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**MARCH 2025**

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## **DOGGONE GREAT PETS**

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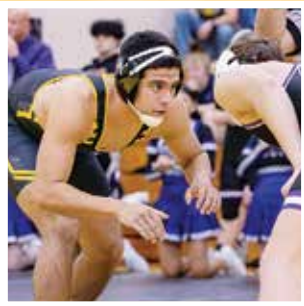
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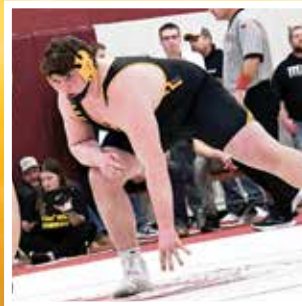
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**ON THE COVER:** Anna Miller, Victor and Alice pose with their dog, Raya. Photo courtesy of Thia's Photography, Bagley IA.

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# (WO)MAN'S BEST FRIEND

I am dogless, once again. Yes, the most recent Goodman dog is now a full-fledged resident of Washington state. Layla was adopted by my brother-in-law, Curtis, last November as Jolene and I prepared for our first grandchild.

We would have liked to have had both grandson and dog, but Layla didn't want to cooperate. She is a great dog but takes issues with living and breathing things that are smaller than her. We found out the hard way. She likes cats, a bit too much, if you know what I mean. Small dogs get her salivating, too. But when she gets near babies, she makes noises and has reactions I have never heard or seen before in a dog. We were not willing to risk our grandson's safety for a dog.

The good news is that we found a good person to provide a good home for this otherwise great dog. The bad news is that he is 1,674 miles away. Fortunately,

this provided an opportunity for Jolene to see her brother and for our daughter, Abby, to see her uncle — and they both got to spend quality road time with Layla in a beautiful part of the country on the drive there.

Abby and I picked out Layla from a rescue organization a few years ago during another dogless era. Jolene was not so enthusiastic about having a dog again. As it worked out, Jolene and Layla became best friends, which was immediately apparent when she jumped on Jolene's desk at work to greet her when they first met. Layla never really cared if I was ever in the room, but she followed Jolene everywhere, tail wagging and making continual eye contact.



Shane Goodman

I am the one who took Layla outside, fed her and played ball with her, but she loved Jolene. And Jolene loved her, too, which was obvious by the mountain of bones, rubber balls, blankets, sweaters, treats and other "stuff" she continually brought home for her dog.

I would bring Layla to work at times, as some of you who have visited our office know. She was affectionate to most humans, but she struggled to hold her licker. When Jolene would leave the office, Layla would wait by the back door for her return. What none of us at work have missed, though, is Layla's flatulence when we all gathered in the conference room.

So, we are dogless once again, at least for a while. I continue to believe every child should know the love of a dog, so I hope we may be able to find another dog down the road that will cooperate with

the plan. In the meantime, I have said goodbye to bones, rubber balls, blankets, sweaters and dog treats, and I look forward to Nerf balls, Tonka Trucks, Hot Wheels, Lincoln Logs and Grandpa's Best Hot Cocoa.

Meanwhile, dogs continue to be important parts of the lives of many local residents, several of which we feature in this month's cover story. I hope you will enjoy reading their stories as much as I have.

Thanks for reading. ■

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# DOGGONE GREAT PETS

## Local dog owners share their canine tales.

BY RICH WICKS  
Guthrie Center Times

Archeological evidence shows that thousands of years ago, early humans started domesticating wolves. This eventually led to the many breeds of dogs in the world today.

Regardless of how and when the partnership started, it is undeniable that humans and dogs have forged a bond like no other two species on Earth. Dogs serve as guides for the visually impaired. They are trained to locate explosives and illegal drugs. Some are even used to track fugitives or missing persons. Police dogs serve as formidable allies in law enforcement. Dogs can also be amazingly efficient shepherds. All those are admirable purposes, but this story focuses on dogs as pets.

About 46% of homes in America include at least one dog, and that figure is up significantly from about 32% in 1996. The number of dog-owning households surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, as Americans spent more time at home and less time with other people. Perhaps most importantly, 89% of dog owners in America consider their dogs to be members of the family.

Several local dog owners were happy to share their tales.

### JENNY JOHNSON AND RIP

*“Even the tiniest poodle or chihuahua is still a wolf at heart.” - Dorothy Hinshaw*

Dog owners experience the joy of having a dog but also the pain of loss when a beloved pet passes away. Like many people after losing a dog, Jenny Johnson of Casey wasn't immediately ready to get another. But, over time, her feelings changed. A few years ago, she welcomed a Chihuahua named Rip into the family.

