

Panora TIMES

MAY 2026

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HOOKED ON TRADITION

**GUTHRIE COUNTY ANGLERS OF
ALL AGES REEL IN MEMORIES,
FAMILY TRADITIONS AND
PLENTY OF FISH.**

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**T-DOGG'S BAIT &
TACKLE FILLS NICHE
FOR LOCAL ANGLERS**

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**JOSHUA GOTTER
PUSHES FOR COMMUNITY
SKATE PARK**

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**RHUBARB SEASON
JUST GOT CRISPY**

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FROM THE COVER: Julie Kipp and a 34-inch pike in Minnesota.



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BULLHEADS AND BRUISED EGOS

I was introduced to fishing as a kid by my brother Steve along the riverbanks. At least we called it fishing. We eventually caught some fish — mostly bullheads — but I will get to those aquatic gremlins in a moment.

Our first gear consisted of cane poles strapped to our bicycles as we bumped our way to the river. Later, we upgraded to some of Dad's old rods and reels. To my brother's everlasting frustration, I became remarkably skilled at snagging lines in trees, rocks and underwater obstacles.

We spent hot summer days dreaming about perch, bluegills and sunfish. Instead, we hauled in bullheads — nature's way of proving fish do not need to be attractive to survive. Most fish would not win beauty contests, but bullheads look like they already lost one.

If you have never encountered a bullhead, consider yourself fortunate. The black bullhead is a North American catfish with a square tail and the survival instincts of a cockroach. Also known as fiddleheads, yellowbellies, chuckleheads, mud cats or hornpouts, they will eat practically anything. They thrive in warm, muddy, low-oxygen water that would make other fish file for relocation.

Apparently, there are three types of bullheads — black, brown and yellow. I think we mostly caught black bullheads, the largest and most common species. They live everywhere from muddy rivers to



Shane Goodman

weed-choked ponds, which explains why they always seemed eager to consume our fishing trips.

This hefty olive-green catfish is common throughout Iowa lakes and rivers, especially in slow-moving water. Though not heavily sought by anglers, some people insist bullheads are a delicacy. Those people are far more forgiving than I am.

What I remember most is getting stung repeatedly by their fins while trying to unhook them. Years later, while fishing with my brother Brian, I started using a leather glove to handle bullheads. He still mocks me for it, probably because he enjoys pain more than I do.

For fans of quirky Iowa landmarks, the world's largest bullhead sits in Crystal Lake. The giant fish statue, built in 1958 by Carl Frick and Rush Gabrilson and re-

stored in 2007, stretches 12 feet long atop a pile of rocks. It may be the only bullhead in history people intentionally travel to see.

Thankfully, fishing in Guthrie County is about more than bullheads. It is about some great fish and is a fun activity, certainly, but it is also about slowing down, enjoying nature and spending time with family and friends — even if the fish are ugly and occasionally sting you. ■

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HOOKED ON TRADITION

Guthrie County anglers of all ages reel in memories, family traditions and plenty of fish.

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

Some people fish to catch supper. Some fish to catch something worthy of mounting on the wall. Others fish just for fun. Whatever the goal, fishing is a popular hobby in the area. People of all ages fish in many different ways. Some prefer low-tech, low-effort fishing, while others spend thousands of dollars on high-tech equipment.

Regardless of how or why it is done, fishing is the source of many great stories. Some may be exaggerated, especially regarding “the one that got away.” But most people who enjoy fishing also enjoy talking about fishing, as long as they are not asked to reveal their secret spots.

Here are the stories of some local people who enjoy having a line in the water.

WHITE FAMILY MAKES THE MOST OF SUMMER ON BEAVER LAKE

The White family of rural Yale looks forward to summer for the chance to spend days fishing together. Lee and his daughter, Madi, told their story.

Madi, 12, has been fishing for two years. “My grandpa took me fishing when I was about 10 and I kind of liked it,” she said. “Now, in the summers, we usually go a few times a month. We usually go on a boat.”

With the school year about to wrap up, Lee and Madi are eager to get out fishing soon.

“We do a little lake fishing. There’s a lake down by Dexter that we go to, Beaver Lake,” Lee said. “They stock that lake, so the fishing is pretty good.”

Madi noted that her older sister fishes occasionally, too. The family often practices catch-and-release fishing but sometimes eats the catch. Naturally, siblings can be competitive in almost everything, and some good-natured teasing is to be expected. When asked for a favorite funny moment while fishing, Madi grinned and



Twelve-year-old Madi White enjoys fishing.

held her fingers a few inches apart.

“My sister one time caught a really small fish,” she said.

As most fishing fans know, bigger fish may be entertaining to catch, but they do not always make the best meal.

“I like eating crappies best,” Madi said.

Madi has learned to deal with the random nature of fishing and does not let slow stretches get her down.

“One time, everybody was catching fish except me, so that was kind of funny,” Madi said.

But Lee pointed out that it all evens out in the end.

“It’s been the other way around, too, when Dad wasn’t catching fish, but you did,” he said.

Madi has already learned a lot and honed her fishing techniques. Asked to describe a favorite catch, she described

landing a big bass while fishing in Des Moines last year.

“When I first started fishing, I always used live bait,” she said.

Madi explained that she now often uses a “Texas rig,” an artificial worm with the hook partially stuck into the worm body to reduce snags. She has caught several large bass on that setup. Madi is considering joining the Panorama fishing team.

GAYNOR FAMILY FISHES FREQUENTLY

The Gaynor family of Panora includes Crystal, Joseph and their son, Lucas. Lucas and Joseph have done a lot of fishing together. Lucas, 11 and in fifth grade, recalled being introduced to fishing at a young age.

“As soon as I could walk,” he said.

For her part, Crystal now enjoys



Madi White shows a bass she caught.

coming along when the family goes fishing, but she no longer puts a line in the water.

“I used to fish when I was a little girl,



Lucas Gaynor displays a whopper catfish he hauled in.



Joseph Gaynor shows a big catfish.



Lucas Gaynor caught this catfish at the marina.

but I won't touch the worm now," she said.

Much of Lucas and Joseph's fishing is done at the marina. But the spot is certainly no secret, since it is also the setting for a Panorama Days tradition.

"They do the fishing derby right here every year. They usually have about 100 kids or more," Joseph said.

Lucas has participated in the annual fishing derby and plans to do so again. At last year's derby, he won a trophy.

Lucas shared a favorite story from

fishing with his dad.

"My dad and I were on a kayak, and my dad saw a huge carp sitting under a boat lift, and he dropped his worm down there and caught it. It took a while to bring it in," Lucas said.

When the weather is too cold for fishing, Lucas finds another way to enjoy the hobby.

"I do like making my own lures for fly fishing sometimes," Lucas said.

Lucas' mother, Crystal, explained that Lucas has even sold some of his

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Julie Kipp with a 36-inch pike in Minnesota.

handmade lures at craft shows during the winter months.

"They went really quick," she said.

Lucas enjoys the variety of fish he has caught, but he has a favorite species.

"Probably a bass, but catfish are really fun, too, because they get so big," he said.

Everyone who fishes eventually gets poked with a sharp hook from time to time. Lucas has already learned to take those moments in stride.

"He had a whole tacklebox hanging off his finger the other day," Joseph said. "We had to pull a treble hook out of his finger with a pair of needle-nose pliers. It took me three tries to get the treble hook out of his finger."

But for the family, the good fishing times definitely outweigh the bad moments.

"We've had pretty good luck out here. We enjoy the lake, and it's pretty peaceful," Joseph said.

FISHING WITH KIDS DOUBLES THE FUN

Julie Kipp of Yale has enjoyed fish-

ing all her life. But many of her favorite fishing stories focus on the fun times spent with loved ones even more than on what was actually caught that day.

"I caught my very first fish when I was 5 years old at Bays Branch. It was a little catfish, and I learned right away as I reeled it up, I let go of the reel handle, and it plopped right back in the



Julie Kipp's great-niece Evelyn Slater has caught the fishing bug.

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Julie Kipp holds a 36-inch pike in Minnesota.

water. And my brothers were yelling to tell me not to let go. I did that like three times before I figured out not to let go of that.

"As a kid we fished at Bays Branch and Springbrook and some Guthrie County farm ponds," Kipp said. "As I got older, I've done a lot of fishing with my husband, Kevin."

Together, the pair has fished at many ponds in Guthrie and surrounding counties.

"We've gone to Clear Lake several times, muskie fishing," Kipp said. "And my husband's family has been fishing at Lake Winnibigoshish in northern Minnesota since he was like 12," Kipp said. "So I started going when we got married, and we've been married 38 years, and we've been up there almost every year. I absolutely love it."

Kipp said she fishes with others, too. "Besides fishing with my husband, I love to fish with my brother, Raymond Springer, and also my sister, Deb Jensen," Kipp said. "Then, we have multiple nieces and nephews we've fished with, also."

She recalled one of her favorite

memories.

"I took my great-niece, Evelyn, fishing. It was the very first time she'd ever gone fishing," Kipp said. "Her very first fish was a 5-pound catfish, and she was just so thrilled. It probably took her 15 minutes to get it up to the shore. She wanted to hold that fish and wanted me to take her picture, and she wanted me to immediately send it to family members. That was really special."

Most anyone who has fished often has experienced when the fish simply are not biting. At other times, it becomes a feeding frenzy.

"On really good days, I'm always saying thanks to the fishing gods, because when they're smiling down, you can have tremendous days," Kipp said.

Kipp also has learned to trust a pocket calendar that tracks when good fishing is expected based on the phases of the moon, which create different tidal pulls on bodies of water.

"I carry my Prime Times pocket calendar with me at all times. One of my best days ever just happened to fall on my birthday. My husband asked what

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f Cafe on the Hill

I wanted to do for my birthday, and I said I wanted to go to Lake Panorama and go fishing," Kipp said. "We ended up taking our nephew, Walker, and our niece, Heidi, with us."

Kipp said that day, as they searched for a place to fish, the fish-finder device indicated a spot with many fish clustered together, so they tried their luck in that area and at the appropriate depth.

"They were all channel cats, just stacked in there. So, we caught fish after fish after fish. The kids just had a ball. One after the other. It was so much fun," Kipp said.

Many who enjoy fishing have painful stories of a big fish that got away at the last moment. But Kipp has a story with the exact opposite ending. While fishing for perch, she suddenly hooked something that was obviously larger than a perch.

"It was a northern pike, and I got him right up by the boat and he jumped out of the water, thrashing, trying to get free, and he actually jumped right into the boat," she said.

WHERE TO FISH IN GUTHRIE COUNTY

Guthrie County Conservation Director Brad Halterman and Conservation Officer Jeremy King shared information about fishing opportunities in Guthrie County.

"In Guthrie County, the Middle Raccoon River is excellent fishing. Bass, walleye, crappie, bluegill and catfish are all popular fish being caught. The South Raccoon River is also a popular fishing area. Catfish are the main fish sought in the South Raccoon," Halterman said.

Halterman said the easiest way to get a fishing license is through the Go-OutdoorsIA app, which also includes fishing regulations, weekly fishing reports, fishing atlases and information

about fish species.

He noted anglers are responsible for knowing and following all applicable regulations, including catch limits and catch-and-release areas.

King said the Middle Raccoon River is one of the county's most significant fishing resources and can be divided into three sections: the area running through Whiterock Conservancy and Springbrook State Park, Lake Panorama and the river below the lake.

"Springbrook Park and Springbrook Lake is one of the more popular areas with public access," King said. "It's a relatively small lake, but it's a pretty lake, and water clarity is pretty good most of the year."

King said a type of lily pad introduced about a decade ago helped improve water quality and fishing conditions.

"Anytime you have cleaner water, you have more vegetation growth, which is very important to any body of water," he said. "It provides oxygen and provides cover and food for little fish and helps curtail shoreline erosion."

King said the main fish species at Springbrook include crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass and catfish, although catfish are caught less frequently.

"The bluegill population in there is pretty darn good," he said.

King noted that every body of water has its own characteristics, which can determine the best fishing practices.

"For Lake Panorama, obviously, you have to have legal access to that body of water if you want to put a vessel on the lake," King said. "The crappies start spawning in mid-May. Lake Panorama has a very high population of crappies, so I encourage everybody, if they like to eat fish, to take their limit out every chance they get. That will free up a lot of food for other fish so they can grow up and get larger. ■"

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PHOTOS BY ROGER DORR AND RICH WICKS

Panora Times

On Wednesday, May 13, an event was held at the Freedom Rock in Guthrie Center for area law enforcement officers. Remarks were given by local and state elected officials. The event was coordinated by the Guthrie County Chaplains. ■



Area elected officials pose in front of Freedom Rock.

COMMUNITY

JENNIFER HEWITT MEMORIAL ART AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Special to Panora Times

The Guthrie County Arts Council announced its 2026 Jennifer Hewitt Memorial Art Awards.

- From ACGC, Alex Doherty, daughter of Frank and Megan Doherty.
- From Coon Rapids-Bayard, Em Sigler, daughter of Kelly and John Sigler.
- From Panorama, Karleen Ploeger, daughter of Tony and Robyn Ploeger.

- From West Central Valley, Shadow Mae Doherty, daughter of Jodi and Bill Doherty.

The Guthrie County Arts Council's Jennifer Hewitt Memorial Art Awards are presented annually to outstanding graduating senior art students in Guthrie County school districts. The awards are in memory of Jennifer Hewitt who supported the vision and mission of the Guthrie County Arts Council as a member, artist, volunteer, president, event coordinator, teacher, mentor and friend. ■

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DRAMA, MARIO, TUSCANY, NORMAL AND THE MUMMY



"The Drama"



"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie"



"You and Me & Tuscany"



"Normal"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Panora Times

"THE DRAMA"

"The Drama" stars two beautiful people (played by Robert Pattinson and Zendaya) who meet in a cute way, have a nice relationship and naturally decide to get married. The stress of that decision and all that accompanies it put their relationship to the test right up to, and including, the wedding. "The Drama" has moments of humor and lots of craziness with its share of angst and darkness.

GRADE: B+



"THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE"

"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" is the sequel to "The Super Mario Broth-

er's Movie," two movies that will confound me right up to my death bed. It is only marginally more coherent than the first film, but you need to be a whole lot younger than I am to even start to understand (or care about) this mess of a movie. I will score this for the kids younger than 12.

GRADE: B-



"YOU AND ME & TUSCANY"

"You and Me & Tuscany" is a romantic comedy about a young woman (played by Halle Bailey) who has a habit of getting into the homes of people who are out of town — or the country — in this movie. When she sees the opportunity to sneak into an empty Italian villa, she jumps at it. A family in this small-town setting assumes she is the fiancée of the owner of the villa, which quickly gets messy when

she falls in love with another man. The movie is full of fluff, fun and lots of Italian cooking. It redeems itself late in the film and ends up being much better than I expected. **GRADE: B**



"NORMAL"

"Normal" is an interesting action crime thriller film starring Bob Odenkirk (and Henry Winkler of "the Fonz" fame in a small role) that takes place in the corrupt small town of Normal, Minnesota. Odenkirk is the new sheriff in town. When he investigates a bank robbery in his first few days, his own deputies open fire on him, revealing that the town's law enforcement is compromised. Inside the bank, he discovers a big secret — a cache of cash, gold bars and military-grade weapons. They are tied to a criminal operation connected to Japanese gangsters — really bad guys who have come to this small town to take what they feel is theirs.

GRADE: B+



"LEE CRONIN'S THE MUMMY"

I don't have a clue who Lee Cronin is, but I really don't care to see any more movies from him. "The Mummy" is a bloody, gory mess of a film. We are in-



"Lee Cronin's The Mummy"

troducted to a young America family living in Cairo with young children. When a daughter is stolen by a creepy looking lady, the family grieves her loss and struggles to move on. Fortunately, or maybe not, they find their daughter eight years later. She is not in great, or even good shape. The film goes down from there. "The Mummy" is creepy and has a few good moments but goes way too far.

GRADE: C-.



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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Q: I WAS TOLD THAT THE JAMAICA LIBRARY RECEIVED A SIZABLE GRANT. HOW MUCH WAS IT, AND HOW WILL IT BE USED?

A: The Jamaica Public Library was selected as one of 240 libraries nationally to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. The award comes with a \$20,000 grant to help improve accessibility including repairing sidewalk with easy or auto-entry door, tuckpointing the brick facade, metal sheathing or alternative for non-facing walls, and new upper story front windows/trim. The city welcomes estimates, especially from local contractors. The work needs to be completed outdoors before snow flies in 2026 as the project deadline is April 2027. The bid closing date is June 30. To schedule a visit, contact Mayor Dennis Meinecke at jamaicacity@windstream.net or JPL Board President Andrew Gettler at aawoodservices@gmail.com.

Q: WHICH LOCAL SERVICE CLUB INSTALLS AND REMOVES AMERICAN FLAGS IN YARDS ON THE HOLIDAYS, AND HOW DO I GO ABOUT HAVING THAT DONE?

A: Each year, the Panora Lions Club offers the community an opportunity to demonstrate patriotism through its Holiday Flags program. Registering for this program allows Panora Lions club members to place a flag on your property on five holidays: Memorial Day (May 25), Flag Day (June 14), 4th of July, Labor Day (Sept. 7), and Veteran's Day (Nov. 11). Registration is \$50, and checks can be made payable to the Panora Lions Club, 5262 Panorama Drive, Pan-

ora, Iowa 50216.

Q: I HEARD THAT YALE'S MAYOR RESIGNED. WHO TOOK HER PLACE?

A: During the April 23 meeting of the Yale City Council, the councilmembers appointed Clint Deardorff to be Yale's mayor following the recent resignation of Mayor Beverly Louk. Deardorff will serve the remainder of the term until voters elect the next mayor during the November 2027 election.

Q: WHAT IS THE CHOOSE IOWA GRANT, AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A: According to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, a total of 30 Iowa farmers, small businesses and organizations were awarded Choose Iowa Value-Added Grants this year. Grant recipients were eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in cost-sharing funds with hopes to increase the production of Iowa grown and produced items. This year, \$500,000 of value-added grants were awarded, leveraging the \$1.7 million requested by grant recipients. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship received more than 120 applications this year. The cost-share funding is designed to support projects of Iowa farmers and small businesses by expanding production, reaching new markets and increasing the value of the items they produce. Investments include commercial kitchen equipment, cider and winery production equipment, refrigerated trucks and farmers market infrastructure. The Choose Iowa Value-Added Grant Program was launched in 2022 and has since awarded more than \$2.1 billion in state-funded cost-share for 130 local projects. The projects have leveraged more than \$7.3 million in total investments to help support local Iowa businesses, farmers, and producers. ■

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SUPERVISORS TO FILL VACANCY FOLLOWING GUTHRIE COUNTY ATTORNEY MINTER'S RESIGNATION

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

APRIL 21

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on April 21. A public hearing was held on the fiscal year 2027 budget. No members of the public spoke during the hearing. Auditor Dani Fink reported on the budgetary status.

"Taxable value has increased from the 2024 year to the 2025 year by \$52 million countywide," Fink said. "Also, a comparison of levy rates from the last two fiscal years, you can see years 2025 and 2026 stayed consistent, and then a slight drop in General Basic, General Supplemental and Rural Basic for 2027."

When the hearing closed, the supervisors unanimously adopted Resolution 26-30 to certify taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong shared information on the communication plan regarding the P28/Wagon Road construction project.

"Currently, there's been some patch work done to prep us for this big project," Armstrong said. "May 1, we are targeting for a social media and website campaign launch. I will email the press release to local media and to stakeholders."

She explained that stakeholders include those impacted by the project, including school districts and businesses along the routes impacted. She added that while signage will likely say "closed to through traffic," those living along the route and campers at Nations Bridge Park will be allowed to drive to and from where they need to go.

"May 8 — this is 10 days out from the start — that's when the postcard is going to drop to adjacent landowners," Armstrong said. "So, they'll have more than a week's notice."

Armstrong added that wording will be included in the communication acknowledging the inconveniences and delays that come with such a road project and thanking the public for their patience while the project goes on.

APRIL 28

County Engineer Josh Sebern summarized the county's Fiscal Year 2027 Iowa DOT (Department of Transportation) budget and the county's five-year plan.

"This (DOT budget) goes in at the same time as the county five-year program, so

they go hand in hand," Sebern said. "It's an aggressive five-year program, where we are utilizing a significant amount of federal funding. There's \$11 million in federal funding in here. Nine million of that is federal bridge."

The supervisors voted unanimously to approve the DOT budget, five-year plan and mowing contract extension.

Supervisor Brian Johnson shared a matter for the board to consider.

"As you know, for about a year now, I've been attending First Responders meetings as an ad hoc member. They asked me at the last meeting if I would join the board. They're having trouble finding qualified people that don't have a conflict to join," Johnson said. He asked that the matter be added to the agenda for the supervisors to discuss at the May 5 meeting.

The supervisors set a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget amendment. The hearing will be at 9 a.m. on May 19, immediately prior to the regular meeting of the supervisors on that date.

As part of the consent agenda items, the supervisors approved payroll change notices with pay increases for three employees in the Secondary Roads department (Wade Downing, new rate \$30.71 hourly; Andy Johnson, new rate \$28.66 hourly; and Jeremy Wolfe, new rate \$28.96 hourly).

MAY 5

Sebern summarized the bids received on bridge replacement project BROS-C039 (103)-8J-39.

"This is for the bridge near Sutcliff Woodland in Bear Grove Township. It is currently closed. We received three bids with the low bid of \$599,652," Sebern said. He noted that the three bids were similar, and he recommended approving the low bid from Herberger Construction (Indianola, Iowa).

The supervisors voted to award the project to Herberger with the project expected to begin this summer.

Sebern also shared information on bridge replacement project L-CA226-73-39.

"This is for a bridge on the north side of Bays Branch. It's a smaller timber structure right now," Sebern said. He noted that the replacement will be "a prefabricated type of structure" and will be 24 feet wide.

"So, these are final plans. We are estimating \$290,000 for the cost to replace. We are anticipating a bid letting date of May 26," Sebern said.

The supervisors voted to approve the final plans and put the project out for bids.

Supervisor Brian Johnson was approved to join the First Responders Board.

The supervisors went into a special closed session to discuss a matter with legal counsel.

MAY 12

Sebern asked the supervisors to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 DOT budget amendment.

"This is going to mirror the county amendment," Sebern said. "Overall, we were able to lower some of the equipment operations."

Sebern pointed out the labor budgeted for snow removal is used more for tree cutting when a winter with few snowstorms occurs.

"When we don't plow snow, our labor costs goes to cut trees, road clearing," Sebern said. "It all depends on whether we're plowing snow or cutting trees. They're directly proportional."

The supervisors approved the DOT budget amendment.

Sebern also shared Resolution 26-33 (Modification to Fiscal Year 2026 Five-Year Program). He said there were two projects that needed to be completed (and were completed) but had not previously been administratively included in the five-year plan. The supervisors approved the additions as proposed.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong provided an update on the P-28/Wagon Road project.

"P-28/Wagon Road is back open. We originally were hoping that about mid-May we would be able to start on the full project. It's been delayed a little bit by our contractor, so we are going to move forward with the communication that it's going to start in early June," Armstrong said.

Armstrong stated that she is also learning about ways the county can implement Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"I like the technology. I think we're going to have to learn how to use it, and we might as well use it to our benefit, as we can," she said.

MAY 19

County Attorney Dana Minter's resignation was discussed. The letter of resignation states an effective date of May 31. County Auditor Dani Fink explained that the supervisors may appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Supervisor Mike Dickson suggested waiting until results of the June 2 primary election are known before the supervisors appoint someone. Fink said if the supervisors appoint someone, it must be done within 40 days, or the matter goes to a special election.

"With the election in June, I would just like to see the results of that," Dickson said. "We could do it the ninth."

Supervisor Brian Johnson made a motion to appoint someone to fill the vacancy during the next meeting of the supervisors on May 26. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote with Dickson opposed.

Health Services Director Jotham Arber discussed Adair County Shared Services.

"Adair County, their public health director has left, so their public health currently is housed underneath their hospital," Arber said. "The hospital approached us and asked if we would be willing to come in and do a similar agreement to what we have with Audubon County to take over their public health responsibilities and cover them for those things."

Arber gave a written proposal on this issue for the supervisors to review for future discussion.

On behalf of the All-Iowa Republican Women organization, Heather Boustead asked the supervisors to consider approving a request for the group to use the courthouse grounds on June 19 for a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Boustead explained that no tables or chairs would be set up, and the group would do the reading at approximately 11 a.m. on June 19 before moving on to the next county, as the group plans to read in six counties that day. The supervisors approved the request.

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget amendment. No written or spoken comments were received, so the hearing was closed.

The supervisors then approved Resolution 26-34 to adopt the budget amendment as proposed.

As part of the consent agenda, a fireworks permit was approved for Rita Schering, July 4 at dusk.

The supervisors meet regularly on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. The public is welcome to attend in person at the courthouse or via remote technology. To join remotely, call 323-792-6123, then use meeting code 547029216#. ■

CITY OF PANORA PREPS FOR RAGBRAI AND PANORAMA DAYS

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

APRIL 27

During the regular meeting of the Panora City Council, the councilmembers approved the second reading of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 363, which would add “churches” as an allowable use in the Light Industrial District on the eastern edge of Panora. The council also voted to waive the third reading.

The council also discussed the city’s building inspection process. Councilmember Brian Dorsett stated he has heard from citizens that there are “too many hoops to jump through” and that the cost of building inspection in Panora is too high compared to nearby communities.

The council discussed Resolution 26-

20 to approve an updated Professional Inspection Services Agreement with Veenstra and Kimm, Inc. Adam Holliday of Veenstra and Kimm discussed his availability to perform building inspections for businesses and personal buildings. The council voted to approve the agreement.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, JoAnn Johnson and Paulette Chambers spoke on behalf of the Panora Garden Club. They asked the city to consider budgeting funds to help support the work of the club in providing colorful flowers in the business district.

Brenda Dudley of Midwest Partnership addressed the council regarding the possibility of Panora participating in the Hometown Pride program. The hope was that multiple area cities would participate so that costs could be split, but Dudley

explained that there may be fewer cities joining than planned, which would raise costs for those participating. The council took no formal action at this time.

MAY 11

During the May 11 meeting, planning for RAGBRAI and Panorama Days was discussed. The council voted to approve Resolution 26-25, authorizing a request to the Iowa DOT for closure of Highway 44 at certain times on July 20 and 21 for RAGBRAI and at certain times July 31 through Aug. 2 for Panorama Days.

City Administrator Lisa Grossman provided a RAGBRAI planning update.

“We have been working really hard on RAGBRAI. We had a good town hall meeting and a lot of vendor interest. I think we’re up to 13 or 14 vendors

for various things,” Grossman said. “We have a meeting next Tuesday with our RAGBRAI committee to finalize portapotties, finalizing entertainment, and so things are moving forward. I did talk to the school, and (Superintendent) Kasey (Huebner) said he would be OK with us utilizing the parking lot for some parking, and then we’ll have to figure out some shuttles.”

Renewal of the alcohol and tobacco licenses for Local Liquor was approved.

The council meets regularly on the second and fourth Mondays each month. 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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 6-19 ... Brick Imerman Band 8-11

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EDUCATION

PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES TEACHING CONTRACTS

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

On May 11, the Panorama School Board met in regular session. A public hearing was held regarding the proposed amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. No written or spoken comments were received, so the hearing was promptly closed. The board later unanimously approved the proposed amendment.

The board approved contracts for the 2026-2027 year, including Andrew King (instrumental music teacher) and Ashlie Allspach (MS/HS paraeducator). The resignation of Aidan Shorey (instrumental music teacher) was accepted, pending suitable replacement. The board also approved 2026-2027 teacher leader contracts of \$7,500 each for Kelly Blomquist and Randy Miller as instructional coaches, and of \$5,000 each for Jacki King, Debra Wooldridge, Mollie Lint and Lindsey Schroeder as teacher leaders. The board approved an overnight trip

for the high school girls basketball team to Spirit Lake Camp July 15-16 for 10 girls and three chaperones. The board also approved a fundraiser event during RAGBRAI (July 21) for the Dance Team, selling water, Panther Power Drink and a bake sale.

Two security upgrades were approved. The elementary school will have secure entrance doors installed at a cost of \$23,763 and flooring in the entrance at a cost of \$11,694. Weightroom flooring will also be replaced at a cost of \$63,732.

In the Good News portion of the meeting, it was reported that the high school choir group that attended the Spring City Music Festival received an Exemplary rating, with a score of 54 out of 58. It was also noted that the Career Exploration class enjoyed a visit to Sunset Realty and to Panora Fiber.

The next regular meeting of the Panorama School Board is set for Monday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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HEALTH

GCH BOARD APPROVES ANNUAL BUDGETS

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

During the April 20 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, a public hearing was held regarding the hospital's fiscal year 2026-2027 county budget. Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson summarized the highlights of the proposed budget. No public comments/questions were made, so the hearing closed.

