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ON THE COVER: Jack and Deb Coffman drive his 1955 Chevy in the 2024 All-School Reunion parade. Photo submitted



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'I'VE GOT UNDERWEAR OLDER THAN YOU'

The above words came from the mouth of Ginny Bartels, a sales rep I worked with a couple decades ago who was in her 60s at the time. She offered this comment as a reply to a young man who just joined our company in the business office after he told her how old (or young) he was. Ginny then laughed a lot. The rest of us then cringed a little. It was an awkward moment.

I think of the underwear scenario whenever I pull an item of clothing out of my closet and reflect on how old it is. When I tell my kids — whose ages now range from 22 to 27 — that the shirt I put on is older than they are, their response is, "We can tell." So be it. I know what I like.

Yes, when the Christmas season arrives, I feel the need to pull out a certain red and green, plaid-patterned shirt that rests peacefully on a hanger in my closet for most of the year. I'm not sure when I bought this festive flannel, but I

did see that I was wearing it in a family Christmas photo from 1998. Each Dec. 25, I shake the dust off this shirt and button it up. It's a tradition, of sorts.

Shane

Goodman

.....

The colors are now fading, some of the buttons are starting to crumble,

and the threads are becoming bare, but I just can't get rid of that holiday shirt. Maybe it's because I can personally relate to the same aging process. Or maybe I am just sentimental. I don't know. But I do know I enjoy wearing this shirt every year, as it makes me feel festive. And isn't that the whole point?

That same festive feeling holds true when I pull out my trusty red cable knit sweater for our company Christmas parties. I don't wear it much other than for Christmas holiday events — and an occasional Valentine's Day — so it is still in good shape. It may not be stylish or trendy, but Santa Claus seems to get away with wearing the same clothes each year, so why can't I?

I am guessing some of you have a similar clothing item you pull out of your closet each holiday season that you have had for many years, and I am sure you appreciate it, too.

I only hope it's not your underwear. Merry Christmas to you, and thanks for reading.



Shane Goodman Editor and Publisher Guthrie Center Times 641-332-2707 shane@gctimesnews.com



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COVER STORY MY FIRST CAR Locals share beloved stories about their first vehicles. BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Whether it was a brand new roadster or an old jalopy that was barely road-worthy, most of us can recall our first car. And these first cars often have the best stories. Here are a few from the area.

KING FOUND A CAR SHE CAN'T PART WITH

The story of Rita King's first car is really the story of her second car. She didn't keep her first car very long, and the "old Ford" didn't find a special place in her heart during its brief tenure.

But her second car is another story.

"I had just turned 17 on Sept. 24, and on Sept. 29 I was driving by Erickson's Garage, which is a car dealer in Denison. I saw this car there, and I called my mom, and she said, 'Walk across the street to the bank, borrow some money, and I'll co-sign.' The bank lent me the money, and I walked across the street to Erickson's. Then, as I was paying for it, some other people came in to buy it. So, I had just beaten them to it."

The car was a 1969 Camaro Rally Sport. "I sold my old Ford to a friend, and I've kept this car ever since," King said. "I bought it for \$1,100, and it has 49,000 actual miles."

King explained the car wasn't a showpiece when she bought it, but she was able to see the beauty underneath.

"When I bought it, it was kind of an olive goldish green color, and it had a brown vinyl top and a green interior. It was not pretty."

So King undertook the long process of getting the car into the condition she wanted.

"I parked it for several years in my dad's garage. Later on, after the kids were grown, I had more time and money to work on the car. We took out the seats and brought them to Fort Dodge and had them reupholstered up there," King said. "We hired someone to do the rest of the bodywork."

She also upgraded the engine.

"John Hoaff of Stuart did all of my motor work. It originally came with a 327, and I didn't like that motor, so I had it replaced," King said.

Now that the Camaro is all fixed up, King has chosen to show it off more often.



Rita King shows her 1969 Chevy Camaro.

"I just started putting it in shows last year," she said, adding that it has already won several awards at local shows.

King explained that, over the years, she has moved many times but always kept the Camaro. Also, although she has heard numerous offers from people wishing to buy the car, she has no plans to sell it and said that seems to run in her family.

"I have a sister who has a 1969 Chevelle Convertible. I have a brother who has a 1930 Rat Rod. I have another brother who has a 1966 Chevy SS 2," King said. "So, we are full of old cars in our family, and we always hold on to them."

King has only one minor change planned for her car.

"I just need to have new springs put in back, because it sits too low and puts a



The interior of Rita King's 1969 Camaro.



Jack and Deb Coffman drive his 1955 Chevy in the 2024 All-School Reunion parade.

little twist on the driveshaft. But that's the only thing I'm going to do to it," King said. "I just love driving it. It brings back memories from years ago."

COFFMAN BLOWS OFF STEAM IN HIS 1955 CHEVY

Jack Coffman not only remembers his first car but still has it, along with some great stories. It's a 1955 Chevrolet that he has owned for more than 50 years.

"I bought it from my brother in 1969. He'd bought it as his first car in 1966, and he paid \$150 from my uncle," Coffman said. "Then in three years, when I turned 16, he sold it to me for \$75. And we kept that until about the time we got married, in 1973."

Coffman told of an explosive incident back in the day.

"Really, the fun story about that car is I took a bunch of kids to the drive-in theater over in Panora around the Fourth of July. We snuck three of them in the trunk, and we had fireworks with us." Coffman said. "Well, after the movie was over, we left and started lighting the fireworks and throwing them out of the car. Well, they lit a cherry bomb, and it hit the upright on the window and bounced back into the car and went off. It blew a hole in the seat."

Naturally, this required a pit stop.

"We pulled over to the side of the road, and smoke was just pouring out. We were lucky we didn't get killed," Coffmann said. "I left that hole in the seat as a reminder. And, actually, the kid that was on top of the cherry bomb, it didn't blow a hole in his pants, but it blew a hole in his underwear."

Sometimes, what goes around comes around.

"When I had the car in the All-School Reunion this year, the radiator blew, so smoke and steam were everywhere," Coffman said. "And then somebody in our group said, 'I remember the last time I saw this car with smoke pouring out of it."

THOMAS RECALLS ONE OF MANY CARS

Garold Thomas has always liked cars, and it shows. Over the years, he's owned many, but one of his first cars stands out.

"I have several Camaros, but there is a 1967 Camaro, and I can't recall exactly how long I've had it. It's not a fancy one, but this is one of my first cars that has spe-

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Garold Thomas shows the car that's close to his heart.

cial meaning to me," Thomas said. "I got it from a friend of mine, and the reason it's special to me is because he passed away from cancer at an early age. He had sold the car to a guy that was going to make a stock car out of it, but he never paid my friend, so my friend said, 'I'll sell it to you. You'll just have to round up all of the parts.' "

To say the car was a "fixer upper" would be putting it mildly.

"When I bought the car, it was basically four wheels and tires and two doors and a steering wheel," Thomas said. "The motor was gone, the transmission was gone, the whole front clip was gone, the interior was gone. It took several years to get it done, but I got it back to its original form. It's just a nice little car. I don't even drive it much, but I do get it out once in a while. It's special to me because my friend passed away about four years after I got that car."

Thomas explained that he restored the car his way.

"I got the car put together the way I wanted. I got stripes on there, even though they're not 'factory stripes,' but they're the way I wanted them," he said. "I used to do a lot of the work myself. I can install an engine or change a transmission. At one time, I used to do the body work and painting, but I haven't done that in several years. I learned by working at a body shop part-time when I was growing up in high school and college."

Camaros are well-known as sporty

muscle cars, so it is natural to enjoy "putting the pedal to the metal."

"If anybody has a sports car like that and tells you they don't know how fast it goes, they're probably not being honest," Thomas said.

He recalled being a lead-footed driver in his younger days.

"When I was in high school and my first couple years of college, I was a street racer," Thomas said. "In my hometown, we had a spot where we would go out and block off the highway and have drag races. The farmers out along there would bring out their easy chairs and sit down to watch."