“We got him as a puppy. I kind of surprised my husband,” Johnson said. “We had dogs before, and it was hard when they passed away. We thought we would never get another dog, or at least not for a long time.”

Johnson's previous dog had developed health issues late in its life, which required



Jenny Johnson, Leland Acker and Rip enjoy a day in the park.

her to carry it. Because of that, she had a definite preference in mind for her next dog.

“I always said if I did get another dog, it would be one that's easy to carry,” she said.

Johnson also has cats, so any dog coming into the household would need to get along with them. When Johnson first brought Rip home, she found that he fit in well. And not only did the cats accept Rip into the fold, but her husband did, too.

“He was excited. He loves Rip dearly, so it was a good thing,” Johnson said.

Rip has also bonded with Johnson's fa-

ther, Leland Acker.

“He and my dad have become best buddies,” Johnson said.

Chihuahuas are considered an energetic breed, so frequent exercise is encouraged. Luckily, Johnson's home is next to the newly furnished Casey city park, which provides a venue for exercise and socialization.

“The new park and walking path have been really nice. He's gotten really used to coming over here. We do several laps around, and I get a chance to see everybody,” Johnson said. “Even though he's tiny, he loves to go on walks — long walks,

sometimes.”

Rip's small stature does create a few issues, but Johnson is up to the challenge.

“He's a purebred chihuahua. He'll be 3 in October,” Johnson said. “I don't let him outside by himself, and we don't even tie him out by himself because he's so small that something could get him very easily.”

Johnson notes that Rip is territorial and keeps a close eye on anyone in the neighborhood.

“He is the little policeman of our street and, really, our whole town,” she said. “He tries to police everyone.”

Johnson is an advocate for responsible



Jenny Johnson and Rip walk Casey's new trail.

pet ownership. She stressed that potential dog owners should consider the investment in time and money required to keep a dog healthy and happy. She says, when possible, rescuing a dog from a shelter is a great option since many shelters face overcrowding.

"It's a big decision. If you don't think you are ready to constantly care for a dog, maybe it's not the right time to get one," she said.

Johnson encourages dog owners to consider having their pets spayed or neutered. Veterinarians state this helps prevent certain diseases, controls overpopulation and improves pet behavior. Another benefit to spaying/neutering is longevity. Neutered male dogs live an average of 18% longer, and spayed female dogs live 23% longer.

Johnson has been pleased to find that, although Rip is small, he doesn't shy away from other dogs.

"Sometimes we take him to Paws and Pints in Des Moines. It's a big dog park, and it has a restaurant, bar and dog grooming," Johnson said. "The first time we went there, he just walked right out and handled all those big dogs like it was nothing. Everyone thought he was hilarious that day. When the dogs were running around, he'd get rolled, but he'd just get right back up. He just loves it."

#### MATHISON AND ADAM AYERS AND RYDER AND RIP

*"Dogs leave pawprints on our hearts." - author unknown*

If you've ever driven through Guthrie Center and seen two dogs relaxing on a trampoline, you've seen Ryder and Rip, the pets of Adam and Mathison Ayers. Ryder is a 3-year-old female black lab, while Rip is a 2-year-old male yellow lab.

Mathison told the story of how Ryder and Rip joined the family.

"In September of 2021, my childhood dog died. She was a yellow lab named Miley," Mathison said. "Two months went by, and my dad found an ad for puppies in Chariton. They picked out a black lab for themselves, and then my dad called me to ask if Adam and I wanted a puppy, too. And I really didn't ask Adam; I just said yes. So, my parents have Ryder's sister."

A year later, Rip came along.

"We went out with some friends, and somehow I convinced Adam that we needed a second dog because Ryder was so lonely. Adam was kind of under the influence, so it was pretty easy to convince him," Mathison said.

Every dog has a unique personality, and the Ayers immediately noticed the differences between Ryder and Rip.

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Mathison and Adam Ayers and Ryder.

"I never had a male dog before, and Rip is very clingy; he is a momma's boy," Mathison said. "I thought Ryder and I were close, but Rip is my shadow."

The dogs also have vastly different energy levels.

"Ryder is up for anything anytime, and Rip would rather just hang out in bed all day," Adam said. "He's like a light switch; he's either on or off."

Regarding the dogs' habits of lounging on the trampoline, Mathison told how that came to be.

"The trampoline used to be in the backyard, and, for some reason, we moved it to the front yard. One day when I came home from work, they were both lying on it, and it just became their thing," Mathison said.

Adam noted that the dogs' behavior has led to their home being recognized as a minor landmark.

"People ask us, 'