

Panora

# TIMES

APRIL 2024

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## CREATING COMMERCE

LEARN HOW LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE  
WORKING TO GROW THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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**BAGLEY TO REVIVE  
STREET DANCE TRADITION**

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**8-4-2-1 BREAKFAST  
CASSEROLE**

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**BURIED CARS  
AND BEER SIGNS**

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## FROM THE COVER:

Officers of the Panora Chamber: Front: Angie Worth and Gayle Shackelford. Back: Dave Grove, Jamie Waddle and Sonya Pierce. Submitted photo



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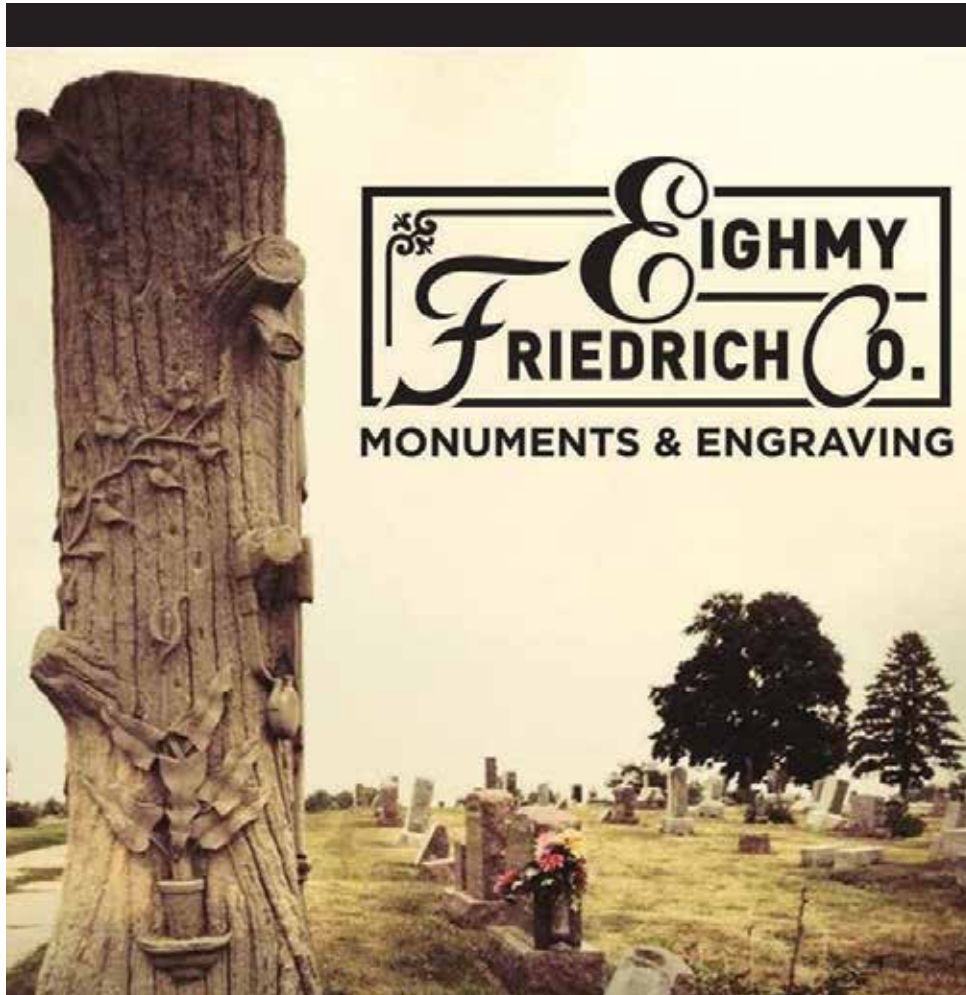
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# POWERING THE ECONOMIC ENGINES LOCALLY

Meeting people. Sharing ideas. Doing business with people who do business with you. I am a fan of all these things, as they all work toward a greater goal — creating commerce.

Most all of us have some great ideas, but they are not truly formulated until we get a chance to bounce them off other folks who can provide input to make them even better.

I had a wonderful professor in college who defined marketing in three simple words: Satisfy the customer. Thirty-five years later, his definition still sticks with me. But learning how to satisfy the customer isn't always easy, especially if you try to do it on your own. The good news is, you don't have to.

Networking with others is beneficial

for everyone, but it is especially helpful for business people. I attribute much of the growth we have had in our company to the relationships built through the years in business organizations, including local chambers of commerce and economic development groups. In fact, Big Green Umbrella Media has belonged to dozens of these organizations over the years. We believe in these organizations so much that we not only encourage, but we require, many of our employees to get involved. We continue to benefit from our association with groups in



Shane Goodman

Guthrie County as well. We are fortunate to have many to choose from, and we are pleased to highlight several of them in this month's cover story.

Many people assume these business organizations are arms of city government. Although many cities are involved in business groups, they are not running them. Commerce organizations are typically operated by volunteers who truly care about the businesses, the people and the communities they choose to be part of.

If you are a business owner or operator, I encourage you to get involved in one or more of these organizations. If you are not a business owner or operator, there is room for you, too, as I guarantee your ideas and input will be wel-

comed.

Most importantly, regardless of what stage you are at in your life or your work career, I encourage you to buy your products and services locally whenever you can and do all you can to support those who are powering our economic engines.

Thanks for reading. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shane Goodman  
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# CREATING COMMERCE

Learn how local organizations are working to grow the business community.

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

Commerce is defined as a system of activities, functions, procedures and institutions that contribute to the distribution and transfer of goods and services at the right time, place, quantity, quality and price through various channels from the original producers to the final consumers.

Those are a lot of words for something as basic as putting buyers and sellers together, but nobody said running a business was easy. And although making that connection is the primary goal for most local businesses organizations, the folks behind the scenes find themselves doing much more both individually and with other groups to continually improve the business community.

## PANORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Panora Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for many decades. The Chamber has one paid, part-time employee, Director Erica Matthies. There are five volunteer officers: Gayle Shackelford (president), Angie Worth (vice president), Dave Grove (second vice president), Jamie Waddle (treasurer) and Sonya Pierce (secretary).

Shackelford, who has served on the Chamber for more than 20 years, explained her role, as well as Matthies' role.

"I run the meetings and am part of the committees. Erica is the organizer, and she is really working hard on the social media and webpage," Shackelford said.

Shackelford provided a summary of the Chamber's efforts and goals.

"We are here to help facilitate the businesses and promote Panora. We work hand in hand with the businesses," Shackelford said. "We try to advertise their names as much as possible so that people will use their services and shop local, to keep our community strong."

The Chamber currently has a total of



Members of the Panora Chamber gather to network.

roughly 100 members, which includes both individuals and businesses/organizations. Shackelford said the Chamber is continually seeking new members. The annual membership cost is \$25 for an individual, \$75 for a church or club, \$150 for businesses with up to five employees, and \$300 for larger businesses.

Matthies and Shackelford stressed that, although the Chamber holds monthly member meetings, there is no requirement for attendance. However, they agreed that one of the benefits of attendance is the opportunity to network with other members.

The Panora Chamber's biggest annual event is Panorama Days in August. A committee of Chamber members help plan and coordinate the event. The Chamber also has roughly a dozen other committees that help with various events or year-round programs. Shackelford said help is always welcomed from any sources.

"Anyone can be involved in the Chamber. We welcome individuals, too. And even if you're not a part of the Chamber, if you'd like to come and help with any

of the events, we can always use extra help," Shackelford said.

Matthies explained that one of her goals is to fully integrate the Panora Chamber's website and social media presences, since this is an expectation of the new generation of business owners and customers.

"If we don't embrace it and speak their language, they will find another community that will," said Matthies.

Some of the upcoming Panora Chamber events include the golf tournament on May 5 at Lake Panorama National Golf Course, Market to Market on May 11, Art in the Village on June 1, Bacon Ride on June 15, Sidewalk Sales on July 5-6, and Panorama Days Aug. 2-4.

Shackelford pointed out the Chamber also gives out scholarships to local students and holds the "Citizen of the Year" program annually.

Matthies listed the three main goals of the Chamber for 2024.

"We want to get a sound system for Main Street, to help with parades and things like that," said Matthies. "We are looking at updating or sprucing up



The Panora Chamber of Commerce puts on the annual Easter Egg Hunt as one of its many activities.



Members of the Panora and Lake Panorama Economic Development group meet with Des Moines Partnership group members in Panora in September of 2023.

our town entrance signs, and, lastly, to maintain Panorama Days as a free event.”

### PANORA AND LAKE PANORAMA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Maggie Armstrong is the president of the Panora/Lake Panorama Economic Development Group (formerly known as PRIDE). She shared information about the group and its function.

“Our members pool economic development issues and ideas together in the Panora area. The group promotes existing businesses and helps identify and meet economic development needs, such as connecting new-to-the-area businesses with available space, assisting with external building improvements through a revolving fund loan program, promoting increased available housing in Panora, and partnering with other economic development influencers like Midwest Partnership and the Des Moines Partnership,” Armstrong said.

The group’s funding comes from a mix of membership dues, grant funding and corporate donations. Currently, there are approximately 40 active members and three membership levels. Individual memberships cost \$100, while small businesses are \$150 and large businesses are \$500. Armstrong pointed out that membership does not entail an excessive meeting schedule.

“Our group meets once a month to connect on business updates and discuss new opportunities or developments,” she said. “We are always looking for new members and ideas. The best work doesn’t happen in a vacuum, and more perspectives and lived experiences help communities thrive.”

Regarding the goals of the group, Armstrong stressed partnership.

“This is a community-based organization with an overall goal to connect business leaders with opportunities for success as well as identify and provide support for new and existing economic development projects,” said Armstrong. “We work closely with our area school, city and county government as well as housing authorities and other economic development groups. In essence, we strive to help sustainable, development-driven projects overcome hurdles for the betterment of our community.”

Asked about success stories, Armstrong had a ready answer.