Nowadays, Thomas doesn't feel the need for speed like he did in his youth, but he enjoys driving his Camaro occasionally, and sometimes enters cars in a show.

"I used to put my cars in shows more often, but, in the last few years, I don't do that as much," he said..

Thomas admits, with a smile, that his urge to collect and restore cars may sometimes go beyond a simple hobby.

"It becomes a sickness. I'll see a car sitting there in bad shape, but I visualize it as it will look when it's done, and that's a bad trap to fall into, because I forget how much work it will take to get it there," Thomas said. "It adds up in a hurry. I went through my car titles the other day and counted them up. I have 84 of them, in all kinds of conditions." ■

GUTHRIE CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT SELECTS 2025 OFFICERS



Each year in December, the Guthrie Center Volunteer Fire Department selects officers for the upcoming year. The 2025 officers are as follows: Fire Chief, Cory Campbell; 1st Assistant Chief, Brady Langgaard; 2nd Assistant Chief, Derek Betts, President, Brandon Schreiber; Vice President, Brandon Peterson; Sergeant at Arms, Justin Downing; Chief of Police, Cameron Hester and Secretary/Treasurer, Erica Finster (not pictured). ■

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SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS VISIT GUTHRIE CENTER

BY SHANE GOODMAN *Guthrie Center Times*

Kid Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and a number of pho

friendly elves were in person at the Guthrie Activity Center on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Kids young and old enjoyed crafts and had photos taken with Santa. Other events for the day included Shop Small Saturday where shoppers who spent \$50 or more received a free poinsettia; a soup supper at Guthrie Activity Center; a lighted parade from the courthouse to Mitchell Park; the tree lighting at Mitchell Park; and a Christmas Light walk in Mitchell Park. ■

SHANE GOODMAN | GUTHRIE CENTER



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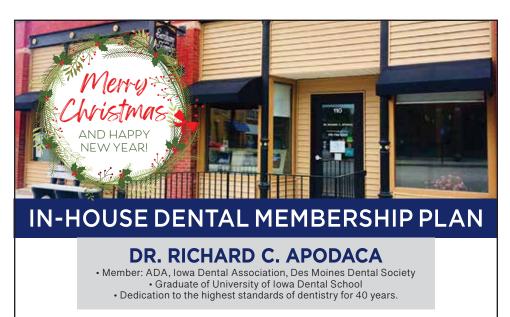
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FILM REVIEWS SEQUELS SIZZLE. HORROR MOVIE SURPRISES. DWAYNE JOHNSON FLOPS.

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

Guthrie Center Times

"HERE"

Robert Zemekis has written and directed some great movies, including an Oscar for Best Director for "Forrest Gump," but

his latest is a surefire miss. The concept is unique but absolutely ruins the movie. Imagine putting a camera in a position in your home or your yard and then checking back on that

camera from the days of the dinosaurs to present day. Remember that the camera cannot move on its own, so you just get slices of a story. I'm sorry but I need more than a slice of 25 or so stories. "Here" ends up being more annoying than interesting, completely wasting Tom Hanks and Robin Wright. I was glad when it was over. Grade: D+

"BEFORE"

This slick new series on Apple TV features Billy Crystal as a man haunted by nightmares and the photo of a farmhouse from

his past. Add in a young boy with many of his own issues, who has ended up on his stoop, and you've got a compelling story. Grade: B+

"ANORA"

The son of a Russian Oligarch visits a strip club and falls in love. All good so far, but when Mom and Dad arrive from Rus-

sia, things go south quickly. This movie is well made and acted, and I expect this will earn an Oscar nomination or two. Very sexual and very violent. You've been warned. Grade: B

"BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER"

I have never seen the play or any other of the movie adaptations of this classic story, so I was

caught by surprise at the sweetness and charm of this movie. A small town puts on a Christmas pageant every year with great



"Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

fanfare, but, this year, the town bullies want to be part of the play. The story has many twists and turns but has solid heart and a wonderful message. I'd bring a Kleenex if I were you. Grade: A

"RED ONE"

Jake Kasdan has made a few good movies. This isn't one of them. It is a complete mess of special effects and less-than-special story-telling. Actually, it is one of the worst movies

of the year masquerading as a new holiday classic. If you love special effects and don't care about storytelling or strong acting, this might be right up your alley. My advice? Don't go there. Grade: D

"A REAL PAIN"

Jesse Eisenberg writes, directs and stars in this story of two cousins who are traveling to Poland to see where their grandmother grew up.

Macaulay Culkins' brother, Kieran, plays the other cousin and is almost annoying enough to make you want to leave early. I'm not sure what they were shooting for here, but they sure missed whatever the target



"Before"



"Red One"

was. Grade: B-

"HERETIC"

One of the year's biggest surprises is a horror movie starring, of all people, Hugh Grant. He plays an old man who lives alone (or does

he?) and one night has two young Mormon women stop to talk to him about their faith mission. This is one of the creepiest movies of this year, or any year, and Grant is outstanding in a very, very disturbing way. Grade: B+

"MOANA 2"

I have a vague recollection of the first movie, which has become a classic thanks to forever access on the Disney Channel. "Moana 2" con-

tains no aggressive changes, but that's exactly what this audience wanted. The songs are OK, and Dwayne Johnson does a great impersonation of... Dwayne Johnson. (Still not enough to redeem "Red One.") The kids will love it, and that is all that matters. Grade: B

"WICKED"

Years ago, Sue and I took the boys to New



"Anora'



"A Real Pain" York City, and our family went to see a much-heralded sequel to the great

and powerful movie, "The

way. Everyone loved it but

Wizard of Oz," on Broad-



you know who. I found it less than compelling. Most of the songs were not special, and the story left me wanting more. OK, flash forward to last weekend when gazillions of people packed movie theaters from coast to coast. The movie is outstanding on so many levels, I will have a hard time not finding a space for it on this year's Top 10 list. It is a crowd pleaser and will be packing theaters for a great portion of the holiday season. Grade: A-

"GLADIATOR 2"

This is a sequel to the beloved Ridley Scott movie starring Russell Crowe. Attempting to make a sequel is a brave move, but



actually pulling it off is amazing. Paul Mescal, Pedro Pascal and Denzel Washington help to make this sequel work way better than it should have. It is a worthy sequel for sure, and kudos to Ridley Scott for not only trying it but actually suc-







"Heretic"



"Wicked"

ceeding. Grade: B+

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday, and I will be back next month with the remaining Christmas releases and maybe a peek at my 2024 Top 10 list. Until then, pass the popcorn.



"Moana 2"



'Gladiator 2''

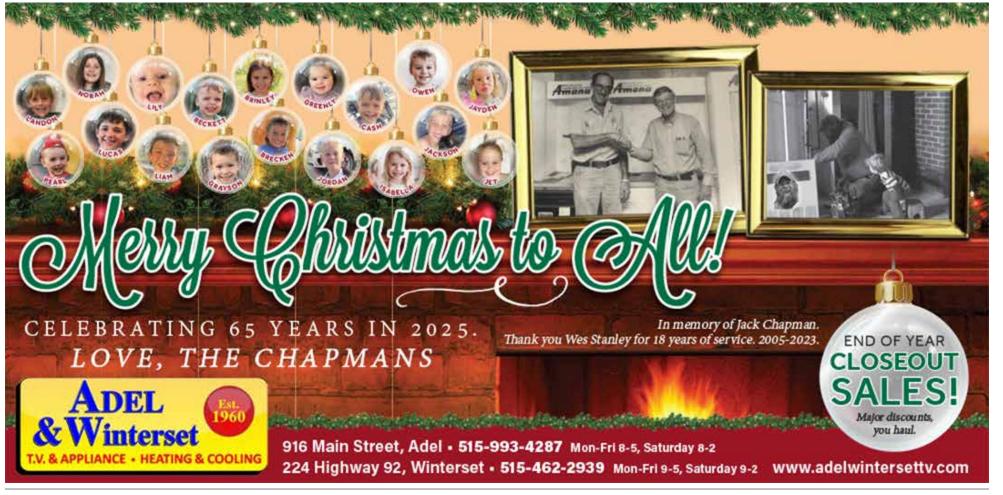
Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Guthrie County.