The trustees later approved three budgets for fiscal year 2027 (the capital budget, the operating budget and the county budget).

Chief Nursing Officer Mandy Schiefert reported on the nursing department and shared information on recently filled nursing positions.

"We onboarded a couple of new nurses that will be fulltime nights," Schiefert said.

Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson provided a report.

"Our new learning management system, Relias, we have implemented that. The new hires have been using it, and they really like it," Anderson said.

Anderson noted that the hospital's most recently measured employee retention rate is 92.4%.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery offered an update on fundraising events.

"We had our annual Handbags and

Bingo, which was another successful event, so thanks to everybody who either worked or attended or was a sponsor," Flanery said. "Our golf event is our next big event that's coming up. The first round of mailings went out."

Chief Operations Officer Travis Martin shared information on the facilities project at the hospital.

"If you've been down 12th Street, you'll notice they've started taking the front of the building off today, so there's a gaping hole out front," he said. "We are sealed on the inside, but you'll see that the building is starting to come down."

Martin also reported on the Stuart clinic.

"The interior framing is done down there. They're starting drywall next week, so we are still anticipating being done by June 1," Martin said.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Thursday, May 28 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



Mandy Schiefert



Mary Anderson

2026 Summer Day Camp

Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost	Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost
June 1 st 9:30am-3:30pm	Springbrook K-3rd	\$20	July 2 nd 9am-12pm	Robot Revolution K-3rd	\$20
June 10 th 9am-3pm	Discover STEM K-3rd <i>Lunch included</i>	\$25	July 9 th 9am-12pm	Spy Camp 4th-8th	\$20
June 11 th 9am-12pm	Art Exploration K-3rd	\$20	July 16 th 9am-1pm	Kids in the Kitchen K-3rd	\$20
June 18 th 9am-3pm	Pen to Pasture 4th-8th <i>Provide own lunch. Happening in Green Co.</i>	\$20	July 23 th 9am-12pm	Summer Fun K-3rd	\$20
June 25 th 9am-12pm	Invent STEM 4th-8th	\$25	July 28 th 9am-12pm	Summer Fun 4th-8th	\$20

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THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS

PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



Panorama's No. 10 Morgan Crees scored a hat trick in the game against Van Meter on April 28.



The Panorama girls soccer team was crowned champion of the Creston Panther Invitational on Saturday, May 9. Photo courtesy Panorama Girls Golf



Brayden Galvan hit one of the most elusive shots in golf during a practice round on May 1 at Lake Panorama National Golf Course: a hole-in-one.



Panthers' Trap Shooting Team members Cullen Meacham, Evan Losee and Danice Isom at a "home shoot" event on Saturday, May 9. Photo submitted.



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Bryce Dawes shot a 38 at the Crusader Golf Invitational on April 28.



Panorama's Laicey Lutz earned a bronze medal in the 800-meter run at the Panorama Coed Invite on May 7.



Panorama's Reed Draper at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7. ■



Panorama's Jacey Glade at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7.



Panorama's Syler Shaffer won gold in the 400-meter hurdles at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7.

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T-DOGG'S BAIT & TACKLE FILLS NICHE FOR GUTHRIE COUNTY ANGLERS

Tristan West has operated the seasonal fishing shop from his Panora garage since 2012.

BY RICH WICKS
Panora Times

If you are looking to go fishing in Guthrie County, where can you buy bait and tackle? If you simply want live bait, vending machines and convenience stores can meet that need. But if you need fishing tackle, there are very few options. If you want a store that specializes in fishing and offers a wide variety of fishing tackle and related items, T-Dogg's Bait & Tackle is the place to visit.

Owner and lifelong Panora area resident Tristan West operates T-Dogg's Bait & Tackle out of the garage at his home at 505 W. Market St. in Panora. He explained how his business came to be.

"When I was growing up, there was a bait shop across town. I used to go down there and see the gentleman who ran it and visit with him. Then I started this shop in 2012. At that time, I didn't have nearly as much stuff in the garage as I do now," West said.

T-Dogg's is closed during the cold months, but once he opens, West makes up for lost time.

As a one-person business, West has a demanding schedule, since his standard



Tristan West enjoys talking with his customers about fishing.

hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

"It's open from March or April until

October," West said.

One downside to that schedule is that West rarely gets a chance to go fishing,

but he enjoys visiting with customers about their fishing experiences.

West said his store carries everything

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A wide variety of fishing equipment is on hand.

needed to get a line in the water, including candy and pop.

"I pretty much have everything to get you started," he said.

West said his best-selling items are lures and poles. He also stocks a wide variety of hooks, bobbers, sinkers, tackle boxes and many other items. He sells bait, including nightcrawlers, leeches, shrimp and chicken liver, but not minnows. In the past, he found it difficult to maintain minnow buckets and keep the tiny fish alive and active.

Late spring is traditionally the busiest time at T-Dogg's. He recalled being surprised at how busy the store became during its first season.

"It was so busy the first Memorial Day after I opened, and it's always crazy chaotic in here on Memorial Day," he said.

At other times, he passes the time using his phone. He does not mind sitting and waiting. Patience is a crucial part of fishing and running a fishing store.

The business accepts cash only, and since West is the only employee, there are times he may not be in the garage when a customer arrives.

"If I'm ever not in the garage, just ring the bell," he said.

Generally, the garage door is open during business hours, which sometimes results in more than customers coming in.

"I've had a lot of sparrows and different birds fly in here, and it can be tough to get them out," West said.

Over his 14 years in business, West has learned to listen to what his customers want. He encourages people to call ahead at 641-757-7942 if they wish



Lures, stringers, tackleboxes and more at T-Dogg's.

to check availability on specific items. West said maintaining inventory is the most challenging part of his job, but he strives to offer a little bit of everything.

"I try to keep a good overall selection. For a garage business, I'm pretty well stocked," West said.

West maintains a Facebook page for his business where customers can see updates to his offerings. Although the seven-days-a-week schedule is demanding, West does not plan to make significant changes in the foreseeable future.

"I plan to keep doing this as long as I'm able to and the body will let me," he said. ■

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PANORA SKATEBOARDER PUSHES FOR COMMUNITY SKATE PARK

Joshua Gotter hopes to create a lasting recreation space for local youth and families

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

For Joshua Gotter of Panora, skateboarding has been a lifelong pursuit.

“My dad put me on my first skateboard probably about the time I was figuring out how to stand up,” Gotter said. “He was a skateboarder as a young man. In southern California, he grew up around the boom of skateboarding. I don’t have any memories where I don’t have skateboards in my life.”

As a lifelong skateboarder, Gotter has accumulated an extensive collection of boards.

“I have a pretty extensive collection. I have a little man cave in my basement, and I’ve probably got about 75 skateboards on display. There’s probably 20 of them that are autographed. Some are just boards that I thought looked cool.”

Gotter recalled moving from California to Panora.

“I moved here from California when I was 11. I was in sixth grade, and it was nothing short of culture shock for me,” he said. “I spent a lot of years being that one kid alone in the bank parking lot skateboarding until late at night.”

Gotter recalled finding places to skateboard while striving to perfect tricks, but he was eventually asked to leave parking areas and loading docks. He knew he was sometimes skateboarding on private property after hours, but in a small town, he had few other options.