“We’ve helped a good number of local business owners along Main Street in Panora improve and upgrade their business façade through our revolving loan program,” said Armstrong. “We donated the ground to the soccer fields on the north side of Panora, purchased residential property on the east side of Panora to develop newer, accessible housing. We acquired property along High-

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Brenda Dudley and Kayla Willms of Midwest Partnership.

way 4 and Highway 44 to repurpose for new commercial or residential living.”

Looking to the future, Armstrong knows change is inevitable.

“Development is a sustained effort with a long-time horizon. Often, the needs of a community in one decade are different than the needs of the previous decade or the coming decade,” said Armstrong. “We envision continuing to assess and adapt to the needs of the community and then promote solutions to those needs as best we can.”

### MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The office of Midwest Partnership is located in Stuart, and it houses Executive Director Brenda Dudley, as well as Kayla Willms, who serves as the administrative and communications coordinator.

“I’ve been in my position for one year,” said Dudley. “Midwest Partnership is economic development for Adair and Guthrie counties. We work with both counties, trying to increase the tax base. Anything that deals with trying to bring businesses in, keep existing businesses here, and housing, workforce, daycare, and tourism.”

Dudley said the bulk of Midwest Partnership’s funding is from memberships.

“The counties both contribute, a lot of the cities contribute, and we have a lot of business memberships, too,” Dudley said.

She works to stay in touch with the local communities throughout Guthrie

County by attending local governmental meetings (city councils, board of supervisors, etc.) to hear what is needed in the area and to offer supports as appropriate.

“I feel like, when we attend meetings, we always share what we’re working on. It’s a good chance just to listen. I look for things like if someone is struggling with their business,” Dudley said.

Midwest Partnership has a robust Facebook page, showing past and upcoming events of interest to local businesses, such as job postings, job fairs, grant and loan opportunities, and educational/networking events.

Dudley explained that loans are one of the most significant ways that Midwest Partnership can help new businesses.

“When businesses start up, it’s hard to get grants for small businesses, because they’re more for the nonprofits. But the revolving loan funds are great for start-up businesses,” she said.

A revolving loan fund is generally in addition to a traditional bank loan, as Dudley explained.

“They need to go to a bank, and if they need \$100,000, but the bank is only able to give them \$50,000, then they can go to the revolving loan fund for the extra,” said Dudley.

Dudley told of recently helping an established business by coordinating a mentorship through the SCORE organization (Service Corps of Retired Executives) so the mentor could help the mentee in areas of need.



Another offering through Midwest Partnership is Biz Connect. Dudley explained that the program isn't new, but the name has changed.

"Years ago, it was the Entre-Bash. Some business owners didn't come because they didn't consider themselves entrepreneurs," Dudley said. "So, we changed the name to the Biz Connect."

Biz Connect events offer educational and networking sessions for any type of business. There are sessions focused on legal issues, IT, marketing and advertising, benefits, Human Resources and financial matters.

The most recent Biz Connect event was free and was held April 4 at the Adair Community Center.

An upcoming event promoted by Midwest Partnership is the Empower Her Summit on Wednesday, April 24, 6-8 p.m. in Stuart. The event's tagline is "Unveiling Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs."

Dudley explained there are many other ways she can help the communities in Guthrie and Adair counties. For example, she recently helped Bayard by posting two lots that are for sale in Bayard on LOIS (Location One Information System).

Midwest Partnership also tracks data and trends for local businesses.

"Another thing we do is called BRE interviews, which stands for Business Retention and Expansion. They used to be required by the state," said Dudley. "They give me a list of bigger companies in the two-county area. We go in and ask a lot of questions about what's going well and what's not going well, how is the community...just a whole lot of questions that we ask to try to figure how the businesses are doing and how we can help them."

Dudley said she also focuses on areas that indirectly impact the business environment.

"Every community in Iowa, and I think the country, is struggling with daycare, workforce and housing," said Dudley. "Those are the big things."

Dudley and Willms encourage anyone wanting more information to check out the Midwest Partnership Facebook page or to call or come visit them.

Over the course of her year at Midwest Partnership, Dudley has gradually gotten busier.

"Now, as time goes on, I do get a lot of calls," she said. "I think the word is getting out about what we do, and when you build those relationships, people trust you, and they start knocking on your door." ■

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## LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

# SWANK, WAHLBERG, GYLLENHAAL, MORE GHOSTBUSTERS AND A CLONE OF CHRIST

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

Panora Times

### “ORDINARY ANGELS”

Two-time Academy Award winner Hilary Swank stars in this movie based on the true story of a flawed woman who is inspired to help a young family after seeing a report on the local news. A movie that could have been a syrupy mess turns into an engaging and, at times, touching film. A seriously ill child, a family struggling to pay their medical bills and an angel trying to help. It's better than it should be and is a true crowd-pleaser. Bring Kleenex. Lots of them. **Grade: A-**



“Ordinary Angels”

### “ARTHUR THE KING”

With Marc Wahlberg in one of those movies he seems to specialize in from time to time, “Arthur the King” tells the true story of a man struggling with life issues. On a competitive race with friends, he finds an injured dog he cannot refuse

to help. This will seriously damage the team's chances of winning and the loss of thousands of dollars. Since it is a true story, I will go along with it. This is another movie that gets dangerously close to sappy, but the strength of Wahlberg's performance and a damn cute dog save this from the scrap heap. **Grade: B**



“Arthur The King”

### “CABRINI”

This engaging bio-pic is about an Italian woman who goes to the Pope with her request to start a hospital in her hometown and then a series of hospitals in America. It is a true story of a feisty and determined woman who never took no for an answer. She was canonized as a saint by Pope Pius



“Cabrini”

XII in 1946. It's a wonderful movie about an amazing woman. **Grade: B+**

### “GHOSTBUSTERS 2: THE FROZEN EMPIRE”

The last Ghostbusters film, which featured a group of young kids related to an original Ghostbuster, was clever and a

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"Ghostbusters 2: The Frozen Empire"



"Immaculate"



"Road House"

lot of fun. This sequel to a sequel is a bad misstep. Back in New York City, ghosts reappear to wreak havoc, and these kids and a handful of the original Ghostbusters take to the streets to save the city once again. I did not laugh once. The film is boring, not funny and a waste of time. Bill Murray arrives too late to save this "nail in the coffin" of the franchise. **Grade: D-**

### "IMMACULATE"

This film is a "not true" story of a young woman who wants to be a nun. She travels to Italy to join a convent. It is clear from her first day that something is horribly amiss here. She stays anyway,

and it gets even more creepy as we find she is mysteriously pregnant with what we discover is a clone of Christ. That's a phrase I never thought I would use. The movie goes off the rails quickly and poorly and ends in a mess of special effects that really aren't special and a story that is equally horribly and mind-numbing. I'm guessing you can see where this is headed. **Grade: D-**

### "ROAD HOUSE"

The original "Road House" with the late, great Patrick Swayze is a cheesy, but fun, classic action film. There was humor, charm and romance and ab-

solutely no reason to remake it. Director Doug Liman has given us great action films including "The Bourne Identity," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "Edge of Tomorrow." Actor Jake Gyllenhaal has made some really good movies as well, including "Nightcrawler," "Donnie Darko" and "Brokeback Mountain." How this new version of "Road House" went off the rails this fast and far is a mystery. A stranger (Gyllenhaal) ends up in the Florida Keys where he finds a bar struggling to keep violence at bay. And then the whole damned thing goes so over the top, it is amazing (in a bad way). Uber violent, poorly acted and a complete waste

of time. Catch it on Amazon Prime, if you dare. **Grade: F**

May has to be better, right? Until next month, please pass the Milk Duds. ■

*Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986 and can be heard talking movies every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. on KXn0 106.3 with Keith Murphy and Andy Fales. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Guthrie County.*



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# OBITUARIES

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**FRANCES C. CHALOUPKA**  
1929-2024

Frances Catherine Chaloupka, 94, of Yale, daughter of W. Everett and Frances P. (Renfrow), was born July 21, 1929, in Des Moines. The Lord called her home Sunday, March 24, 2024, at New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

Frances spent her early years in the Linden area, but as her parents moved further north in Guthrie County, she attended school in Bagley for several years. Her final school years were spent attending

Yale High School. As a child, she loved to ride her horse, and basketball was her favorite sport. She and Vernon married shortly after graduation and began their life together on the farm. Frances was given an opportunity to work part time at Farmers State Bank in Yale. That eventually led to full-time employment that spanned more than 35 years. Along with raising their five daughters, Frances was also very involved in Eastern Star and United Methodist Women, particularly the annual turkey dinner every Thanksgiving. Gardening and baking were two of her passions, along with a good card game where she was extremely competitive. Every daughter and grandchild has a handmade quilt Frances constructed after retirement in 1994. During the 73 years of marriage, Frances and Vernon enjoyed traveling, square dancing and weekly bowling league. When it came to music and sporting events of both her children and grandchildren, she made every effort to be there.

Frances is survived by

five daughters: Catherine (Joe) Thompson of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Carolyn (Michael) Deardorff of Broomfield, Colorado, Connie Chaloupka (Mike Johnston) of Bagley, Celia (Tim) Morey of Tallahassee, Florida, and Cheryl Humphrey of Cary, North Carolina; 10 grandchildren: Laura Wining, Kimm Deardorff, Clinton Blackburn, Andrea Klein, Anthony Blackburn, Lindsey Morey, Travis Morey, Chelsey Parsons, Lewis Humphrey and Jacob Humphrey; and 18 great grandchildren.

Frances was deeply loved by all who came in contact with her. She was the heart and soul of her family. There wasn't a child she didn't greet with a hug. Frances was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon, her parents, and grandson, Daniel Blackburn.

Funeral services were March 28, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Burial was in Richland Township Cemetery. Visitation was at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the discretion of the family. ■



**JEAN GIBSON**  
1933-2024

Lola Jean "Jean" Gibson, 91, daughter of Preston and Letha (Logsdon) Spillers, was born Jan. 13, 1933, in Des Moines. She passed away Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at UnityPoint Health - Methodist West Hospital, West Des Moines.