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COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS SUPERVISORS DISCUSS STATE AUDIT REPORT, NEXT STEP FOR EMS SERVICES

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

NOV. 19 — AUDIT REPORT

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors meeting Nov. 19, County Auditor Dani Fink discussed the Fiscal Year 2023 State Audit report that was recently received. She and the supervisors discussed that some recommendations are "repeats" from previous audits, as well as recommendations related to segregation of duties, which Fink says is a challenge in small departments. Fink suggested the supervisors and departments "think outside of the box" to find ways to address recommendations.

The supervisors chose to put the matter onto the Nov. 26 agenda for further discussion.

A member of the public asked about the next steps regarding EMS services. In the Nov. 5 election, a slight majority of voters voted in favor of the countywide plan, but the measure did not attain the 60% needed for approval.

Supervisor Steve Smith said he's been asked that question often since the election.

"My reply to those folks has been, 'Let's get past a couple of things here, rethink and see what we need to realign,' " Smith said.

Supervisor Brian Johnson shared his opinion.

"My reply would be that I don't want to wait too long. We got behind the eight ball last time. I want to make sure we're out in front of it this time," Johnson said. "Almost 54% of the public showed on that vote that it's a need, and that people want it," Supervisor Maggie Armstrong said.

NOV. 26 — TASER, LAPTOP PURCHASES

The supervisors reviewed the consent items, including the minutes of the previous meeting, the Nov. 26 claims and the Nov. 22 payroll.

Two items from the consent agenda were questioned. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong noted a concern regarding tasers purchased for the Sheriff's Department.

"I remember a conversation that we had during budget time about the appropriate number, based on liability, of tasers that the Sheriff's Department was going to purchase," Armstrong said. "But it looks as though they've purchased an amount more than we discussed, and I have some concerns about that."

Supervisor Mike Dickson voiced a concern regarding laptops purchased. He suggested pulling those two claims out. Both items were pulled out of the consent agenda for further consideration at a later time.

County Engineer Josh Sebern spoke with the supervisors regarding his request to promote Todd Plowman to maintenance superintendent. The supervisors unanimously voted to approve the promotion.

"Another thing I would add is we are advertising for a diesel technician," Sebern said. County Auditor Dani Fink discussed plans for the county's budget appropriations for the second half of the fiscal year. She plans to bring the appropriation information to the next weekly meeting for the supervisors to consider for approval.

Armstrong updated the other supervisors about the status of the county's possible coordination with Tim Whipple from the firm of Ahlers and Cooney, P.C., of Des Moines, regarding a possible hazardous pipeline ordinance. She said Whipple is working on a letter of agreement to partner with the county. Supervisor Brian Johnson repeated his concerns that if the county creates such an ordinance, the county may face litigation.

DEC. 3 – COUNTY WEBSITE

During the regular meeting Dec. 3, Supervisor Maggie Armstrong updated the supervisors on the county's online presence.

"Guthrie County has a Facebook page, up and running," Armstrong said. "This is a communication tool, so we're excited to get job postings out right away and to start communicating the good news of Guthrie County."

Armstrong added that departmental website development is continuing and expected to be reviewed as soon as next week.

Sandi Jackson, LifeLong Links Director, provided an annual report on services provided.

"Congregate meals and the home delivered continue to be the largest utilized services within the county," Jackson said. She added that three other services (homemaker, respite and personal care) continue to see high usage.

"It certainly reflects a high number of individuals who are needing more care in their homes, which is really what our mission is," Jackson said.

Jackson pointed out that pandemic relief funding ran out in Fiscal Year 2023.

"We're operating with less significant funding and no reserves," Jackson said.

She requested the county to provide \$10,429 in funding for the upcoming year. JD Kuster asked how much funding the county previously provided and was told \$9,700. After discussion, the supervisors unanimously approved the amount requested.

The supervisors discussed appropriations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Armstrong made a motion to approve the remaining 50% for all departments. This was approved unanimously.

Supervisor Mike Dickson said he received an engagement letter from Tim Whipple, from the firm of Ahlers and Cooney, regarding the possibility of developing a hazardous pipeline ordinance for the county. The matter will be added to the supervisors' agenda for Dec. 10.

DEC. 10 — PIPELINE LETTER

Discussion was held regarding engaging with Tim Whipple of Ahlers & Cooney for legal representation in the matter of hazardous liquid pipeline permits and regulations. The letter of en-



gagement has been received from the Ahlers & Cooney firm.

Supervisor Brian Johnson shared his opinion that it would be prudent to wait to see what is decided by the 8th Circuit Court regarding similar issues that some other Iowa counties are currently litigating.

"I'm going to propose that we not engage in the drafting of an ordinance right now. I think we should at least wait until the appeal and the southern court decision is made, and that won't be until late spring or early summer," Johnson said. He added that he feels the county should be careful not to put itself into a position of liability for being sued.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong voiced her concern.

"If we amend our ordinance, and our intention is to prohibit pipeline-like industries from coming through, that is very problematic. So, we do need to be cautious," she said. "I'm sure Mr. Whipple is very understanding of that."

Whipple shared that the county could begin to draft an ordinance, but at any point, the county could decide not to enact any proposed amendments.

A citizen, Candice Salvin, asked to address the supervisors about the issue. She objected to what she viewed as "stalling" if the county were to choose to wait and see what happens in the 8th Circuit Court.

Supervisor Mike Dickson made a motion to enter into engagement with Mr. Whipple as described in the engagement letter. The supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of this, with Johnson opposed.

Several librarians from the various libraries in the county spoke regarding the FY2026 Guthrie County Library Association funding request. They pointed out the many roles that libraries fill in small towns, and they asked the county to keep that in mind when setting the budget.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong checked to see how much was funded last year. She shared that a year ago, the county voted to increase the funding by 5%, to \$139,256. No formal action was taken by the supervisors at this time.

Health Services Department head Jotham Arber updated the supervisors on the status and operations in that department. He said immunizations are continuing.

The Board of Supervisors meets regularly each Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. The public is welcome to attend in person or via remote technology. To join remotely, call 323-792-6123, then use meeting code 547029216#. ■



outpouring of love and generosity at the time of her passing. Several local organizations that were close to Dorothy's heart have been given memorials – Country View Estates, First Presbyterian Church, Little Charger Early Learning Center, Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library, Timber Creek Charities, and Tori's Angels Foundation.

We would like to thank everyone that has helped our family on this journey and all who have reached out to us since her passing, including: First Class for Less In-Home Care, Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie County Public Health Nursing Service (Paula, Cheryl and Kathy), Guthrie Family Medicine Center (Drs. Bascom and Ahrens and their staff), Hospice of the Midwest, The New Homestead, our neighbors, friends, and family.

Thank you all for reminding us how blessed we are to have you in our lives.

Clifford Leib, Mary Fogleman, Ann Polito, Beth Leib, Sara Hughes and families



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GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL SETS 2025 EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASES

BY RICH WICKS *Guthrie Center Times*

NOV. 25 – URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

During the regular Guthrie Center City Council meeting on Nov. 25, the council held two public hearings. The first was on a proposed amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan. The second was on a proposed Development Agreement with Main Street Guthrie Center Corporation. No citizens were present for either public hearing, so each was promptly closed following City Clerk Kris Arrasmith's synopsis regarding each matter.

The council approved the 2023/2024 Urban Renewal report, as well as Resolution 2024-19 (Urban Renewal Plan Amendment) and Resolution 2024-20 (Development Agreement with Main Street Guthrie Center).