Over time, Gotter improved his skills and eventually entered competitions, though he said the spotlight was never his goal.

“I was never really big into competitions, but that’s not all that it’s about. Sometimes, you just do something because it feels right, and there was always something that felt right about having wheels underneath me,” Gotter said. “My best memories of skateboarding were always the road trips



Joshua Gotter enjoys the challenge of mastering tricks.

with my parents.”

Now in his 40s, Gotter said skateboarding remains therapeutic, despite the physical challenges that come with age.

“I’m reaching an age where I can’t do all the things I like to do anymore. I don’t heal very fast. Injuries are prevalent,” Gotter said. “But skateboarding has been a thing that kept me grounded and saved me at a lot of weird points in my life. So, to the community that’s given me so much, I want to give them a piece of myself, and hopefully we can build something that’s going to last.”

With that in mind, Gotter has envisioned creating a skate park in Panora. He said

the most logical location would be on the southern edge of Michael Mills Park, between the T-ball diamond and Wagon Road. However, he acknowledged the project’s significant cost and said it will take time.

Gotter said his research into other skate parks showed that a concrete structure would cost about three times more than a wooden structure but would last much longer.

Gotter previously presented the idea to the Panora City Council and addressed concerns from council members and city staff regarding loitering and vagrancy. He said lighting and clearly posted park hours



Gotter looks to bring skateboarding to Mills Park.

would discourage youths from gathering after dark.

Gotter has an unofficial fundraising goal of \$350,000 to build the type of park he be-



Some of Gotter's nearly 100 skateboards.

lieves would best serve Panora. That figure includes a sidewalk or walkway to the park and lighting.

"We're still just in baby steps. In the fall, I was just gauging to see how much interest there is. We found that there is enough interest around here. Kids who ride scooters, adults who skateboarded when they were younger, people who ride bicycles and would enjoy someplace to ride besides just the bike trail," he said.

"There's definitely a lot of unused space out here to do some things with. Maybe a BMX bicycle track. We had a pretty decent amount of interest until winter hit," Gotter said. "Now we're at a point where we're trying to pick some steam back up. I've got a few ideas of ways to try to get the community involved. It makes us less of a closed off little community and more of a place to come visit."

One of Gotter's goals in building the skate park is to provide youth with a free local recreation option.

"I feel sad when I see young kids in the area and they don't have anything else to do except for pursue things that are going to get them into trouble," he said. "Another thing is kids nowadays are very stuck in video games, and they expect immediate results. That's a very unhealthy mentality because that's not the real world. You need to learn to be bad at things before you can be good at them, and skateboarding, for me, was always one of those things."

From his own experiences, Gotter said he understands the satisfaction that comes with learning to skateboard and mastering tricks.



Joshua Gotter flips for skateboarding.

"The success, the feeling, the gratification that you've earned is so much more powerful than what kids get from video games," he said. "I'm worried about the future of our youth, and we need to embrace giving them safe places to learn to be stronger humans. Hopefully, it can be a place where kids and adults alike can go and just find themselves somehow."

Anyone interested in learning more about efforts to create the skate park can follow updates and design ideas on the Panoram Skatepark Project Facebook page. ■

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WILLIAM 'BILL' JOHN CLARKE JR.

1943-2026

William "Bill" John

Clarke Jr., born Sept. 5, 1943, in St. Louis, Missouri, passed away at home on Sunday, April 19, 2026. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather and as a loyal friend — someone whose steady presence, quick wit and genuine love of conversation made people feel instantly at ease.

Bill was the son of William Clarke, Sr. and Lucille Mae Clarke (LePorin). Raised in St. Louis, Missouri, he graduated from Ritenour High School and carried his hometown pride with him all his life — especially as a loyal St. Louis Cardinals fan for decades.

After high school, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Germany — an experience that deepened his sense of responsibility, resilience and pride in serving others. He brought that same steady dependability into every chapter that followed.

Back in the St. Louis area, Bill worked several jobs and — luckily for everyone who came to know their family story — met the love of his life, Jane Shick. They married on Jan. 7, 1967, and built a home filled with laughter, conversation and the kind of loyalty you could count on. Together they welcomed two sons, Sean William Clarke and Brian

Matthew Clarke.

In 1976, Bill and Jane moved to Iowa with their two sons, settling on a farm near Jefferson in 1977. A city boy at heart, Bill threw himself into farm life — learning, adapting, and eventually taking over the family farm from Jane's parents. He worked hard and took pride in doing things the right way, but he also knew how to enjoy the people around him; after a long day on the tractor, he was happiest swapping stories with friends over a cold beer at the lake.

In time, Bill and Jane retired to their home on Lake Panorama, where he lived until his death. They shared nearly 60

years together — hardly a day went by that they weren't side by side. They spent several winters in Arizona and later in Naples, Florida, and they loved seeing the country: browsing flea markets and antique shops, taking trips to Las Vegas, driving the boat while Jane and the kids waterskied, or enjoying a cozy night in with the Cardinals on TV. No matter where he was, Bill's top priority was always family, with friends a close second — and he was the kind of person who never turned away someone in need, always ready to lend a hand without keeping score.

Bill is survived by his son, Sean Clarke and

Liana, of Naples, Florida; his son, Brian Clarke and his wife Angela, of Long Grove, Illinois; and six grandchildren: Christian, Alexander, Isabella, Ricky, Bobbi and Angelyse.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of almost 60 years, Jane Rae.

A visitation with the family was held Saturday, April 25, at Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home in Jefferson. Bill's sons, Brian and Sean Clarke, delivered the eulogy. The United States Army Honor Guard presented the American Flag. Services were directed by Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home and Cremation Care, Jefferson. ■



DONALD 'DONNIE' W. HENNEN

1931-2026

Donald "Donnie" William Hennen, 94, son of George and Evangeline (Shell) Hennen, was born

June 19, 1931, in Panora. He passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at the Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center.

Donnie attended school in Panora. In 1948, he married Bonnie Louise Trent. To this union, four sons were born. They mostly made their home in the Panora area. Donnie worked as a heavy equipment operator for many years, owned and operated the DX station in Panora for 14 years, and then went on to help area farmers. He was always doing something. In July of 2021, he became a resident of Panora Specialty Care Center.

Donnie enjoyed fishing, hunting and tinkering with any engine. He was a great gardener and enjoyed doing anything

outside.

He was a lifetime member of the NRA.

Donnie is survived by his sons, Mike (Jinny) Hennen and Brian "Pete" (Becky) Hennen, both of Panora; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Bonnie; sons, Mark and Timothy; brothers, Melvin, George, Jr., and Dean; and sisters, Nina and Betty.

Cremation has taken place, and visitation was Sunday, April 26, 2026, from 3-5 p.m. at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Burial of his remains was held at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 3, 2026, at the Morrisburg Cemetery, rural Stuart. ■



DARRELL CARL SHOOK

1952-2026

Darrell Carl Shook, 73, of Panora, died Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, at home surrounded by his family,

just as he wanted.

Darrell was born in Guthrie Center to Carl and Lennie Shook on April 3, 1952. He graduated from Panora-Linden High School and was a lifelong resident of Guthrie County.

A retired farmer, he had also worked for the City of Panora and Des Moines John Deere Works/Ankeny. He married Cindy Marchant in 1971.