Jean met her future husband, Charles "Dick" Gibson, in the fourth grade, and from that day forward, knew they were meant for each other. Jean graduated from

Guthrie Center High School in 1951. She went on to graduate from the Iowa Teachers College after two years. On May 15, 1953, she married Charles "Dick" Gibson at the Presbyterian Church in Guthrie Center. Jean and Dick had four children together and fostered 59 infants and 10 older children. After Dick's military service in Bermuda, the Gibson family moved around Iowa, eventually settling in Clive until 1974, when they moved to the family farm in Dallas County near Linden. In 2018, they moved into Linden from the farm.

Jean enjoyed attending her children's, grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's events, knitting and making dish cloths, researching family history, and watching her soaps and game shows. She was an avid Chicago Cubs and Iowa State Cyclones fan and loved cribbage, bingo, going to the casino, family reunions and getting everyone together to take a picture.

Jean was a member of the Linden United

Methodist Church, where she volunteered for many activities and functions. She was also a very involved member of the Order of the Eastern Star, serving as secretary, treasurer and was a past Worthy Matron.

Jean is survived by her children, Linda (Mark) McQuistan of Clermont, Florida; Douglas (Julie) Gibson of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Luann "Dee" (Randy) Olson of Linden; Dennis (Darla) Gibson of Adel; special foster daughter, Mary Ann Killin; and nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dick; great-grandson, Nolan Wilson; and sister, Jane Simon.

Funeral services were Monday, April 8, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Burial was in West Linn Cemetery, near Linden. Visitation was at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Unity Point Hospice, Jefferson, or the Eastern Star of Panora. ■

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## JOAN KATHRYN STAVER

1934-2024

Joan Kathryn Staver, 89,

daughter of William and Agnes (Lynch) Breitbach, was born on Sept. 30, 1934, in Bankston. She entered into eternal rest on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at her home at Lakeside Village, Panama.

Joan graduated from high school in 1952 in Bankston. She moved to Dubuque, where she met Donald Joseph Staver; they married on June 23, 1956. They raised a family of five children. In 1991, they retired to Lake Panorama in Panama.

Her greatest joys were family and faith. She loved hosting family gatherings, spending time with friends, playing golf, games and euchre, and traveling.

Joan is survived by her

daughters, Kathy (Don) Berryman, Lynn (Dave) Breitbach, Donna (Steve) Brody, Laurie (Jim) Knight, and son, Donald (Jenny) Staver, Jr; 12 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She is also survived by three of her seven siblings, Rose (Fran) Brune, Dorie (Wayne) Dodds and William (Jeanne) Breitbach.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Joseph Staver, and four of her siblings: Jim Breitbach, Ramona Kluesner, Edward Breitbach and Thomas Breitbach.

Memorial Mass services were Saturday, April 13, 2024, at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Panama, with

visitation prior. A luncheon followed the services at the church. Burial of her urn will take place in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

The family wishes to express their gratitude for the loving care provided by Lakeside Village and Hospice of the Midwest, the faithful guidance of Father Higgins of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, and the overwhelming support of family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics Iowa at [www.soiowa.org](http://www.soiowa.org)

Twigg Funeral Home, Panama, is entrusted with her services. ■



## JACOB MILLER

1989-2024

Jacob Miller, age 34, of Panama died on Jan. 31, 2024, at the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Panama City, Florida.

Jacob was born on Sept. 7, 1989, to Scott and Sherri Miller in Des Moines. Jacob was a 2008 graduate of Perry High School and attended the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs and Iowa State University.

He loved sharing his passion for basketball with coaching in Des Moines

and pickup games with his nephew, Lincoln. He especially loved teaching finer points of the golf game and swimming to Lincoln and was looking forward to doing the same with his nieces, Ellie and Rylee. He loved his Iowa Hawkeyes and Green Bay Packers, and he also loved to argue with anyone who wasn't a fan of these two teams.

Jacob is survived by parents, Scott and Sherri Miller; brothers, Eric (Darcy) Miller and Josef (Kayla) Miller; brother-in-law, Matt Bryan; nephew, Lincoln; and nieces, Ellie and Rylee.

Jacob was preceded in death by his sister, Sarah Bryan; and his grandparents, Joan and Warren Miller, Jimmy Miller and Carol Sprott.

A Celebration of Life was held on April 20, 2024, at the Perry Golf and Country Club.

Memorials can be made directly to the family, University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City (he loved that wave!) or Tori's Angels.

Online condolences can be given at [www.caldwellparrish.com](http://www.caldwellparrish.com). ■



## NORMA LYNN (WALLACE) LOUK

1941-2024

Norma Lynn (Wallace) Louk was born on Nov. 25, 1941, on a farm near Yale. Her parents were Verne Wallace

and Eva (Kriens) Wallace. Norma attended school at the Yale Community School where she played the tuba in band and loved to play basketball.

Norma grew up playing outside, following her big brother, Mervin, around the farm. In her adult life, she enjoyed dancing with Gary, sitting on the deck drinking coffee or working in her many flower beds.

Norma married Gary Louk on March 4, 1960. Gary and Norma were blessed with four children: Deb Louk of Yale, Denise Petersen (Dale) of Branson, Missouri, Dale (Beverly) Louk of Yale and Dee (Jay) Finnell of Adel.

Norma loved children and had a special place in her heart for Roger (Brenda) Snyder, who spent a lot of time at the Yamaha shop, and her niece, Roxanne

Steburg. The family spent time together motorcycling, snowmobiling, boating, playing volleyball and just hanging out.

Norma worked multiple jobs outside the home, including helping Gary run the Yamaha shop. Her favorite job was babysitting for the Kirtleys, Hansens, Wolfes, Snyders and Jenny Cornelius.

Before her retirement, Norma spent many years working in the Panama Food Center. Norma was a member of the Pythian Sisters and the United Methodist Women, where she served the Methodist Church for more than 30 years. Norma loved her community and was known to do anything for anyone. She had a heart of gold. She will be greatly missed by the community, her family and friends.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Mervin Wallace; brother-in-law, Dennis Louk; and sisters-in-law, JoAnne Hughes and Sandi Ackerman. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Gary, and her four children. Norma has 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. ■

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**MARILYN  
(MOLLY)  
GERLICH**  
1927-2024

Marilyn (Molly) Jane Gerlich, 96, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2024, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center. She was the daughter of Paul and Gladys Adams and was born April 22, 1927, in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. Molly graduated from Galena High School in Galena, Illinois, in 1945.

On June 10, 1946, Molly was united in marriage to Irvin Gerlich in their hometown of Galena. To this union, five children were born. In 1964, The Gerlich family moved to West Des Moines. Molly was a homemaker and loving mother, always placing

the needs and happiness of her children and family above her own. After Irv's retirement, the couple moved to Lake Panorama where they made their home in 1979. They developed Boulder Cove Colony and Clover Ridge, then leased Lake Panorama National Golf Course to construct the Conference Center. Before his passing in 1997, Molly and Irv made significant contributions to the foundation of what Lake Panorama is today.

At age 78 and while at a 60th class reunion, Molly reunited with her childhood friend, Jim Hartman. Their

friendship grew, and they were married on Dec. 31, 2005. They lived at Lake Panorama and then moved to a retirement community in West Des Moines for 12 years until Jim's death in 2018.

Molly is survived by her son, Jay (Karen) Gerlich of Panora; daughter, Jule (Ted) Reynolds of Des Moines; daughter, Lonna (Kevin) Nauman of Panora; son-in-law Stan (Kim) Thornberry; special nieces Ellen (Dave) Elliott, Jane (Bob) Frazier; and nephews Jack (Jackie) Lickes and Keith (Donna) Gerlich; her deeply loved eight

grandchildren, Ann Stutler, Curt Thornberry, Maggie Armstrong, Mari Brown, Erin Gerlich, Adam Reynolds, Liz Ratcliff and Wyatt Nauman; nine great-grandchildren; and her amazing life-long friends, Norma Clegg and Marilee Rice.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Irv Gerlich; infant daughter, Lora Lee; daughter, Lynn Thornberry; second husband, Jim Hartman; sister, Carmen; and brother, Jack.

Molly was very active and enjoyed life to the fullest. There was seldom an empty day

on her calendar. She loved dancing, big band music, golf, bridge and many long-lasting friendships. She was a member of PEO Chapter BY, Questers, United Methodist Church, and Lake Panorama Women's Golf League.

Funeral services were Friday, April 12, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Visitation was prior to the services at the funeral home. Burial followed at the Brethren Cemetery, Panora.

Memorial contributions can be made in Molly's memory to the Panora United Methodist Church. ■

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## ROBERT J. CORNISH

1930-2024

Robert James Cornish, 93, son of Zeb and Lottie (Lookingbill) Cornish, was born Dec. 4, 1930, near Bayard. He passed away Sunday, March 24, 2024, at The Lakeside Village, Panorama.

Bob attended country school before he entered Bayard elementary.

When he was a junior in high school, he moved to Yale with his parents. He graduated from Yale with the class of 1948. He attended A.I.B. in Des Moines before working in the Farmers State Bank in Yale.

In 1950, he married his high school sweetheart, Jean Dubes. They lived on the farm until he was drafted into the United States Army in January of 1952. He took basic training at Camp Roberts, California, with the 43rd Infantry Division. He was transferred to Augsburg, Germany, where he served until he was called home due to the death of his

mother. He was honorably discharged in January 1954.

After military duty, Bob and Jean returned to the farm where they lived until they moved to Yale. Bob worked as assistant manager of Yale Farmer's Co-op until he later sold feed for Standard Chemical of Omaha.

Bob and Jean moved from Yale to Lake Panorama in 1984 and lived there for the next 35 years. They spent winters in Arizona and Florida and enjoyed traveling and cruising with their friends from Winterset Park, Florida. Due to Bob's health, they moved to The Lakeside Village, Panorama, in 2019.