The council reviewed progress on a property at the corner of 12th Street and State Street. The council had previously set deadlines of Jan. 1, 2025, (for the garage to be emptied and contents disposed) and May 1 (for the garage to be demolished and debris removed). Council members noted that there is notable progress happening. If either deadline is not met, the city then may perform the cleanup at the owner's expense.

The council approved building and fence permits for 305 South Fifth St. for a shed (Hayes) and 605 North St. for a fence (Kearney).

Arrasmith updated the councilmembers on the beacon light for the city's water tower.

"It's been ordered and should be here in about two weeks," Arrasmith said.

DEC. 9 – STAFF PAY INCREASES

At the Dec. 9 regular meeting, the topic with the most discussion was pay increases for city staff. Council members and department heads discussed the advantages and disadvantages of setting a specific dollar amount for increases versus a percentage. Over time, percentage increases will increase the gaps between newer and longterm employee wages. On the other hand, increases using an across-the-board dollar amount, over time, decreases the comparative incentive and reward for long-term employees.

City Clerk/Administrator Kris Arrasmith explained that the city has strived to keep the gaps between employees' pay from becoming excessive.

"I feel like we have a really good core group of people now, and I'd like to see us keep them all happy and keep them here," Arrasmith said.

Councilmember Garold Thomas asked Arrasmith how much she had budgeted for in wage increases.

"Just a 5% across the board, in all departments," Arrasmith replied.

Arrasmith went on to say that, overall, the cost of 5% increases is nearly identical to a \$1.50 hourly increase for all employees. The council mulled the pros and cons of each approach.

"No matter which way you go, there will be people who'll complain, and they'll have statistics to back their position," Thomas said.

The council voted 3-1 in favor of a \$1.50 hourly increase across the board. Ian Steensen was the sole vote against this.

The council approved replacing the city's server in City Hall, per a quote from Panora Fiber.

Resolution 2024-21 ("Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of City Records as Allowed by the Iowa Municipal Records Manual") was approved. Arrasmith explained this is an annual matter that comes to the council, mostly as a formality.

Street Department Director Darrin Sloss provided an update.

"It's been business as usual," he said, adding that his crew has been preparing for dealing with the snow that is certain to come.

As part of the consent agenda, the council approved a beer/liquor license renewal for Pine Room and a fence permit for 902 Tiger Lane (Eischeid). As of now, the council plans to not hold a second regular meeting in December, so the next regular meeting will be Monday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



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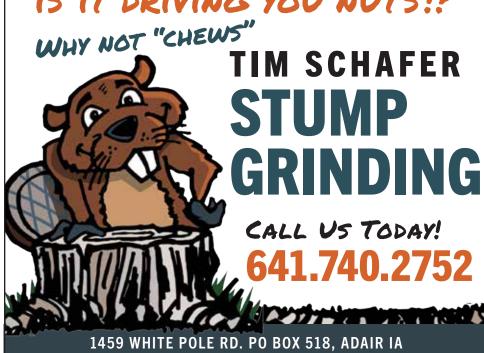




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EDUCATION ADAIR-CASEY AND GUTHRIE CENTER SCHOOL BOARDS PONDER FULL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

BY RICH WICKS *Guthrie Center Times*

NOV. 18 – CONSOLIDATION TALK

At the Nov. 18 joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, the bulk of the discussion was on the possibility of consolidating the two districts into one. Currently, the districts have a "Whole Grade Sharing" agreement. Board members, principals and Superintendent Josh Rasmussen shared their thoughts.

Rasmussen said that if the districts were to pursue consolidation, several basic steps would be involved. First, each district would need to submit a petition with signatures (400 or 20% of registered voters, whichever is fewer). Then the matter would be put to voters. If passed, the soonest that the boards would look to have the potential consolidation would go into effect is July 1, 2026.

Several in the room pointed out that there seems to be a fairly common belief in the county that the two districts have already consolidated. They said that seems to indicate that a possible consolidation would likely be well received by the public.

Rasmussen pointed out that the continuing trend of declining enrollment creates long-term challenges for both districts. Guthrie Center board chair Matt Van Meter said the only solutions are to increase enrollment and/or to cut expenses.

"Next year is the last year of the Whole Grade Sharing agreement between Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center," Rasmussen said. "A lot of great things. I think our communities really do well together. Our students do well together. And I think it's also a chance to take a look at whether we either continue that whole grade sharing, or we talk about reorganization and consolidation."

Rasmussen also said the most challenging factors have already been handled through whole grade sharing, and that students, staff and the public have largely embraced the partnership.

Adair-Casey board chair Randy Carney shared his feelings on the issue, and he stressed that the focus needs to be on what's best for the students.

"I believe we'll both be stronger together," Randy Carney said. Each board member had an opportunity to share thoughts on the topic.

"I was on the fence, but I think now is a good opportunity. If not now, when?" Lindsay Dinkla asked.

The consensus of the board members was to look further into the possibility of consolidation. A work session on the issue was set for Monday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

In discussing enrollment numbers, Rasmussen said both districts are seeing a downward trend.

"I wouldn't call it a worst-case scenario, but it's not rosy," Rasmussen said.

In other matters, the boards formally approved partnering with Panorama for girls wrestling.

DEC. 2 – CONSOLIDATION TALKS CONTINUE

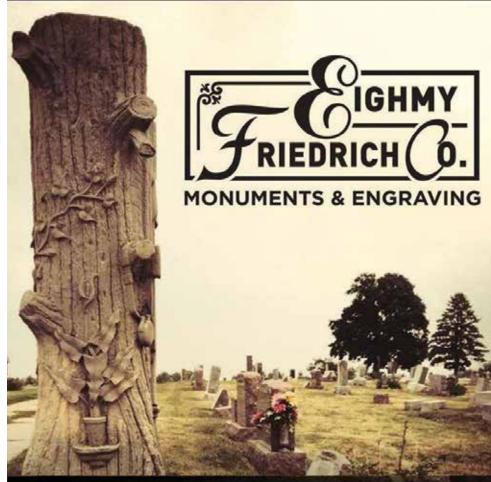
On Dec. 2, the school boards met jointly for a work session to discuss proposed consolidation of the two districts into one.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen said he had consulted with Ahlers & Cooney (legal counsel for the districts), the Iowa Department of Education, and Heartland AEA for guidance on the process for reorganization of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center School Districts. The boards discussed the timeline and the petition that will need to be completed before an official election can be scheduled.

During Rasmussen's conversation with the Iowa Department of Education, it was discovered that additional funding that had been available to districts for reorganization ended on July 1, 2024. This funding was not extended during the 2024 legislation session and is no longer available. Board members agreed that both districts need to contact local legislators to urge them to renew this funding during the 2025 session.

The boards also discussed how many board members should be on the new board of directors for the consolidated district, if and when consolidation happens. Currently, each board has five members. No final decision was made.

The boards plan to continue the discussions during future board meetings. The next board meetings will be on Wednesday, Dec. 18 and will include the annual organizational meeting for each board. ■



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COMMUNITY MURAL RIBBON CUTTING HELD IN GUTHRIE CENTER



A ribbon cutting was held Saturday for a new mural installed on the corner of Main Street and Third Street in Guthrie Center, which is visible to eastbound drivers and pedestrians. The 9-feet by 11-feet mural was created by Kelly Nielsen.

HEALTH GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL OUTPERFORMS BUDGET

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

During the Dec. 2 regular monthly meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board, the trustees reviewed budgetary data showing overall positive results.

According to CEO Chris Stipe, "Bottom line, we are outperforming our budget by more than half a million dollars thru October. Our bottom line after four months of the fiscal year is \$1.1 million, compared to a budgeted \$586,000. This includes contributions to the Foundation, tax proceeds and 340B proceeds. Cash continues to be strong with days cash on hand at 216." The trustees approved October financial reports as presented.

Medical staff credentialing was approved, and the FY25 Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) Plan was presented and approved.

A resolution was approved to set a Public Hearing related to projects receiving USDA financial assistance. The public hearing was set for Dec. 30 at 4 p.m. in the Todd-Neff Conference Room. That coincides with the next regular meeting of the trustees. The public is welcome to join in person or via remote technology. Details can be found at www.guthriecountyhospital.org.