He was a member of Panora First Christian Church, Panora Lions, UAW Local 450, Road Runners Motorcycle Club and ROMEO's (Retired Old Men Eating Out). He served and volunteered on many committees and boards in and around Guthrie County.

He is survived by Cindy; daughter, Darnell

(Glenn) Blacklock; son, J.R. (Terri) Shook; four grandchildren, Hannah, Noah, Liam and Sean; brothers-in-law, Chuck Varcoe and Craig Peterson; sister, Kathi Maben; and cousins, niece and nephews, plus good neighbors Clifford and Melissa Jensen. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters, Joyce Varcoe and Lori Peterson.

Celebration of Life service will be 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 7, 2026, at the Panora First Christian Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Panora First Christian Church and Panora Public Library.

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

FANS OF THE BLUE OVAL

Special to Panora Times

A number of Guthrie County residents and family members once again attended the Drake Relays, which took place April

22-25. Kip Janvrin, a Panora native and an American former decathlete, is now on the track staff at Kansas State. He was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame during this year's Drake Relays. ■

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



1 Kansas State Track Head Coach Travis Geopfert, Gary Geopfert and Doris Bennett along with Mike Jay, who is the Drake Relays announcer, founder of The Track Guy, and announcer for NCAA track championship finals and the Olympics trials. 2 More than 25 area residents attended the Drake Relays last week, as well as many athletes who stopped by to say hello. 3 Kip Janvrin, a Panora native and an American former decathlete, is now on the track staff at Kansas State. He was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame during this year's Drake Relays. He was also inducted in the Drake Relays Hall of Fame as an athlete in 1998. 4 Pat Moylan, Alison (Monaghan) Cate and Kip Janvrin.



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EVENT

TORI'S ANGELS FOUNDATION HOLDS 3RD ANNUAL BENEFIT IN WEST DES MOINES

Special to Panora Times

On Thursday, April 16, nearly 250 people attended the third annual Tori's Angels Foundation benefit "Taking Flight" at Glen Oaks Country Club in West Des Moines. The foundation, which originated in Panora, provides financial assistance, hope and support to Iowa families that have a child with a life-threatening medical condition. Patty Reeve, co-chair of the committee that put the event together, noted that it was a night to celebrate several significant milestones for the Foundation, including its 15th year of operations, the acceptance of the 200th child into the program, and the surpassing of \$3 million in aid that has been provided to Iowa families.

Julie Dent-Zajicek, president of the foundation, introduced speakers Jen Jensen and Haylie Steffensmeier. They each spoke of their family's journey to help their respective daughters, Liberty and Ol-

ivia, when they were diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. They also discussed the foundation's assistance and what it has meant to their families.

"Tori's Angels mission means so much to me and our family, and I will forever be grateful for the kindness during such a terrible time of our lives," Jensen said. "They didn't just come into our lives as support...they came in as comfort. As compassion. As people who saw us not just as a family going through something hard, but as a family that mattered. They showed up in the moments when the weight felt unbearable. They reminded us that we weren't alone."

Both moms encouraged those in attendance to continue supporting Tori's Angels so that the foundation can continue to help other Iowa families.

If you know of a child with a life-threatening condition, or if you would like to volunteer or donate to Tori's Angels, visit torisangels.org or call 515-641-2011. ■



The crowd of nearly 250 people arrive for the benefit.

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EVENT

LAKE PANORAMA FIN AND FEATHER BANQUET HELD

BY SHANE GOODMAN

Panora Times

The annual Lake Panorama Fin and Feather Banquet and Fundraiser was held Saturday, May 9 at The Captain's Pick at Lake Panorama National Resort. The event included a live auction, silent auction and numerous banquet games.

Fin and Feather was formed in 1984 by a

group of LPA members who wanted to improve fishing at Lake Panorama. The dam was completed in 1970, and the lake filled from the flow of the Middle Raccoon River. At that time, the naturally occurring species of fish in the Middle Raccoon were largemouth bass, crappie, catfish and carp. Members wanted to expand fishing options to include walleye, which are widely considered the best fish to eat.

The group has continued ever since and experimented with various fish stocking strategies, which has led to stocking just shy of 311,000 fish in the lake. Walleye do not naturally reproduce in Lake Panorama, which is why annual stocking is undertaken. Fin and Feather will continue to look at ways to increase the fishery, such as completing an electrofishing audit to determine the health and numbers of different species of fish.

The formation of this independent group has provided a significant boost to fishing conditions at Lake Panorama. Members should note that Fin and Feather's efforts extend not only to Lake Panorama but also to the section of the Middle Raccoon River



Lake Panorama Fin and Feather committee members: Front row Galen Redshaw, Rick Schumacher, Doug Hemphill, Adam Hackfort, Galen Johnson and Gary Evans. Back row: John Rutledge, Scott Stanley, Barry Tofteland, John Muenzenberger, Ben Hayes, Jacob Bendickson and Mark Buster.

that is below the LPA dam. This area represents some of the best river fishing that can be found in central Iowa. In addition, Fin and Feather is the only sponsor of the Pan-

orama Days Kid's Fishing Derby. In 2025, 114 kids participated and received trophies, cash prizes and general raffle prizes in excess of \$2,500. ■



Fin and Feather Chairperson Scott Stanley



Officer Colin Price, Chief Matt Reising, & Officer Rock Armstrong



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YESTER YEARS

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 5, 1976

AMONG STATE'S BEST. The Panora-Linden Hawks mile relay team has recorded one of the state's best Class C times, 3:36.3. The unit has been modified with an injury to Greg Van Pelt, and Randy Griggs is now running in his place. With district and state competition approaching, the unit of Greg Van Pelt, Mark Moore, Dave Davis and Richard Van Pelt, pictured left to right, has a shot at placing high in the state meet.

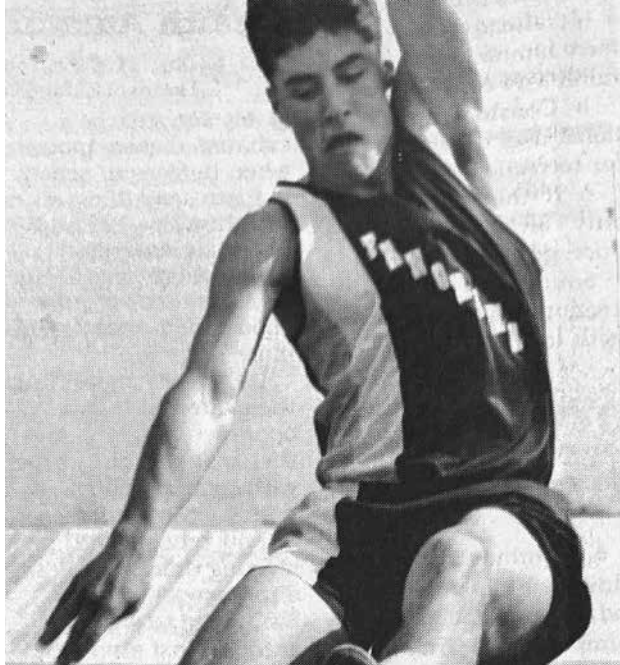
40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, May 22, 1986

READY FOR STATE. These three Panora-Linden Hawkettes are ready for the challenges that await them at the state track meet at Drake stadium this weekend. From left, Cozy Nelson, Rachel Pote and Cheryl Ostby.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, May 9, 1996