Bob served on the Yale United Methodist Church Board, the Hope Parish Council, and the YJB School Board. After the Yale United Methodist Church closed, he transferred his membership to Panorama United Methodist Church. He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge where he had served as master and additionally a 50-year member of the O.E.S. where he served as worthy patron, among other offices.

Bob was a very loving husband, father and grandfather and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He greatly enjoyed the outdoors working in his yard, planting flowers and tending his birdfeeders. He could also be found at his BBQ grill or picnicking with his family at Springbrook State Park. He enjoyed hunting. He and Jean loved driving

around the countryside admiring the fields and the crops each season. He enjoyed card games and square dancing with Jean. He loved photographing family functions as well as landscapes of their travels. Being an avid horse lover, Bob had fun attending the Yale Saddle Club horse shows well into his 90s. Bob and Jean enjoyed singing together and did so for different events over the years. Bob always had a smile and greeted everyone he met.

Bob is survived by his wife, Jean Cornish of Panorama; daughters, LuAnn (Bruce) Tamisiea of Okobojo and Lori (Tim) Raup of Panorama; five grandchildren, C.J. Cave, Kelsey (David) Parker, Tyler (Michaela) Tamisiea, Reid (Sara) Tamisiea and Brooke (Chad) Tredway; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Barbara Cornish; nephew, Mark Cornish; and sister-in-law, Vernona Dubes.

Memorial services were Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the Panorama United Methodist Church. Visitation was prior to the services at the church. Burial of his urn was in the Brethren Cemetery, Panorama, following the service.

Memorials may be directed to The Yale Saddle Club, Panorama EMS and Care Initiatives Hospice.

The family would like to thank The Lakeside Village and Hospice who so lovingly took care of Bob.

Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama, was entrusted with his services. ■



## IVA JOAN POTTROFF

1935-2024

Iva Joan Pottroff, known affectionately as Joan by all who knew her, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2024, in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Born on July 13, 1935, in Linden to the late Jennie Parton Knapp and Carl Knapp, Joan's journey through life was marked by a deep-seated love for her family.

Joan spent her formative years in Iowa, where she attended high school before venturing into her career as an airline ticket agent. This was not just a job but a gateway to the world. Joan's passion for travel was ignited during this time, and she delighted

in using her travel vouchers to explore new places. One of her most cherished recollections was taking her brother, Joe, who predeceased her, on a trip after his military service, a testament to her caring nature and the special bond they shared.

Joan's family was her pride and joy. She was a loving sister to Joseph (Audrey) Knapp (deceased), Dorothea Wristen of Arizona and George (Judy) Knapp Panorama. Though her marriage to her first spouse, Eldon Enyart, ended in divorce, it blessed her with two devoted children, Carla Enyart Luallin (David) of Sierra Vista, Arizona, and John Enyart (Tina) of Punta Gorda, Florida. Her legacy continued with her adored grandchildren, Jan Spevack, John Spevack, Brandon Enyart and Eric Enyart (Angela), and her cherished great-grandchildren, Aubrie Adams, Angel Gibson, Citori Spevack, Jacob and Sarah, all of whom brought immense joy into her life. Joan's family circle expanded with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren who came into her life when her daughter Carla married David Luallin.

In her retirement from Equitable, Joan found pleasure in simpler joys. She had a knack for finding treasures in thrift shops, garage sales and dollar stores. She was known for ensuring that her grandkids and great-grandkids were always well-dressed and had all the accessories they needed. At her home, and later her residence at Lakeside Village, she enjoyed when family and friends visited.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents; her brother, Joe Knapp; and her spouse, Clifford Pottroff. Joan's legacy of love, kindness and the joy she found in life's simple pleasures will continue to live on through her family and all who knew her.

Graveside services were Monday, April 8, 2024, at West Linn Cemetery, near Linden. Visitation was Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to any local hospice locations. The hospice caregivers both at Lakeside Village and Valor Hospice of Sierra Vista, Arizona, made a huge difference to her and her family would like to see that available to others in need. ■

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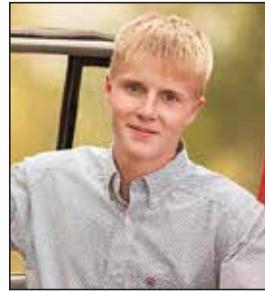
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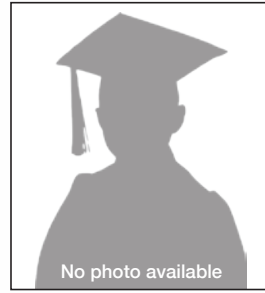
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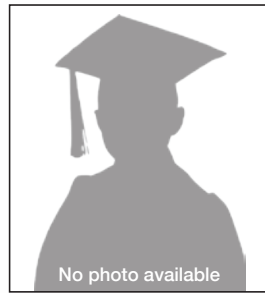
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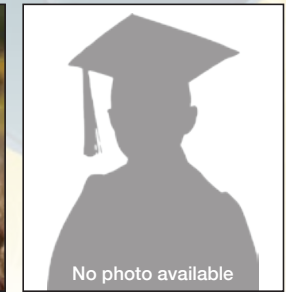
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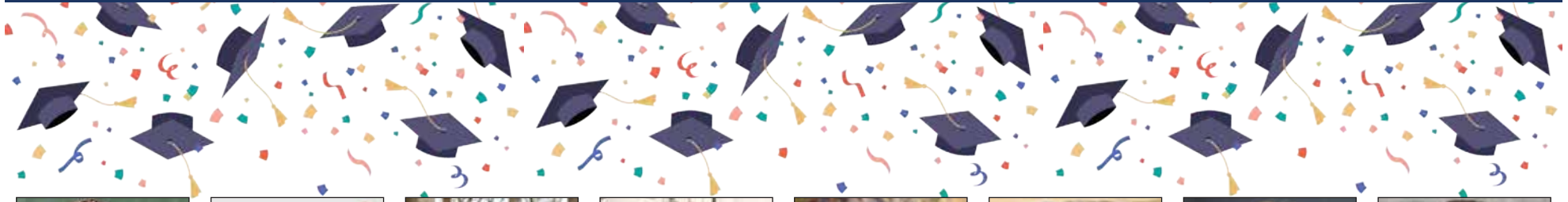
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 Guthrie County REC .....641-747-2206  
 Guthrie County State Bank.....641-755-2400 (Panora)  
 641-332-2218 (Guthrie Center)  
 Guthrie Family Medicine Center .....641-332-2365  
 Dr. Steven Bascom & Dr. David Aherns  
 Harmann Excavating .....641-755-3640

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Jeramiah Johnson-Garnett



Kaitlin Kent



Hannah Kharrazi



Hadley Klein



Bridgette Knapp



Taylor Kunze



Mia Lleshi



Camden Lombard



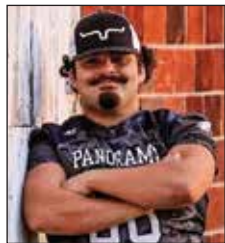
Michael Martinez



Ryan McCarthy



Tage Monahan



Isaac Monrroy Nunez



Gabrielle Mortensen



Lindy Nelson



Maddox Nunn



Allie Olesen



Joseph Perrigo



Rileigh Pierce



Weston Ploeger



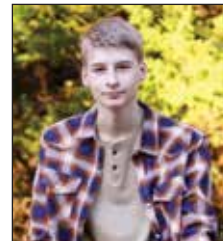
Gracie Richter



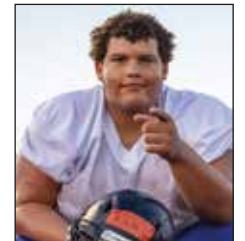
Juliana Rizzuti



Jaidyn Sellers



Seth Shaffer



Keydric Smith



Ashton Stauffer



Brady Stauffer



Cayden VanMeer



Mia Waddle



Colby Waltz



Elise Warner



Sarah Westergaard



Meredith Woodworth

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 Hemphill Insurance ..... 641-439-2221  
 Hometown Foods ..... 641-755-2213 (Panora)  
 641-747-2291 (Guthrie Center)  
 Hummel's Auto Body, Inc..... 641-755-3033  
 Iowa Trust Bank..... 641-755-2141  
 KHL Builders, LLC ..... 641-757-0320  
 Lake Lumber Company..... 641-755-2385  
 Lake Panorama Realty..... 641-755-5253  
 Landus Cooperative ..... 641-755-2114 (Panora)  
 641-439-2243 (Yale)

Leonard Automotive ..... 641-755-2554  
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 Los Altos Mexican Restaurant ..... 641-755-3777  
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# YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

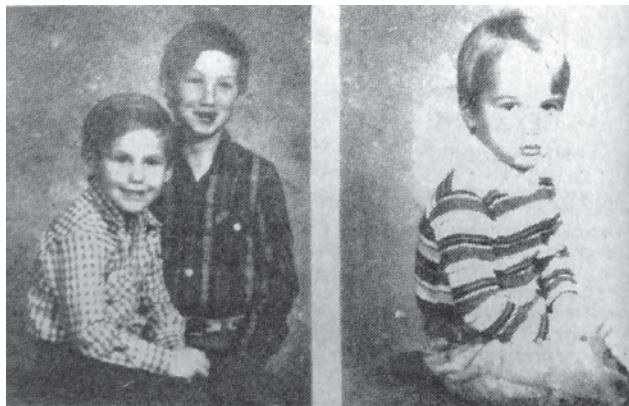
## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times, April 29, 1974

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE:** It's not every day you move into a new high school, and especially during the middle of the week as Panora-Linden did Wednesday. Sharyl Ulrich, left, and Pam Hamling prepared for the move and a track meet the same afternoon as best they knew how. Track suits, clothes and books all were stuffed into suitcases and carted to the new school still under construction.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, April 12, 1984

**CITIZENS OF TOMORROW:** Corey, 3, and Shannon, 7, are children to Carl and Jean Kepple, Panora. Ron and Pam Stringer of Panora are the parents of Tony, 3.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, April 14, 1994

**STRING BREAKER:** Freshman Travis Geopfert hits the finish line first in the 100-meter dash at the West Central co-ed meet at Stuart Friday. Geopfert also won the 400 and ran on the winning 4 x 100 relay.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, March 5, 2004

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** Until some 35 years ago, a Presbyterian Church was located on N.E. Second on the corner a block north of the present Panora United Methodist Church.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, April 24, 2014

**WHATCHA GOT?:** David and Lorelei Nordquist check out the contents of a plastic egg she found during Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt at Historical Village.