YESTER YEARS

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 18, 1974 **IT CAN BE A HASSLE:** Wrapping what for some seems to be a multitude of Christmas presents can get to be a chore. Mari Teeple, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Teeple, laboriously cuts the wrapping for yet another present.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 19, 1984 **WREATHED WITH SMILES:** Sixth-graders at the elementary school have sold more than 45 Christmas grapevine wreaths that they constructed. Front row, left to right: Chris Schreck, Mike Steiner and Lisa Lemke. Back row: Aaron Schultz, Kory Schramn and Lori Benton.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 28, 1994 **HAPPY GIRL:** Shannon Rees, a first-grader at Guthrie Center Elementary, is ecstatic after Santa hand-delivers a Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce coloring book last Thursday afternoon.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 1, 2004 **GROWING BOYS:** Alex Husk, left, and Brady Langgaard prune poinsettia plants in a steamy greenhouse at Guthrie Center High School. The FFA chapter grew the plants and has them for sale.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 24, 2014 WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?: Davion Varra, 10, of Guthrie Center, chats with Santa Dec. 6 at the Guthrie Activity Center.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Sept. 5, 2019 LIONS PICK POSTER WINNER: Jack Sheeder, a sixthgrade student at Guthrie Center Elementary, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Guthrie Center Lions Club. Sheeder's poster was among more than 450,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The poster was selected by members of the Guthrie Center Lions Club for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme, "Journey of Peace." Pictured, from left: Diane Flanery, Brennan Tunink, Tanner Downing, Jack Sheeder and Shannon Neff-Muell. ■

THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS



Morgun Nolte works for a fall at ACGC's quad meet on Thursday, Dec. 5.



Sophmore Cadence Petersen competes at the Panorama Quads on Nov. 18.



No. 4 Joe Crawford leads the break against Woodward-Granger on Dec. 6.



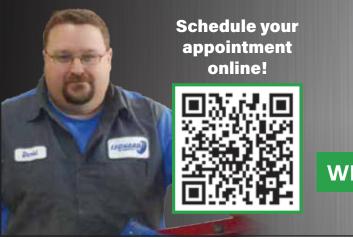
ACGC's Angel Martinez breaks down his opponent during ACGC's quad meet on Thursday, Dec. 5.



Lane Stringer gets close to near-fall points at ACGC's quad meet on Thursday, Dec. 5.



No. 3 Jathan South picks up the Woodward-Granger player at mid-court on Dec. 6.





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No. 14 Noah Kading protects the ball during ACGC's scrimmage against Woodbine on Nov. 26.



Senior Hali Klingenberg works for control against her opponent at the Panorama Quads on Nov. 18.



No. 1 Stella Largent sticks with the IKM-Manning ballhandler on Nov. 25.



Senior Jeslyn Ortega wrestling at the Panorama Quads on Nov. 18.



No. 32 Camdyn Richter chases the loose ball against Woodward-Granger on Dec. 6.



Sophomore guard Meranda Gruber battles for the loose ball against IKM-Manning on Nov. 25. ■

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JANET SIMMONS 1943-2024

Janet Irene Simmons, 81, daughter of James and Betty (Negal) Crawley, was born July 19, 1943, in Guthrie Center. A lifelong resident of Guthrie Center, she passed away Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

.....

She was the oldest of five daughters, graduating from Guthrie Center High School in 1961. From there, she went on and graduated from McConnell Airline School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1964. She then had her two daughters, Jannette Jewel in 1965 and Patricia Lynne in 1967. She worked for Farm Bureau Insurance for 30 years before her retirement.

She is survived by her two daughters, Jannette Rankin of Adel, and Patricia (Jack) Williams of Jefferson; granddaughter, Jennifer (Lyle) Schmitz of Dexter; grandson, Davin (Brett Carlson) Rankin of Chicago; step-granddaughter, Jennifer (Travis) Lee of Jefferson; step-grandson, Jack J. (April) Williams of Jefferson; seven greatgrandchildren; one greatgreat-granddaughter; and sisters, Peggy (Gerry) German of Winterset and Karen (Albert) Maben of Linden. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Pam Jesse and Nancy (Donald) Finnell.

A private family burial of her cremains was held Saturday, Dec. 14, in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center, with a Celebration of Life held at Jannette's home immediately following the burial.

Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center, was entrusted with her services. ■



CAROL JEAN (KLOPPENBURG) TRENT DORSEY 1947-2024

.....

Carol Jean (Kloppenburg) Trent Dorsey, a beloved mother, wife, friend and educator, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at UnityPoint Health Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. Carol was born on June 8, 1947, in the Bristow House in Massena, Iowa, to Kermit and Virginia (Raasch) Kloppenburg. Carol spent her early years in Anita, where her family lived behind Smither's dairy and then moved to the end of Rosehill Avenue. She graduated from Anita High School in 1965 and soon after pursued her passion for healthcare by attending the Career Academy in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she became a lab technician. She worked diligently in cardiology at Creighton University and St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha.

In 1971, Carol married LaVerne Owen Trent, and together they had five children: Lori, Carolyn, Owen, Cody and Dawn. Carol faced the sorrow of losing LaVerne in 1989. She found love again and married Lynn Dorsey on July 1, 2001, in a beautiful ceremony in her parents' flower gardens. Carol and Lynn shared a life full of farming and community service.

Carol was a lifelong learner, returning to education at Des Moines Area Community College, where she was recognized in Who's Who Among American Junior College Students in 1995. Carol continued her education at UNI, where she graduated cum

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laude with a bachelor of arts in elementary education and a minor in English/language arts in 1997. Her dedication to education led her to earn a master's degree in behavioral disorders/learning disabilities from Morningside College in 2009.

A passionate educator, Carol taught at several schools, including Panorama, Guthrie Center, Anita, Atlantic and Adair-Casey. She was a dedicated speech coach, leading more than 250 students to state competitions and 10 to All-State. Her excellence in education earned her numerous accolades, including Teacher of the Year by Wal-Mart in 2007 and nomination for State of Iowa Teacher of the Year in 2009.

Carol was deeply involved in her community, serving as district president of the Lutheran Missionary League, a lifetime member of the Lutheran Church, and superintendent of Rabbits, Poultry and Pets at the Guthrie County Fair. Her commitment to youth was recognized in 2013 when she was inducted into the 4-H State Hall of Fame. Carol is survived by her devoted husband, Lynn Dorsey; her children, Lori Erickson and Cody Trent; son-in-law, Jon (Jamie) Banks; stepchildren, Becky (Bernard) Vais, Sally (Terry) Kloppenburg, and Dan Dorsey; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and brother, Richard. She also leaves behind cherished valued friends and extended family.

Carol is preceded in death by her parents, Kermit and Virginia; her children, Carolyn, Dawn and Owen; her brothers, David and Gary; her sister-in-law, Sandy Kloppenburg; and her grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Carol's unwavering dedication to education, her faith and her family leaves a lasting legacy that will be cherished by all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Funeral Services were at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Schmidt Family Funeral Home in Atlantic with Rev. Ted Weishaupt officiating.

A luncheon was held in the Schmidt Family Funeral Home Community Room following the service.

Burial was at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Evergreen Cemetery in Anita.

The family received friends from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, at the Schmidt Family Funeral Home in Atlantic.

Memorial Contributions may be directed to the family for future designation and can be sent in care of Schmidt Family Funeral Home, P.O Box 523, Atlantic, Iowa 50022.

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J RANDY SIEDELMANN 1953-2024

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J Randy Siedelmann was born on April 24, 1953, to Eldonn and Shirley (Hocamp) Siedelmann in Guthrie Center. He was raised in Casey and graduated from Adair-Casey High School with the class of 1973.

