Casey Bickell and Cody Kirk.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 7, 2005

**A HELPING HAND.** Brianna Hoffman gets some assistance from Nancy Smith as she makes a gift bag at Camp Candy Cane in Panora Saturday. The annual event for children is sponsored by the Panora Chamber of Commerce and held at Vets Auditorium.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Dec. 31, 2015

**SUPER HERO DRILL TEAM.** Panorama drill team members (from left) Morgan Twigg, Kate Wingert and Christin Koch entertain the crowd during halftime of Friday's girls basketball game with a Super Hero performance.

## 5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Dec. 10, 2020

**DOUGLASS DANCES TO TOP SPOT AT STATE EVENT.** Panora High School's Jordan Douglass brought home a first-place finish at the recently completed Iowa State Dance Championships. Douglass, who placed first in her solo competition, continues a streak of first-place finishes for the PHS dance team member at the state tournament. The team won several awards at the recent competition, conducted virtually at the high school because of COVID restrictions. ■





# HOLIDAY RECIPE FAVORITES

BY JOLENE GOODMAN  
Panora Times

As a child, the arrival of the Christmas season meant one thing: weeks of baking treats for every family gathering. Looking back, I am certain that is where my love of baking truly began. The tradition has continued with our own family, becoming one of the most treasured parts of our holiday season.



Jolene Goodman

When our daughters were young, we spent several weekends in December preparing an assortment of goodies to enjoy at home, share with friends, send to the office, and bring to dance, choir and wrestling events. You name it, we brought treats there. The undisputed favorite, though, has been the frosted sugar cookie. And, honestly, they are the most fun to make. We roll out batch after batch, mix up four to six colors of frosting and equip our helpers with plenty of creative tools — sprinkles, candies, sugar crystals and, of course, Red Hots for Santa's and Rudolph's noses. Most everyone joins in. Some family members have even been known to frost a few cookies strictly for their own snacking enjoyment.

Despite all these years of baking, I still have not settled on one "perfect" sugar-cookie recipe. I try a new version every year, which keeps things interesting. Beyond cookies, our holiday platter includes fudge (Shane's favorite), Rus-



Sara Goodman and her grandmother, Lois Porath, spent time baking cookies and other treats at a past Christmas.

sian tea cakes, chocolate-covered pretzels, spritz and almond bark. Our family added peanut butter blossoms, and, sometimes, we throw in chocolate crinkle cookies, snickerdoodles, biscotti, or Rolo pretzels.

While one daughter lives nearby, our other two now reside out of state. Yet, each Christmas — something I consider a true blessing — they all make the trip home. And, without fail, they request a scheduled time to bake cookies together, even if it is only for a few hours. It is not just baking. It is tradition. It is connection. It is home.

Today, I'm sharing two simple recipes that have stood the test of time. The

## FANTASY FUDGE

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups sugar
- ¾ cup butter or margarine
- 1 small can (5 ounces) evaporated milk (about 2/3 cup) (Do not use sweetened condensed milk.)
- 3 packages (4 ounces each) semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow creme
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

### Directions

- Line 9-inch square pan with aluminum foil with ends of foil extending

over sides. Bring sugar, butter and evaporated milk to full rolling boil in 3-quart saucepan on medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook 4 minutes or until candy thermometer reaches 234 F, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

- Add chocolate and marshmallow creme; stir until melted. Add nuts and vanilla; mix well.
- Pour into prepared pan; spread to cover bottom of pan. Cool completely. Use foil handles to lift fudge from pan before cutting into 1-inch squares. ■

## BUTTERSCOTCH PEANUT BUTTER CLUSTERS

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 bag of butterscotch chips (11 ounces)
- 4 cups of corn flakes cereal

### Directions

- In a saucepan, melt butterscotch chips and peanut butter together over medium heat. Remove

pan from stove and add corn flakes. On wax paper, drop by spoonfuls. Chill to harden, or they will harden on their own if left out, but it will take longer. These can be stored in or out of the refrigerator and will keep for three weeks. (I do not refrigerate mine). ■

first is our fail-proof fudge. Just buy the 7-ounce jar of Kraft Jet-Puffed Marshmallow Creme and follow the Fantasy Fudge recipe on the back. It debuted in 1957 and has remained a holiday classic for good reason. My second recipe, Butterscotch Peanut Butter Clusters, is easy and has been on my cookie trays

since childhood. If you love peanut butter and butterscotch, they will quickly become a tradition in your home, too.