## 5 YEARS AGO



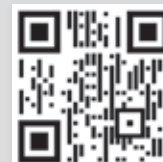
From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, April 25, 2019

**BROBST TO GO ON HONOR FLIGHT:** Pictured is veteran Charles Brobst from Lake Panorama who will be on the honor flight in mid-May to Washington D.C. Also pictured are commanders Lynn Zajicek of the American Legion Post 372 and Mike Arganbright of the VFW Post 5510. ■



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# EUPHORIA FOR PAN

PANORAMA HIGH SCHOOL HELD ITS ANNUAL PROM CELEBRATION. THE GRAND MARCH STARTED AT 5 P.M. AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO PANORAMA TIMES



AJ Draper and Jacy Lawrence



Hannah Nichols and Mason Carstens



Xavier Boblett and Jauclyn Curry



Klayton Bremer and Jazym Sellers



Brayden Lincoln and Hania Boblett



Hunter Dishman and Ava Thompson



Zander Hammerstrom and Jolynne Roeder



Taytum Bates and Kaitlin Kent



Bridgette Ewing and Emmett King



Donovin Delp and Tori Heckman



Elah Molloy and Griffyn Burchfield



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# ANOTHER PROMGOERS

PHOTOGRAPHS ON SATURDAY. THE THEME WAS "EUPHORIA."  
DANCE, AND THE AFTER-PROM WAS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

MORE PHOTOS  
ON NEXT  
PAGE



Landon Kirtley and Faith Recker



Hallie Arganbright and Ryan Cogil



Mia Waddle and Braylon Dawes



Jaidyn Sellers and Trey Boettcher



Keirstyn Egger and Natalie Donovan



Ava Haverstick and Maddox Nunn



Evelyn Hummel and Colby Waltz



Connor Love and Madison Mincy



Hadley Klein and Sawyer Simmons



Blake Schwartz and Cayden Iredale



Austin Wagner and Hanna Smith



Kelsey Laabs and Brayden Galvan

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Meredith Woodworth



Gabe Wagner and Liberty  
Ashworth



Cacee Barrett and Arilyan  
Steenblock



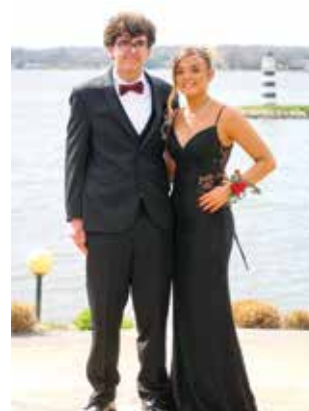
Cristian Monrroy-Nunez  
and Maddy Lutz



Eli Hammerstrom and  
Madelyn Carstens



Jaxson Stauffer and Tyme  
Boettcher



Ethan Hein and Shawnie  
Brown



Gracie Richter and Luis  
Czwalinna



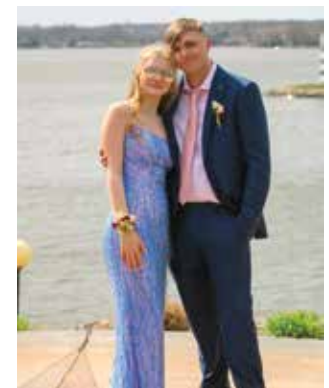
Joel Cooper and Lexi  
Wasson



Isaac Monrroy-Nunez and  
Allie Olsen



Robbie Lake and  
Bridgette Knapp



Madison Hummel and  
David Erickson

PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



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# PANORA SPECIALTY CARE OFFERS INTERGENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE FUN

The nursing home is part of Care Initiatives, which is the largest nursing home company in Iowa

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Panora Specialty Care, located on the eastern edge of Panora at 805 E. Main St., is sometimes locally known as “the care facility” or “the nursing home,” but it’s much more than that. As one would expect in a small town, the staff members get to know their clients well. But as part of a much larger care provider organization, the local facility can offer much more than one might expect.

Administrator Jacquelyne Jasek explained the group of which Panora Specialty Care is a part of.

“We’re part of Care Initiatives, which is the largest nursing home company in Iowa. We have 43 facilities in the state, as well as several hospice locations,” Jasek said.

Jasek has worked within the Care Initiatives organization since 2014 and has been the administrator at Panora Specialty Care since December of 2023.

Services offered at Panora Specialty Care include 24-hour skilled nursing care, accelerated care plus therapy equipment, independent living, beauty shop/barber shop, Care Initiatives Hospice, discharge planning/home visits, individualized care plans, intravenous (IV) therapy, lymphedema and wound therapy, medication management, memory care units, occupational therapy, outpatient therapy, pain management, pastoral services, physical therapy, planned activities, rehab-to-home, respite care, select/choice menus, special dietary accommodations, speech therapy, tube feedings, and wound care management.



A Panora Specialty Care resident takes time to “horse around.”



Birds have been part of the many activities at Panora Specialty Care. Residents have spent time with parakeets and have learned about eagles.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



Management staff at Panora Specialty Care: In front: Randy LaFreniere and Aleeshia Bell. In back: Tawnya Larsen, Lisa Benedict, Kati Scheurmann and Danielle Greenlee.

An addition to the building was made in 2000 to offer 11 assisted living units. However, the purpose of those units has changed.

“We recently switched the assisted living to independent living,” Jasek said.

Kati Scheurmann, activities and social services director, has worked at the facility since 2016. She said, when she began leading activities for residents,

she wanted to find out from them what they would prefer.

“I asked to get opinions from residents on what they enjoy, so it wasn’t just generic activities like bingo. We added karaoke, which has been a big hit. We do that usually once a week or every other week,” Scheurmann said. “We also do pet therapy. I bring in animals all the time for that, and as it gets

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Members of the Guthrie County Sheriff's Department meet with residents at Panora Specialty Care.

nicer out, we can do more things outside."

As activity director, Scheurmann aims to offer intergenerational opportunities for those living in the facility. She coordinates youth to visit, such as carolers during the holiday season and Cub Scouts or similar groups year-round. Scheurmann said she's currently working on implementing an "adopted grandparents" program, in which residents will be paired up with youth to socialize while also teaching skills such as sewing.

A total of approximately 40 staff members work at Panora Specialty Care. Jasek and Scheurmann each praised

the individuals who provide the various cares and services at the facility.

"We have a lot of longevity of staff. We have people who have been here 20, 30 years," Scheurmann said.

"I feel like we all work really well together," Jasek said. "It's a good family environment."

Scheurmann added that, because of the many departments in the facility, staff members are available to assist in other areas, if or when needed.

Another strength of the facility, as described by Jasek and Scheurmann, is the ability to tap into expertise and resources from elsewhere in the broader Care Initiatives organization.

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County sheriffs visit Panora Specialty Care.

“Additional resources are always just a phone call away,” Jasek said.

Because of the wide variety of services provided, Panora Specialty Care has a blend of long-term and short-term residents/clients. Jasek said this creates an op-

portunity for clear feedback from those served by the facility.

“We have a lot of people that leave, and then they come back,” Jasek said. “So, that’s a rewarding thing for us, that they choose to come back to this facility.” ■

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# GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS CONSIDER VICIOUS DOG ORDINANCE

BY RICH WICKS  
Panora Times

## NEW WEBSITE FOR THE COUNTY

At the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors March 21 meeting, the supervisors discussed the proposal to enter into a service agreement with Neapolitan Labs to create a new website for the county. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong shared that, if approved, it's expected to take Neapolitan Labs three to four months to complete the work. She also explained that the county could pay all at once or spread the cost over multiple years. The total cost is expected to be around \$16,000.

Supervisor Brian Johnson asked about consistency and control over what each department would post on the website.

"Each department will have oversight over the content," said Armstrong. "They will have somewhat limited determination over the format because we want the look and feel to be the same, but we can definitely put some parameters in place."

The supervisors voted unanimously to approve the service agreement with Neapolitan Labs and to spread the cost out, with half being paid this fiscal year and the remainder in the next fiscal year.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY SUGGESTS ADDITIONAL SALARY RAISES FOR HER STAFF

During the regular meeting on March 26, County Attorney Dana Minter discussed with the supervisors her request to implement additional salary increases for her staff.

Supervisor Mike Dickson stated his disagreement with additional raises.

"The board gave what they gave, and that's where I'm at," said Dickson.

Supervisor Steve Smith shared his opinion, that if salaries are not kept competitive, it will cost the county more due to turnover.

After lengthy discussion, the supervisors voted unanimously to approve the additional 2% as requested by Minter.

## SUPERVISORS MEET IN CLOSED SESSIONS

The March 28 agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting included two possible closed sessions pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 1 (c). Shortly after opening the meeting, the supervisors went into closed session for agenda item No. 3 (Litigation Matters; Mike Galloway, Ahlers & Cooney).

The other possible closed session on the agenda was listed as "Litigation Matters; Jeff Stone, Simmons, Perrine, Moyer, Bergman PLC."

## REDUCTION IN MAINTENANCE LEVEL FOR 233RD LANE

During the April 2 meeting, the supervisors set a public hearing on the 2025 budget for 10 a.m. on April 16 at the courthouse.

There was discussion about the proposed reduction in maintenance level for 233<sup>rd</sup> Lane Section 7 South Cass Township. County Engineer Josh Sebern explained that the current service level on that roadway is Level B, and the proposal would reduce it to Level C, which is the

lowest level.

"It will be gated at the east end so that only landowners, emergency services, postal services and the county have access — limited public access," Sebern said.