RECORD JUMP. Shaun Moylan soars to a new record in the long jump at the West Central Conference meet at Panora Thursday. Moylan bettered the old mark by 1/4" when he jumped 20 feet, 10 1/4 inches.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 25, 2006

HIPPOTHERAPY. Dominic Higgins sits on horseback at Timber Creek Therapies, working with physical therapists Sue Behrens, left, and Kim Johnk. After a half-hour on horseback in the indoor arena, Dominic and the therapists move to a warm-water pool for another half-hour of therapy.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, May 19, 2016

ON TO STATE. Members of the state-qualifying Panora track and field team are (front row, from left) Devyn Kemble, Grace Nordquist, Gabe Richey, Matthew Webner, Miranda Mleynek, Michelle Mleynek, (back row) Maddie Knapp, Brooke Halterman, Lydia Knapp, Morgan Johnk, Faith Powell, Bailey Beckman, Brianna Hoffman.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, May 27, 2021

PANORA AVENUE OF FLAGS RECEIVES DONATION. Ten Squared Plus Men for Guthrie County heard three presentations and then agreed to award its spring donation to the Panora Avenue of Flags. The gift will probably surpass \$15,000. 10 Squared Men members Patrick Moylan and Brian Johnson made the presentation for the flag project. Pictured, from left Chuck Rockwell, Dave Carstens, Mike Arganbright, Brian Johnson and Patrick Moylan. ■

RECIPE

RHUBARB SEASON JUST GOT CRISPY

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

Panora Times

As a kid, you could find me following my mother around the yard while she planted, weeded and tended to her flowers and plants. Our backyard wasn't overflowing with produce — just a small strawberry patch lined with rhubarb. Back then, I wasn't a fan. Rhubarb was a little too bold for my taste. But, over time, especially when paired with apples and a bit of sugar, it won me over. Now, I look forward to it every year.

Rhubarb is also one of the easiest and most rewarding plants to grow. Give it a sunny spot — ideally on the south side of your house or garage — and it will thrive with very little fuss.

This crisp is inspired by my mother's classic apple crisp. Sort of. Like my mother, I don't really measure ingredients for these kinds of treats, which has made sharing the recipe a bit tricky over the years.

Sometimes I add nuts or oatmeal. Sometimes I mix in apples. But one thing never changes: a generous, crispy crumble topping. If it's not crisp, we're not doing it right.

So, for the sake of sharing (and finally having something more useful to say than "just eyeball it"), I actually paid attention while making it this time. What you will find here is my best attempt at a real recipe. That said... I probably added a little extra of something along the way. I encourage you to do the same. That's where the magic happens. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

JOLENE'S RHUBARB CRISP

Ingredients:

- 5 cups of rhubarb
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup oatmeal
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup butter, room temperature (if it gets too dry, add a little more butter)

Directions:

Chop rhubarb in half inch pieces and place into an 8x8-inch dish. In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients, then add butter. Cut butter into the dry ingredients until crumbly. Spread crumble mixture over rhubarb. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.





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www.calvaryraccoon.com

641-755-4268

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www.fbcpanora.com

641-755-3034

Sunday Service: 9 am

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www.panorafcc.org

641-755-2227

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.



Fountain of Life Church

2322 Wagon Road, Panora

www.folcpanora.com

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www.panoraumc.org

641-755-2655

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www.st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com

641-747-3843

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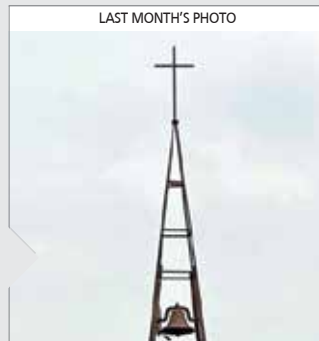


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- Place for Pizza
- Spot for Dessert
- Spot for Breakfast
- Lunch Spot
- Dinner Spot
- Ice Cream Place
- Bar
- Coffee Shop
- Mexican Restaurant
- Happy Hour
- Bartender or Server (Name a person)
- Wine Selection
- Place to Buy Meat
- Coldest Beer
- Caterer
- Food Truck

AUTOMOTIVE:

- Car Wash
- Auto Service Center
- Auto Parts Store
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COMMUNITY:

- Pastor (Name a person)
- Teacher (Name a person)
- Coach (Name a person)
- Church
- Daycare
- Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- School
- Park
- Community Festival
- Camping Spot
- Place to Hold an Event
- Elected Official
- Employer
- Customer Service (overall)
- Local Artist (Name a person)
- Nonprofit
- Volunteer (Name a person)
- Unsung Hero (Name a person)

SHOPPING:

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- Grocery Store
- Nursery or Garden Center
- Hardware Store
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- First Date Spot
- Parent/Child Date Spot
- Place to Take Mom & Dad
- Place to Take Kids or Grandkids
- Place for a Field Trip
- Bowling Alley
- Golf Course
- Local Band or Musician
- Place to Take Your Dog

HEALTH/BEAUTY:

- Hair Salon
- Doctor (Name a person)
- Nurse (Name a person)
- Dentist (Name a person)
- Chiropractor (Name a person)
- Eye Doctor (Name a person)
- Veterinarian (Name a person)
- Health Club/Gym
- Dance Studio
- Massage Therapist (Name a person)
- Esthetician (Name a person)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Bank
- Photographer
- Barge Service
- Realtor (Name a person)
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Landscaping Company
- CPA (Name a person)
- Insurance Agent (Name a person)
- Senior Living Facility
- Home Builder
- Home Improvement Contractor
- Plumber (business)
- Electrician (business)
- HVAC Company
- Lawn Care Business
- Attorney or Law Firm
- Financial Planner
- Pest Control Company
- Dog Boarding Facility
- Home Painter
- Real Estate Company

CLASSIFIEDS

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Guthrie County



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Todd Thorn**
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City of Panora

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And Our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel



The **Star of Life** is a symbol used to identify emergency medical services. It features a blue six-pointed star, outlined by a white border. The middle contains the **Rod of Asclepius** – an ancient Greek symbol featuring a single serpent wrapped around a rough staff, representing healing and medicine.



John DeLavernge
Paramedic/EMS Director
Panora Rescue



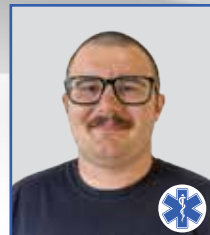
Kyle Kaspebrbauer,
EMS/RN, | Panora Rescue



Danny Claussen
EMS Paramedic
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Alex Olson
EMS Paramedic
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David Olson
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Jotham Arber
Volunteer EMS Paramedic
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Mackenzie DeMoss
Volunteer Driver
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Tricia Small
Volunteer Driver
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Other providers not pictured:

Part-time Staff:

Tim (TJ) Claussen, **EMT**
Brady Langaard, **Paramedic**
Kristy Melton, **EMT**
Halli Weddle, **EMT**

Volunteers:

Drivers Tim Ashworth
and Daily Steiner

P/T = PART TIME

We, the citizens of Panora and Guthrie County extend our immense gratitude to the devoted officers who selflessly dedicate their lives to safeguarding our communities. To **All Law Enforcement Officers**, thank you for performing an invaluable role in ensuring community safety.

And to our **EMS Personnel**, we extend our deepest appreciation to you who provide life-saving care, not only to the person you are administer that care, but also to family members. You bring a calming and reassuring presence to what is often a highly stressful situation.

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