Enjoy — and happy baking! ■

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

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# AREA CHURCH GUIDE

▶ SUBMIT CHANGES OR UPDATES TO [SHANE@GCTIMESNEWS.COM](mailto:SHANE@GCTIMESNEWS.COM)

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCHES OR CHECK THEIR WEBSITES FOR HOLIDAY SCHEDULES.

**BAGLEY**  
**Bagley United Methodist Church**  
401 Main Street, PO Box 40  
[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)  
Sunday Service: 11 a.m., Wednesday: 3:45-5:00 pm after school kids program. All school age kids welcome.



**JAMAICA**  
**Jamaica Union Church**  
409 Van Nest St., Jamaica  
Sunday School: 9 a.m., Sunday Service: 10 a.m.




**LINDEN**  
**Linden United Methodist Church**  
106 N. Evans St., Linden




**PANORA**  
**Church Of The Brethren**  
2946 200th Road, Panora  
641-755-3800  
Sunday School: 8:45 a.m., Sunday Service: 10 a.m.




**Calvary Chapel Of The Raccoon River Valley**  
604 E. Main St., Panora  
[www.calvaryraccoon.com](http://www.calvaryraccoon.com)  
641-755-4268  
Sunday service: 10 a.m.



**Faith Bible Church**  
2096 Highway 4, Panora  
[www.fbcpanora.com](http://www.fbcpanora.com)  
641-755-3034  
Sunday Service: 9 am  
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.




**First Christian Church**  
102 E. Church St., Panora  
[www.panorafcc.org](http://www.panorafcc.org)  
641-755-2227  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.




**Fountain of Life Church**  
2322 Wagon Road, Panora  
[www.folcpanora.com](http://www.folcpanora.com)  
641-755-2322  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.




**Lighthouse Assembly of God**  
400 S.E. Third St., Panora  
[www.panoralighthouseassemblyofgod.com](http://www.panoralighthouseassemblyofgod.com)  
641-755-3060  
Sunday School: 9 a.m.,  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.  
Wednesday: Children/Youth 7 p.m.



**Lutheran Church of Hope**  
5405 Chimra Road, Panora  
515-222-1520




**Panora United Methodist Church**  
119 E. Main St., P.O. Box 601, Panora  
[www.panoraumc.org](http://www.panoraumc.org)  
641-755-2655  
Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.



**Saint Cecilia Catholic Church**  
220 N. First St., Panora  
[www.st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com](http://www.st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com)  
641-747-3843  
Catholic Mass: Sunday 8 a.m.;  
Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m.  
Confession: Sunday 7:30 a.m.,  
Wednesday and Thursday 7:45 a.m.  
Adoration: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.



**Saint Thomas Lutheran Church**  
2106 Highway 4, Panora  
<http://panoralutheran.com>  
641-755-2051  
Sunday School /Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.  
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study: Tuesday 11 a.m.



**YALE**  
**Yale Church of Christ**  
304 Lincoln, Yale  
[church-of-christ.org](http://church-of-christ.org)  
641-757-1104 ■





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**HAYES**  
Realtor



*Annie*  
**WORTH**  
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**KEMBLE**  
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# WHERE IS IT?



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

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



Last month's photo of the "Proud to be part of our Panora community" is a sign located at Lake Lumber in Panora. We had several correct submissions but the first one came from Stephanie Davis. Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to [shane@gctimesnews.com](mailto:shane@gctimesnews.com). ■

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## FOR SALE

NEW, (2 BR-2 BA), 14x66, Gas Range, 2-Door Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Walk-In Master Shower. Tub/Shower in 2nd Bath, \$99,900. Delivered, Set, On Your Prepared Lot in Iowa. Coachlight Homes. 1-319-239-1920. (mcn)

## WANT TO BUY

WANT TO BUY your manufactured or mobile home 1990 and newer CENTURY HOMES of OSKALOOSA 641-672-2344 (mcn)

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Inflation is at 40-year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-866-552-0649. (mcn)

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