It was noted that if residents move onto properties along the road, the county could later increase the service level as needed.

"Just so I'm correct," asked Supervisor Maggie Armstrong, "the landowners that this would impact are all in agreement that this is the direction that they would like to go?"

Sebern replied that all applicable landowners have signed to indicate their agreement. The supervisors voted unanimously to reduce the service level to "C" as proposed.

Armstrong pointed out that there will be upcoming opportunities for all of Guthrie County's department heads to visit with staff from Neapolitan Labs, prior to Neapolitan Labs creating the new county website.

## VICIOUS DOG ORDINANCE

During the April 9 meeting, Health Services Director Jotham Arber shared his progress in collecting information to help create a Vicious Dog Ordinance for the county.

Arber discussed the difference between "dangerous" dogs and "vicious" dogs. Arber said certain types of dogs, such as those that are used for hunting, are generally classified as dangerous dogs. He did not suggest any action be taken simply

based on the breed of a dog. A dog would be classified as "vicious" only based on its behavior.

Arber suggested that if a Vicious Dog Ordinance is adopted, it would be wiser to direct that such animals be removed from the county rather than requiring that such an animal be killed. He said that would be difficult to enforce, other than in emergency situations.

Arber will meet with the county attorney to work on drafting a proposed ordinance and will return to the supervisors when it is available.

The supervisors discussed the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) RFP (Request for Proposals). Supervisor Maggie Armstrong asked Jotham Arber about a proposed timeline for allowing proposals.

"As far as RFPs, I think generally 90 days is the standard response time," Arber said.

The supervisors approved adding a due date of July 1 to the RFP. Armstrong will work on a first draft of a cover letter and will bring it to the April 16 meeting. Once approved, the cover letter and RFP will be sent out and posted on the county website.

## TAXPAYER CONCERNS

At the April 16 regular meeting, the supervisors reviewed the draft of a cover letter regarding the county's Request for Proposals (RFP) for EMS services. The discussion centered on what the deadline for RFP's should be in order to allow adequate time for RFPs to be submitted while still allowing the county adequate time

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for the various actions needed after RFPs are received in order to potentially have the EMS issue on ballots in the November election. After discussion, the supervisors approved the cover letter, with one change, making the deadline for RFPs June 14.

During the public comments section of the meeting, Paul Hutton of Stuart addressed the supervisors to voice his concerns about taxes. He said despite the letters he received saying the levy rate has decreased, the actual taxes have increased.

“Basically, a family making about \$100,000 a year, married with two kids, pays about 41% in taxes per year. said Hutton. “We’re being taxed to death in this country.”

At 10 a.m., a public hearing was held on the county’s Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. Auditor Dani Fink shared data regarding the taxes. She explained that, overall in Guthrie County, property valu-

ations went up 11% compared to the previous year.

Following the public hearing, the supervisors approved Resolution 24-25 for the adoption and certification of taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Supervisor Mike Dickson asked for clarification regarding discussion about a potential “vicious dog ordinance” that happened at a recent supervisors’ meeting that Dickson was unable to attend. Chair JD Kuster said that, apparently, some citizens misunderstood and worried that the county may be considering banning certain breeds of dog.

“Certainly, there was not a discussion about eliminating breeds,” said Steve Smith.

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors regularly meet every Tuesday at 9 a.m. The public is welcome. Attendees may participate in person or by calling 323-792-6123 and inputting conference ID 547029216#. ■

## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# YALE CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES NUISANCE ORDINANCE

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

The Yale City Council met in regular session on April 2. Prior to the regular meeting, a public hearing was held at 6:45 p.m. on the city’s proposed property tax levy. No citizens voiced any concerns or questions, so the public hearing was closed.

During the regular meeting, the council approved the proposed tax levy. Council members also discussed a proposal from Guthrie County Deputy Sheriff Blake Michelsen to provide four hours of law enforcement coverage per week to deal with violations of the city’s “nuisance” ordinance.

Mayor Beverly Louk shared a suggestion that violations of the nuisance ordinance include a \$25 fee for first offense, \$50 for second offense, and \$100 for third and subsequent offenses.

Regarding the proposal from Michelsen, councilmember Tim Walker said the cost would be excessive.

“Basically, it would cost us almost \$7,000 a year to hire him, so it’s definitely not a money saver,” said Walker.

The consensus of the council was that the city didn’t need four hours a week for

this type of coverage, but that about one hour per week would be more realistic. The issue was tabled.

Mayor Louk voiced a reminder to residents that citywide cleanup is set for June 2 and that this is the best (and free) option for citizens to get rid of junk that otherwise may be identified as violations of the nuisance ordinance.

Council member Clint Deardorff said that, in the past 10 years, he has seen continuing problems with some properties that are frequently in violation of the ordinance, and he supports the idea of increasing enforcement.

“I don’t see any improvements...it’s only gotten worse,” said Deardorff.

The council also discussed a citizen who is keeping chickens within city limits. The council voted unanimously to grant an extension of until April 15 for the property owner to decrease the number of chickens to no more than four and to keep the chickens contained at all times.

A public hearing will be held on Monday, April 22 at 7 p.m. to discuss and potentially adopt the city’s 2024-2025 budget. The public is welcome at all public meetings other than occasional special closed sessions as allowed by law. ■

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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# PANORA CITY COUNCIL SETS CITYWIDE CLEANUP FOR JUNE 10

**Residents wanting to participate must sign up and prepay \$27.50 per household at City Hall by June 7.**

BY RICH WICKS

Panora Times

During the March 25 regular meeting of the Panora City Council, the council members discussed possible action regarding the Audubon Ambulance and Health Care Transportation Services Agreement.

Council member Brian Dorsett shared his opinion that the city should terminate the agreement because the department continues to lose money, even with the current revenue from Audubon. He said he's also concerned that the Audubon agreement is reportedly making it tougher to keep the staffing schedule filled.

"It looks to me like, if we keep this, it's going to prolong going in the hole one year. After that, you're going in the hole anyway. So, to me it's not worth the risk of the coverage," said Dorsett.

After discussion, the council voted unanimously to terminate the agreement. The city will initiate the 90-day termination process.

The council approved a Special Events application for the Panora Square Market. The market will operate on alternating Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, alternating with the dates of the Guthrie Center farmers' market.

### APRIL 8 MEETING

During the April 8 regular meeting of the Panora City Council, the councilmembers formally approved plans for the 2024 citywide cleanup, which is scheduled for Monday, June 10. Resolution 24-14 was unanimously approved, which spells out

the guidelines for the event.

All residents wanting to participate must sign up and prepay at City Hall by Friday, June 7. The basic fee is \$27.50 per household. Beginning June 10, items are to be placed at the end of the property's driveway or on the curb for pickup.

A number of specialty items are allowed at additional cost and only with a prepaid sticker. These include appliances, computers, TVs, other electronics, vehicle tires and rims. A detailed cost listing is available at City Hall.

Items not accepted include vehicles, paint, chemicals, yard waste and construction material.

The city council approved the police department to order a 2024 Dodge Durango PPV from Stew Hansen Dodge at a listed price of \$38,580. The vehicle cost will be paid from the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Councilmember Mark Sheeder asked about additional costs for the new vehicle. City Administrator Lisa Grossman said the list price is only for the vehicle, and various equipment will need to be purchased and installed. She added that the city will sell the old cruiser.

"Does some of the equipment from his cruiser come out and go into the new vehicle?" asked Sheeder.

Grossman said as much of the current equipment as possible will be transferred from the old cruiser into the new vehicle.

Grossman also updated the council on the expected timeline for finishing up the Jackson Street project. She said the estimated starting date is April 9.

"They'll start to do driveways and grinding and fixing the concrete issues...we're looking at probably asphalt toward the end of the month," Grossman said.

A public hearing was set for April 22 regarding the city's proposed FY 2024-2025 budget. The public is welcome at all meetings other than occasional special closed meetings as allowed by law. ■

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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# BAGLEY TO REVIVE STREET DANCE TRADITION

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

During the Bagley City Council meeting on April 1, Fire Chief Jeremy Cooper informed the council of plans to bring back the Bagley tradition of a summer street dance.

“All the proceeds are going to go specifically to our firehouse project...we’re shooting for July 20. River Ruckus went away, it’s now at Adventureland, so we decided that we’d try to fill that gap,” said Cooper. “We are looking at also doing a barbecue competition.”

Cooper said the preliminary plan is to charge around \$10, which will include all-you-can-eat barbecue and admission to the dance.

Cooper said the recent spring pancake breakfast fundraiser was a success.

“We had a great turnout for that. We estimate probably close to 200 people. We want to thank everybody that came out

or donated,” Cooper said.

Cooper also noted that Guthrie County is no longer under a burn ban, but he added that everyone still needs to use caution when having a fire.

Prior to the regular council meeting, a public hearing was held regarding the city’s proposed property tax levy. Mayor Glen Foresman pointed out that the city’s levy rate has dropped, but that overall assessed valuations have increased. No citizens voiced questions or concerns during the public hearing.

The council formally approved the city’s property tax levy for fiscal year 2024-2025. The 2024-2025 budget is set for consideration and possible approval at 6 p.m. on April 22.

The council also approved a plan to combine all of the city’s checking accounts into one account.

The next regular meeting of the council will be Monday, May 6 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

## EDUCATION

# PANORAMA SCHOOLS TO INSTALL NEW CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEM

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

Prior to the regular Panorama School Board meeting on April 8, the board held a public hearing regarding the 2024-2025 Public Tax Notice. The tax rate is proposed to decrease to \$12.12 compared to \$12.99 this school year.

During the regular meeting, the board voted to approve installing a new camera system. Superintendent Kasey Huebner provided background about the system.

“This is part of our security grant money from the state. This will upgrade our camera system with up-to-date technology and video insight software that allows us to navigate the system to find events that occur easily,” said Huebner. “These cameras will be inside and outside. It uses AI (artificial intelligence) to identify events and alert proper person-

nel and allows us to add future plug-ins if we need to add them to the system to add more features.”