J worked several jobs throughout his life, his last being at Schafer Systems in Adair. It was while working at Schafer Systems he met Olivia Nino. The couple married on July 26, 1998, at The Little Brown Church in Nashua. J took in Olivia's children as his own. He loved being a step-dad, teaching and helping them any way he could.

He loved telling and pulling jokes, doing his "Thomas Kinkade" puzzles and telling stories and sharing his experiences. J also enjoyed vacationing with his family and especially his "roadtripping" with Olivia and sightseeing.

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we share this sad news that our beloved J Randy Siedelmann passed away on Nov. 19, 2024. J will always hold a special place in our hearts. He was one of a kind, a selfless man who loved helping and visiting his friends whenever he could.

J will be remembered by his wife, Olivia; daughter, Cathy (Ross) Burkman; sons, Matthew Nino and Lucas Nino; granddaughters, Destiny Burkman (Justin), Raidan (Carson) Rhoads and Ella Nino; siblings, Lee (Yolanda) Siedelmann and Lori Siedelmann (Dwight); nephews, Neal (Brooke and kids) Siedelmann, Alan (Katie and kids) Siedelmann and Jason Hastings; and his best friend, Tillie; along with many other relatives and friends.

J was preceded in death by his parents, Eldonn and Shirley; sister-in-law, Dennise Siedelmann; nephew, Aaron Newton; and mother-in-law, Jennie Nino.

Public visitation with the family present was from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22, at the Schmidt Family Funeral Home in Adair.

Family burial will be at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be directed to The Animal Rescue league of Iowa or The American Cancer Society and can be sent in care of Schmidt Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 523, Atlantic, Iowa 50022.

The Schmidt Family Funeral Home of Adair was in charge of arrangements.



BETTY LOU THOMPSON 1938-2024

.....

Betty Lou (Wetzel) Thompson, 86, daughter of Ralph Merle Wetzel and Sarah (Guss) Wetzel, was born July 24, 1938, in Manilla in Shelby County, Iowa. She passed away Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, at Thomas Rest Haven, Coon Rapids.

Betty grew up on a farm in southwest Iowa and had eight siblings. Betty went to school and graduated from Guthrie Center High School in

1955.

Betty married Jackie Cornell, and to this union a daughter, Tammy, was born. They later divorced. Betty married Gary Thompson, and to this union, a son and daughter, Brandon and Metinka, were born. They later divorced.

Betty went to DMACC and earned a small business management degree all while having young children.

Being a single parent, Betty worked hard to take care of her children. She worked at the local cable company, **County Wide Plumbing** & Heating, Dutler Construction, Thompson Electric, Mr. Bills Foodland, Wild Abstract Office, Guthrie Center Times and various jobs in accounting and office management and payroll. She also sold Avon and Hoda.

Betty traveled a lot in her younger years and liked staying close to home later in life.

She enjoyed flowers, gardening, birds, her cats, collecting knick

Thank you all for your

support in the 2024 year.

We wish you all a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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knacks, oil painting, sewing, and writing.

She is survived by her children, Tammy Cornell, Brandon (Geri) Thompson and Metinka (Brian) Slater; grandchildren, Kierra Cornell, Abigail Thompson, Tishara Lane, Talyn Slater, Devan (Dwayne) Seeck, and Misean (Fidel) Hernandez; and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Roseanna Leib of California: Connie Hansen of Nebraska; and Marjorie (Mike) Crabbs of Guthrie Center; along with many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Burton (Martha) Wetzel, Donald (Doris) Wetzel, Ralph G. Wetzel, Charles (Nancy) Wetzel; and sister. Elnora Purcell.

Cremation has taken place, and private graveside services will be held at a later date in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center.

Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center, is entrusted with her services. ■

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CARR APPRECIATES LIFE AND WORK IN A SMALL-TOWN COMMUNITY

New Hampton native's path eventually led him to Guthrie County, and he now runs the State Farm Insurance agency in Guthrie Center.

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

An old saying states, "We end up where we're supposed to be." As a native of New Hampton, Robert Carr has found that to be true. Although he has moved around and lived in more urban areas, he says smalltown life is what he prefers. His path eventually led him to Guthrie County, and he now runs the State Farm Insurance agency in Guthrie Center.

Carr's career path has had many stops along the way. He attended Luther College in Decorah, where he excelled on the wrestling team. While at Luther, he met Peg, and they were married in 1986.

"I worked as a senior vice president of a bank in Cedar Rapids until 2002," Carr said. "Things went well, but I just wanted to own my own business. And as I looked around the insurance world, State Farm, to me, was clearly head and shoulders above everybody. So, I took over an agency in Ottumwa in 2002 and stayed there until 2008. Things went well there for us. We grew a lot, and then I got the opportunity to work for State Farm corporate. So, I moved into a corporate level position from 2008 to



Robert Carr invites customers and potential customers to stop in and have a conversation.

2016, helping out in the hiring process, training, overseeing a lot of offices."

Eventually, Carr realized he was ready for a change.

"I made the decision that I wanted to go back to a small town like I grew up in, take over an agency and stay until I retire. That's what brought me here to Guthrie Center. I took over from Jen Policky, who went to a different role within corporate," Carr said. "I grew up in a town of 3,000 people, and I just felt like a small town was home."

Carr shared some basic information about the company he works with.

"State Farm has been around for over 100 years. It's been known forever for home, auto and farm insurance. We also provide financial service planning," Carr said. **GUTHRIE CENTER TIME**

He pointed out that his approach, and State Farm's approach, are to deal with







The State Farm team includes Robert Carr, Lynelle Kenner, JoJo Wood and Sheri Meinecke.

customers in the way that each prefers.

"Some like to do things on the computer. Some might prefer on the phone," Carr said. "I grew up in a small town. I appreciate a handshake and being able to sit with someone and talk through things."

Carr said he is a strong believer in having conversations with his customers to review coverage and see if the customer wishes to make any changes. In the insurance field, Iowa's weather has caused many disasters in recent years, with tornadoes, derechos and other events. Because of this, insurance premiums and deductibles have been rising faster than expected, but Carr has advice on how to respond.

"I tell customers a lot, 'You have insurance to protect yourself from something that's financially devastating, not something that's financially aggravating. So, it's OK to have bigger deductibles. You can't insure for every little thing."

Looking to the future, Carr has no plans for major changes in his business, for now.

"My plans right now are to continue running this agency with the team that we've assembled here, to take care of our clients, until retirement, and I really have no idea when that will occur."

Carr said he appreciates being in a small town area again.

"My wife and I enjoy the community. We have a great team here. We all get along," Carr said. "My wife and I have three great children. Our oldest daughter, Katherine, is retired military. She's in Italy



The State Farm building is located at 111 S. Fourth St. in Guthrie Center.

with her husband. Our middle daughter, Mallory, is a doctor and lives in Grimes, and we have two grandchildren, so they're close. Our son, Benjamin, is 25 and a financial analyst with a company in Waukee."

Carr is proud of what he and his team offer the community.

"We've been fortunate to have significant growth every year that we've been here. I think our customers appreciate the interactions and the channels that they can use to communicate with us," Carr said. "We love the fact that it's a small community where everybody knows everybody, and we hope we're doing our share to help take care of the people in the community."



START PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE YOU DESERVE

Use this month to start your financial planning journey with us at the Guthrie County State Bank Investment Center. We offer comprehensive financial planning services, including: tax planning, estate planning, education planning, retirement planning, and wealth transfers.

OUR FINANCIAL PLANNING PROCESS IS SIMPLE & SMOOTH. If you're new to financial planning, here's a little bit about how it works!

I. First thing we like to do is have you fill out a Foundational Planning guestionnaire. This form allows us to identify your major financial goals and collect some basic information such as age, checking & savings balances, insurance premiums, expenses, outstanding debt, identifying assets, and retirement account balances-IRAs, 401(k), etc.

2. After we've gathered the information we need, we input it into our financial planning software. This gives us a snapshot of your current financial situation and provides us with a probability of how likely you are to accomplish your financial goals. These goals can be retirement, a new boat, vacation home, tax planning, you name it.