The board approved the final resolution to award the north parking lot project to Jordison Construction out of Urbandale.

The board approved an agreement with a costing company to give a more accurate assessment on what a new gymnasium would cost. The district completed a feasibility study a few years ago for a new competition gym.

Following the end of the public meeting, the board went into an exempt (closed) session to meet with Panorama Education Association to start the negotiation process for the 2024-2025 contracts.

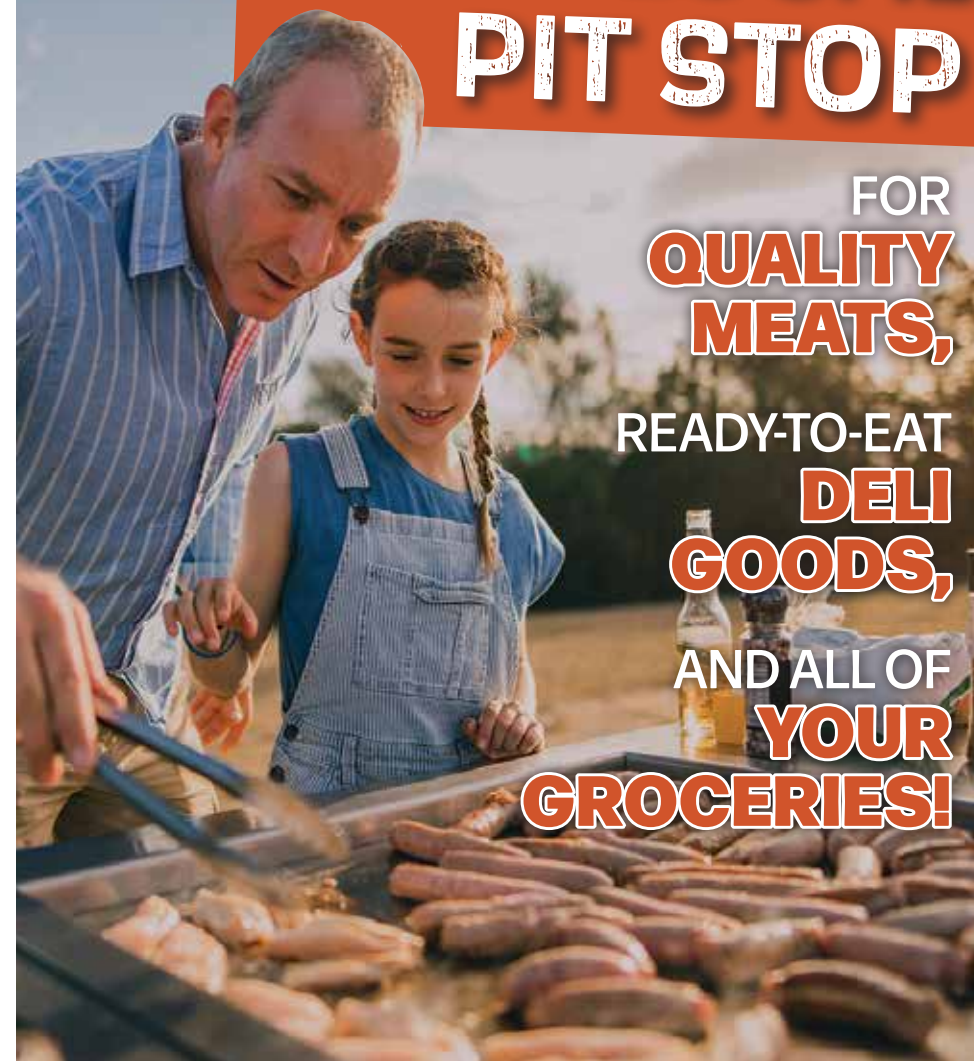
The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, May 13 at the District Board Room in the high school building. The public is welcome. ■

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## HEALTH

# GCH TRUSTEES DISCUSS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**Foundation Director  
Dennis Flanery shares  
information regarding  
upcoming events.**

**BY RICH WICKS**  
*Panora Times*

During the March 28 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, the trustees heard updates on the hospital's strategic plan and quality improvement processes. CEO Chris Stipe urged the staff to be vigilant in addressing feedback and complaints so they can be promptly dealt with and so better processes can be put in place. He also stressed the need to document all such issues and how they were handled.

The trustees approved the fiscal year capital budget and operating budget. Stipe informed the board of some expected revenues. "Medicaid Direct Payment, it's supposed

to come tomorrow," Stipe said. "I hope the money comes... the additional funding from Medicaid is because we've been underpaid by Medicaid, and still are."

Guthrie County Hospital Foundation Director Dennis Flanery shared information regarding the foundation.

"Our next event that we have coming up is June 15. We'll have a 5K color run," said Flanery.

He added that walkers and runners are both welcomed at the fundraising 5K.

"We are doing scholarships for high school students in the four school districts in Guthrie County," Flanery said. "Those are for students going into a healthcare related field."

The board's next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 25 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome at all Guthrie County Hospital board meetings, in person or remotely, other than occasional special closed meetings. To attend remotely: Phone 1-469-208-1512 code: 915921694# or attend via Microsoft Teams meeting ID: 270 117 496 60 and enter code: PURhxW ■



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## RECIPE

# 8-4-2-1 BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

Panora Times

Nothing beats treating your family or guests to the aroma of breakfast cooking in the kitchen on weekend mornings. You'll be enjoying this aroma, too, while you sip on your coffee waiting for the timer to go off, because you made this dish ahead of time.



Jolene Goodman

This breakfast casserole recipe is a stand-by favorite that my niece, Jessica Boyd, uses. She frequently has a large family in attendance on the weekends, and each member is a big fan of leftovers. The great thing about this recipe is how adaptable it is. It's delicious with other types of cheese like pepperjack or Swiss, or you can try adding (1 cup of) veggies, like peppers, mushrooms or zucchini. ■

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

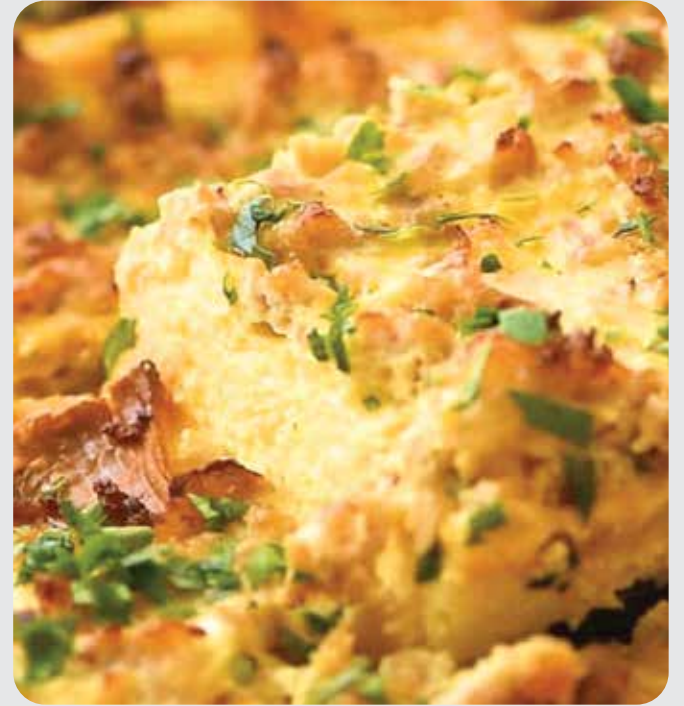
## 8-4-2-1 BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

### Ingredients

- 8 eggs
- 4 cups of milk
- 2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp. of Natures Seasoning (or ¾ tsp. salt and ½ tsp. pepper)
- 1 5 oz. bag of croutons (any variety works!)
- 1 lb. breakfast sausage (I use Jimmy Dean regular)
- Sprinkle with parsley or chives before serving

### Directions

Brown sausage in a pan on the stove. Drain grease and blot as much grease as possible with paper towels. In a bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, cheese and seasoning to eggs, then beat again. Pour sausage into 9"x13" pan. Dump croutons on top. Pour egg mixture on top. Bake 60 minutes at 350 degrees. To freeze breakfast casserole, prepare the recipe and add to your pan. Cover well with plastic wrap and then tinfoil and freeze for 2-3 months. Allow it to thaw overnight in the refrigerator, and then let it come to room temperature before baking according to recipe instructions. ■



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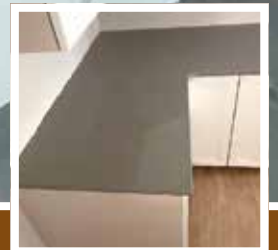
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## BAGLEY

**Bagley United Methodist Church**  
401 Main Street, PO Box 40

## 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  
641-439-2458

## PANORA

**Church Of The Brethren**  
2946 200th Road, Panora  
641-755-3800  
Sunday School: 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday Service: 9:45 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.

**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 8:15; 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.

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

**Calvary Chapel Of  
The Raccoon River Valley**  
604 E. Main St., Panora  
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641-755-4268  
Sunday service: 10 a.m.

**Faith Bible Church**  
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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 School: 9 a.m.,  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.  
Wednesday: God's Squad, AWANA 6 p.m.

**Lighthouse Assembly of God Church**  
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Sunday Service: 10 a.m.  
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# BURIED CARS AND BEER SIGNS

**James Standiford has a lifetime of hobbies and memories from his collections.**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

James Standiford of Panora has lived at Lakeside Village for the past five years. He recently shared memories of the hobbies he and his late wife enjoyed over their years.

As a teen and young man, Standiford's main hobby dealt with cars. He recalled several stories from those days, including the unusual story of how he had two cars at the age of 14.

"I actually dug a grave for a guy," Standiford said. "He said he would give me \$60 for digging the grave.

So, I dug it the way he wanted, and then he offered me the \$60 or a car. Well, I was 14, so I took the car. It was a 1951 Studebaker, and it ran and everything. I took it home and worked on it."

But, as Standiford soon discovered, he wasn't finished digging up great deals on cars.

"A couple weeks later, he asked me to dig another grave for \$60. So, I dug that one, and he had another car for me," Standiford said. "Well, I was too young to drive, so my dad told me to never take those cars out of the yard. I sold the first one for \$150 and the second one for \$120 and a stereo system."

From then on, Standiford was hooked on the hobby of buying cheap cars and fixing them up. Another interesting car story came about literally by accident.

"Back in 1965, I had this 1956 Ford that I had bought from a guy. I was driving it in Des Moines, and

a rock fell off a truck. It bounced up and smashed my windshield," Standiford said. "I drove over to a friend of mine, and he was talking about going to stock car races that night. I said, 'You know what, why don't we just make this into a stock car?' We busted all the windows out, and we drove it to Newton the following week. They laughed me off the track."

Standiford explained that he was informed he couldn't race the car because it didn't have the required safety features such as a seat belt and fire extinguisher.

"The following week, I had gotten everything they said I needed, and I raced. I almost took the judge's stand out, because I wasn't used to driving on dirt tracks," Standiford said. "But after a week or two, I got up to fourth place. I had put a good engine in it, and that thing was fast. Then I got drafted, so that was all I had for



James Standiford relaxes at Lakeside Village in Panora.

RICH WICKS | PANORA TIMES

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This 1951 Studebaker resembles the car Standiford "dug up" as a teen.

stock car racing."

Over the years, Standiford developed another hobby.

"I started going to flea markets and things like that, and I got interested in beer lights. I started collecting them," Standiford said. "I got up to about 600 of them. I had two storage sheds full. My wife helped me collect them, and she collected Precious Moments."

For many years, the Standifords enjoyed attending flea markets, antique shows and similar events where they

each could browse for items. Eventually, each had amassed large collections.

"Years later, before moving to Missouri, we decided we needed to get rid of them," Standiford said. "It was just too much, so we started doing flea markets and antique shows to sell our things. I had 18 tables of them. I had all kinds of neons and some motion ones."

Standiford recalled a few of his favorite beer signs from those days.

"Budweiser had one with Clydesdales that went around in a circle. The horses were pulling a wagon," Standiford said. "Some of them were really expensive. Hamm's was probably the most expensive. It had a waterfall with a teepee on a little island. It's very hard to come by. That's the most collectible one. Back in the 1960s, a lot of the bars had those."

Standiford says he enjoys the memories of his years as a collector.

"I should have kept at least one of them," he said. "It was fun." ■



A popular Hamm's beer sign from the 1960s was Standiford's favorite.

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## BUSINESS NEWS



Four people who have worked at The Port in previous years now have expanded management roles. Near The Port bar, left to right, are Kayla Valentine, general manager; Amanda Rambo, bar manager; Amanda Hemann, front-of-house manager; and Tory Thompson, head chef.

## THE PORT RESTAURANT REOPENS IN TIME FOR BUSY SEASON

**Key staff positions  
were filled with people  
who have worked at  
The Port and now have  
expanded roles.**

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Panora Times*

The Port restaurant on the eastern edge of Lake Panorama's main basin has a long history. In 1972, some lake property owners began discussions about a restaurant and lounge. A company was formed, and

construction began in 1975. The restaurant opened in 1976 but closed at the end of the season because of steep losses.

David Garst took over the operation. Paul and Linda Wendl purchased The Port from Garst in 1982 and operated it for 12 years before selling it in 1994. The restaurant moved through several hands over the next 10 years before being purchased in 2004 by Dr. Mark Menadue.

In late 2023, it was announced The Port would be closing following a New Year's Eve party Dec. 31. That led to rumors The Port had been sold.

"The Port has not been sold," says Hannah Menadue Johnson, president of Menadue Development. "This is the 20th year

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SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES



The tiki bar at The Port is quiet now, but plans are to have it open by Memorial Day weekend.

of ownership by our family. During the winter, it's difficult to anticipate how many guests will come out, which makes staffing and food orders difficult. Closing for a few weeks helps us manage costs, clean, make menu updates, and look at event scheduling, staffing and training before the busy season."

Menadue Johnson says all staff were laid off during the closure but are eligible to apply for re-hire.

"Some chose to pursue different opportunities during that time," she says. "We wish them nothing but the best."

The Port restaurant doors reopened March 14 in time for St. Patrick's Day. Menadue Johnson says key staff positions were filled with people who have worked at The Port and now have expanded roles.

Kayla Valentine is The Port's new general manager.

"I started working at The Port in early 2015 as a front desk clerk. From there, I learned everything I could at both the hotel and restaurant. I began working as the event coordinator and soon took on the hotel manager position, too," Valentine says. "As the general manager, I oversee the hotel and restaurant and will continue to run events. I'm very excited to begin

this role. I have always loved The Port and the people we get to serve."

Tory Thompson has worked in The Port's kitchen for several years and returns in 2024 as the head chef.

"Tory is an excellent chef with extensive experience," says Valentine.

Amanda Hemann is the front-of-house manager, and Amanda Rambo is the bar manager.

"Amanda Hemann worked with us as the lead bartender about 10 years ago and came back last year to help in the kitchen," Valentine says. "She is a jack of all trades and loves the community. Amanda Rambo has worked with us for a few years and is an experienced bartender. She is very creative, and our patrons have really grown fond of her."

A new menu for the 2024 season includes many of the dishes customers enjoyed last season, although Valentine says it will continue to be tweaked as the staff receives customer input this spring. The new menu offers six appetizers, nine entrees, six sandwiches, three salads and eight side dishes.

"We brought back some old favorites like Broccoli Alfredo, The Port Asian Stir Fry and the Atlantic Salmon," she says. "We are excited about some new additions like our classic Caesar Salad, Tory's Creamy Cheddar Penne and the pulled pork sandwich. All indoor seating, including the bar, will be served the full dinner menu. In addition, Amanda Rambo will be working on some fun drink specials and possibly a happy hour, but that is still in the works this spring."

The popular tiki bar is set to open Memorial Day weekend. As was the case last year, a simple grill menu will be available during busy hours to take pressure off the kitchen. Entertainment will include one band each weekend. Bands that were booked prior to the winter closing are being considered for the upcoming season and will be announced on The Port's Facebook page as dates approach.

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A fire in October 2018 had the restaurant closed until the following summer. Reconstruction of the building resulted in a new layout, equipment and furniture. Menadue Johnson says this year will bring new paint for the tiki bar, and updates are in the works for the boat docks and parking lot.

On a side note, The Port hotel has had some recent upgrades.

"We got new paint in all rooms and hallways, new tile in the lobby and beautiful stone work on our fireplaces and hot tubs," Valentine says.

Current restaurant hours are Thursday, 5-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5-9 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon. Hours will expand in May.

"We look forward to serving old and new customers with great food, drinks and the best view this year," Menadue Johnson says. "We hope locals and visitors to the lake feel welcome to join us for live music, drinks at the tiki bar, and casual, upscale dining inside."

Valentine says The Port staff members are happy to be serving patrons again.

"Our goal is to be more family oriented and locally involved in the community, while still maintaining our fun and vacation-like atmosphere," she says. "We are looking into more ways to connect and support our community. We hope to bring



This is the view from The Port deck that runs along the west side of the restaurant and connects to the hotel. Live bands will perform from the concrete medallion between the two palm trees each weekend through the summer months.

new activities to The Port, including during our off season. Stay tuned to our Facebook page to keep updated on our hours, plans and upcoming events."

The Facebook page is "The Port on Lake Panorama." The business website is [experiencetheport.com](http://experiencetheport.com) and offers contact information, hours of operation, menus and online ordering. Event, wedding and other inquiries can be emailed to Kayla Valentine at [kaylav@experiencetheport.com](mailto:kaylav@experiencetheport.com). The hotel and restaurant phone number is 844-888-7678. ■

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# Panora ASK TIMES

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shane@dmcityview.com.

## Q: WHEN DOES THE GUTHRIE COUNTY HISTORICAL VILLAGE OPEN FOR THE SEASON?

**A:** The Guthrie County Historical Village and Museum opens again to the public on Wednesday, May 1. For more information, visit [www.thegchv.com](http://www.thegchv.com).

## Q: IS THERE A PERMIT FEE FOR FOOD TRUCKS TO SET UP AND SELL IN THE CITY OF PANORA? IF SO, HOW MUCH?

**A:** Yes, the city of Panora does have a Peddlers and Solicitors permit. The application is available at city hall, and the fees range from \$10 per day to \$300 per year. For a pushcart licensee, proof of general liability insurance is required, including products liability coverage, in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more per occurrence and \$1,000,000 for property damage. For all other licensees, proof of general liability insurance is required including products liability in the amount of \$300,000 per occurrence and \$100,000 for property damage. A certificate of insurance must be delivered to the city clerk prior to the issuance of a license. The City of Panora and its employees must also be named as additional insureds against any liabilities that may arise in connection with the operations of the licensees.

## Q: WHEN IS THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR PANORAMA SCHOOLS?

**A:** The last day of school is now May 29 with an early out at 1 p.m. This was changed due to the snow days. For seniors, the last day is Wednesday, May 8.

## Q: DOES THE CITY OF PANORA HAVE A SIGN REGULATION FOR THE BUSINESS YARD SIGNS THAT ARE POSTED AROUND TOWN, MOSTLY AT THE CORNER OF HIGHWAYS 4 AND 44?

**A:** Yes, the city has general sign regulations — nearly two pages, in fact. In short, signs are illegal if they are posted in the right of way. The Iowa Department of Transportation has been known to pull the signs, and the city also tries to police this. Political, real estate signs or temporary signs, like those for garage sales on private property, are allowed with some restrictions. On a related note, all business signs are to be removed from the premises within 90 days of the closing of the business. For more details on signs, see Chapter 165, section 15 of Panora's Code of Ordinances.

## Q: WHEN IS THE DATE FOR PANORAMA GRADUATION?

**A:** The graduation ceremony for Panorama is Sunday, May 12 at 12:30 p.m. ■

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