3. Once the probability of success has been identified, we make recommendations tailored to your goals. We are able to see how those recommendations affect your plan and your probability of reaching your financial goals. After some finessing, we like to see your probability of success around the 92-99% range. Continual monitoring and annual reviews will be set in place to ensure your goals are maintained. We are confident that you can use this plan to reach your financial goals and watch your money grow!

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TUESDAY-FRIDAY 6AM-2PM SATURDAY 8AM-2PM **CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY**

FAITH **AREA CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES**

BY RICH WICKS AND CHERYL CASTILE *Guthrie Center Times*

ADAIR:

- First Presbyterian Church, 5 p.m.
- United Methodist Church, 5 p.m.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4 p.m. Services at Schafer Barn on the Hill, 1459 White Pole Road

BAGLEY:

Bagley United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.

BAYARD:

Saint Patrick's Catholic Church, 7:15 p.m.

CASEY:

- Saint John's Lutheran Church, Christams Eve: 5 p.m. Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m.
- United Methodist Church, 5 p.m.

Service held at Adair Church

GUTHRIE CENTER:

- Bowman Chapel, 4:30 p.m.
- United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.
 - First Presbyterian Church, 5 p.m. • Immanuel Lutheran Church, 9
 - p.m.
 - Saint Mary's Catholic Church, 5:45 p.m.

PANORA:

- Calvary Chapel of The Raccoon River Valley, 6:30 p.m.
- Faith Bible Church, 5 p.m.
- First Christian Church, 6 p.m.
- Lutheran Church of Hope, 3 p.m.
- Saint Cecilia's Catholic Church, Christams Eve: 4 p.m. Christmas Day: 9 a.m.
- Saint Thomas Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.
- United Methodist Church, 7 p.m. (with special music)

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EVENT THE GREAT SANTA SEND OFF IN **GUTHRIE CENTER ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

Special to Guthrie Center Times

The Guthrie Center Fire Department is bringing back the Great Santa Send Off on Christmas Eve starting at 6 p.m. The fire department will bring Santa on a parade route starting at 6 p.m. at the fire station at 101

State St. in Guthrie Center. Santa will then make a loop through the lighted city park and through the streets of Guthrie Center. Those who may not be on the parade route, or live outside of Guthrie Center, can park in the swimming pool parking lot and give Santa a big wave as he passes by.

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WHAT'S IN YOUR GARAGE? THE KROEGER CARS ARE TRUE CLASSICS

Steven and Judy's garage stores a red 1938 Ford Convertible, a tan 1941 Lincoln Zephyr sedan, and a black 1947 Ford Super Deluxe 4-door sedan.

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

A step into the garage of Steven and Judy Kroeger feels like a step back in time. Their garage houses three beautiful classic cars, with the "newest" being more than 75 years old. The Kroegers live along Highway 25 between Menlo and Casey. Steven recently took time to tell the story of the vehicles.

"I grew up on a farm out in eastern Iowa, and my high school car was a 1940 Ford two-door sedan. So, I grew up with these old cars, and you could buy one for \$100 or \$200 back then, and gas was about 20 cents a gallon," Kroeger said.

The classic cars in the Kroeger garage include a red 1938 Ford Convertible sedan, a tan 1941 Lincoln Zephyr sedan, and a black 1947 Ford Super Deluxe 4-door sedan.

"I like the old Fords. I like the styling of them," he said.

Kroeger is a longtime and involved member of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America.

"I was the national secretary for four vears and served on the board for six. I'm still a member," Kroeger said. "There are about 6,000 members now."

When asked specifically what qualifies as an "Early Ford" as designated in



Steven and Judy Kroeger show their 1938 Ford convertible and 1947 Ford Super Deluxe 4-door sedan.

the club name, Kroeger has a ready answer.

"That's 1932 through 1953 with the old flatheaded engines," he said. "I like the 1930s and 1940s cars."

Kroeger went on to tell the tale of each of his Early Fords.

"The 1947 is the first one I had that I fixed up when I moved out here. My wife was born in 1947, so that was my hook for buying that one," Kroeger said. "We bought it down in Truro, Iowa, for a little over \$2,000."

The car was in generally good shape when he bought it, but Kroeger knew some upgrades were needed.

"It needed a little fixing. It had a 1950 Mercury engine in it, which was a good engine, a little more horsepower, and I haven't touched that engine other than converting it to 12-volt," Kroeger said. "So, we fixed it up and got it painted and did a few things to it. It's been in the national magazine."

Asked how much of the work he himself can do, Kroeger said he leaves the



The interior of the Kroegers' 1938 Ford convertible.



major work to professionals.

"I do a lot of the little detail stuff, and I can do some wiring. But as far as tearing an engine apart and rebuilding it, or body work and painting, you've got to have equipment for that," he said.

Kroeger said the 1941 Lincoln Zephyr was a long-term project but well worth the wait.

"I restored the 1941 Lincoln over about an eight-year period," Kroeger said. "I belong to three car clubs. The Early Ford V-8 Club of America, the Lincoln Zephyr Owners Club, and the Antique Automobile Club of America. And that car has received the top award at all three clubs. That's a pretty good showing."

Despite his cars' age and rarity, Kroeger enjoys getting them out on the road. Although his vehicles have experienced a variety of damages from rocks and other objects, Kroeger still feels that's better than just leaving a car in the garage all the time.

"The 1947 and the Lincoln have both been in some cars shows," Kroeger said. "We've had the Lincoln up to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Illinois." Kroeger's newest addition is also his

oldest car.

"The 1938 convertible sedan I just bought in March. It drives really nice,"



The Kroegers' 1941 Zephyr.

Kroeger said. "The interesting thing about that car is that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had one of the same models down in Georgia. Convertible sedans have always intrigued me. I never thought I'd own one. It's red, and my wife always wanted a red convertible, so it's titled in her name."



The Zephyr's dashboard would confuse many new drivers today.



The interior of the Kroegers' 1947 Ford Super Deluxe 4-door sedan.



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Q: HOW MANY VOTES WILL NEED TO SWITCH FROM "NO" TO "YES" FOR THE EMS MEASURE TO GAIN THE 60% NECESSARY APPROVAL IF IT IS PUT TO A VOTE AGAIN?

A: If the same 6,153 voters came to the polls again to vote on the measure, 377 would need to change from voting "no" to voting "yes" in order for the measure to reach the 60% threshold for passage. The city with the highest percentage of "yes" votes was Panora at 64.49%. The city with the lowest percentage of "yes" votes was Stuart at 35.52%.

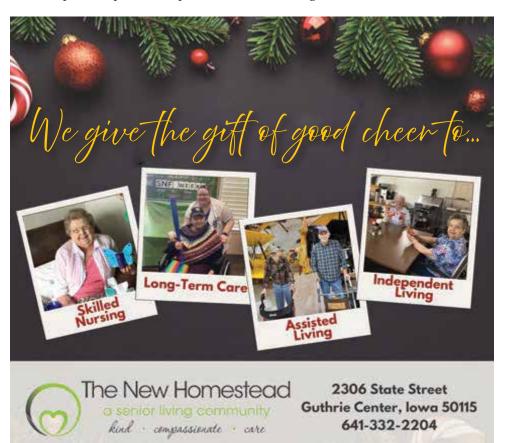
Q: GREAT JOB ON YOUR VETERAN SALUTE IN LAST MONTH'S GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES. HOW CAN I GET SOME EXTRA COPIES?

A: Thank you. We enjoyed putting it together, too. For extra copies, just stop by our office at 104 Industrial Road in Guthrie Center any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and pick them up. Or if that

doesn't work for you, let us know and we will make other arrangements for you.

Q: WHAT IS A PHEASANT HUNTING APPRENTICE LICENSE? AND WHAT DO PHEASANT COUNTS LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR?

A: According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, an apprentice license can be used to allow someone to give hunting a try under the supervision of an adult mentor without completing hunter education. This license may be purchased twice in a lifetime before the individual is required to complete a hunter education course. Also according to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa's pheasant population is down slightly from last year when hunters bagged the highest number of roosters since 2007. Last year, more than 83,000 hunters harvested more than 590,000 roosters, providing an estimated economic impact of \$180 million in Iowa. Learn more at www. iowadnr.gov.



www.TheNewHomestead.org

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COMMUNITY



Guthrie County Community Foundation board members, front row: Susan Belding, Carla Hilgenberg, Tamara Deal, Mary Ebert and Stacey Simmons. Back row: Julie Zajicek, Tom Rutledge, Jeremy Muell, Joni Dvorak, JoAnn Johnson, Andrew Arganbright, Diane Flanery and Kirby Klinge. Missing from the photo are Ryan Albers and Ruth Blomquist. Incoming board members are Ruth Blomquist, Jeremy Muell, Stacey Simmons and Tom Rutledge.

GUTHRIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GIVES OUT \$213,875 TO 28 AREA ORGANIZATIONS

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, the Guthrie County Community Foundation (GCCF) held a reception at the Panora Community Center to hear from the various organizations that received funds from GCCF in 2024. This year's grants totaled \$213,875 among the 28 organizations that received funds. Representatives of each recipient organization gave a brief report on how the funds are being used.

Since its inception, the GCCF has given out \$1.8 million in a total of 367 grants to a total of 70 organizations. ■



Recipient organization representatives, front row: Laura Robson, Heather Schneider, Phyllis Wakefield, Michelle Hull, Mary Porter, Jeff Kracht, Carlie Mason, Leah Woodard, Brielle Bass, Kristine Jorgensen and Daniel Irving. Middle row: Chris Arganbright, Becky Wahl, Rachel Hofbauer, Vicki Crannell, Nancy Sherman Deluhery, Lisa Sherman, Leah Becker, Susan Geels, Roberta Gilson and Kris Arrasmith. Back row: Chris Mohr, Dillon Wurr, Brayton Bonney, John DeLavergne, David Guisinger, Mike Carey, Erika Lundy-Woolfolk, Erick Danielson, Dennis Flanery, Sean Bovinett and Josh Renslow.

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A CHRISTMAS HAM BALL TRADITION

BY JOLENE GOODMAN Guthrie Center Times

Thirty years ago, my friend Tammy shared this ham ball recipe with me. I don't know that I had ever tried ham balls prior to then. I immediately learned how they tasted like heaven. Tammy shared many other important aspects of life with me, as well. More recipes, a devoted friendship, family traditions and a welcoming home. Prior to kids, Shane and I spent many afternoons or evenings at her home watching movies, viewing sports or playing games followed by a good meal and a night cap. I soaked it all up. At the time, we kidded that we loved being at her home more than ours. I value these things today and work to share them with family and friends. Every Christmas, I make Tammy's ham balls. They are now a cherished family tradition. In fact, they are requested (which makes this mom feel special). If you are famil-



Jolene Goodman

iar with ham balls, there are several ways to make them with a variety of ingredients. I hope you enjoy this recipe, too. What are your family recipe traditions? Send me an email and share your recipes with me.

Happy cooking and Merry Christmas!

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

TAMMY'S HAM BALLS

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 pounds ham loaf
- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 2 beaten eggs
- 2 tsp. mustard
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1.5 cups graham crackers crumbs

Sauce

- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoon vinegar

Directions

Combine ham ball ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well with your hands. Use a small cookie scoop to form balls and place in glass 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Combine sauce ingredients and pour over top of ham balls. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees, spooning sauce over meatballs every 15 minutes.



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AREA CHURCH GUIDE

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Adair United Methodist Church 404 Cass St., Adair 641-746-2210 www.umc.org/en/find-a-church/ church?id=50556

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1107 Broad St., Adair 641-742-3802 http://goodshepherdadair.com

New Life Baptist Church 218 Audubon St, Adair, IA 50002 www.newlifeadair.org *Our messages: www.newlifeadair.org/videos*



■ 480

Saint John Catholic Church 501 Adair St., Adair 515-742-3230 https://adairstjohn.org





Casey United Methodist Church 100 E. 2nd St., Casey



GUTHRIE CENTER

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Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church 2397 Bowman Ave., Guthrie Center 641-332-2408

First Christian Church 105 N. Fourth St., Guthrie Center 641-332-2571 *Christian.org*

First United Methodist Church 405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center 641-332-2408 www.gcumcia.org

First Presbyterian Church 701 State St., Guthrie Center 641-332-2425

Guthrie Center First Baptist Church 113 N. Fifth St., Guthrie Center 641-747-8198 www.guthriecenterbaptist.com Guthrie Center Seventh-day Adventist Church 1305 North St., Guthrie Center 641-322-2778 www.guthriecentersda.com



Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 1300 Grand St., Guthrie Center 515-747-8524 www.jw.org









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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of last month's photo is the sign to motorists heading south out of Casey to I-80. Have a guess on where

this month's photographed image is at? Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@ gctimesnews.com.









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MARY J. BARNETT LIBRARY NEWS

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BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Preschool Storyhour is scheduled each Friday at 10 a.m. for preschool children of all ages and their caregivers. Each session includes listening to stories and making an age-appropriate craft. It's a great chance for littles to learn to love books and mingle with other littles. It's also a great opportunity for caregivers to interact with other caregivers. The theme for Dec. 20 will be Christmas. Dec. 27's topic will be snowmen.

After school STEM activities for elementary aged children are scheduled for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9 and Thursday, Feb. 13. These events will be presented by the Guthrie County ISU Extension Service in the library's Taylor Meeting Room.

During winter break, MJB Library will be having Winter Break Afternoons at the MJB Library. These will be comeand-go events during regular library hours for school-aged children. On Monday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 30, the library will have an exciting craft project available. Thursday, Dec. 26 will be movie afternoon.

ADULT EVENTS

Card Making Class will meet from 9-11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. The cost of \$5 covers all the needed materials to create gorgeous, one-of-a-kind greeting cards.

Cookbook Club will meet for their annual cookie exchange on Thursday, Dec.



Iowa author Michelle Cowan spoke at the MJB Library on Saturday, Dec. 7. Attendees learned of her husband's sudden death in a car accident caused by a drunk driver. She shared her journey through her grief and parenting her teenage daughter. If you missed her talk but want to learn more, her book entitled "Better, Not Bitter" is available to check out at the MJB Library.

19. The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. To participate, bring a dozen cookies along with the recipe to share with the group.

Cribbage players meet each Monday from 9-11 a.m. and welcome all who would like to play. Each Wednesday,



During the month of December, Judy Hilgenberg's Hallmark Holiday Village is on loan to the library. Stop in and have a look at this stunning collection.

from 9-11 a.m., the Bridge Club meets and would love to have new faces at their card tables.

COMPUTERS FOR SALE

The library has two Dell all-in-one computers available for sale for \$50 each or a free will offering. Contact the library with questions or to purchase.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Be sure to stop in the library during December to look at the gorgeous trees

decorated by various businesses and groups from around the county. The trees will be on display through the holidays during regular library hours.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The MJB Library will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. The library will close at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and will be closed all day on Wednesday, Jan. 1 to celebrate the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

www.guthriecentertimes.com



Cindy Steensen has loaned this lovely quilt to the library to display through the month of December. As gorgeous as this photo is, it's even more impressive in person. Stop by and see for yourself.



Big Green Umbrella Media's tree at the Festival of Trees is highlighting the many stories covered by their local publications including the Guthrie Center Times.



This clever tree by the Panorama Daycare Center highlights a favorite children's story "How to Catch a Snowman."



This "Frosty the Snowman" tree decorated by the MJB Library Board features a before and after look at Frosty with him posed next to the tree as well as in a puddle of melted snow with Frosty's hat and carrot nose under the tree. ■

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Merry Christmas!

Wishing you and your family health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the coming New Year



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: Isaiah 9:6

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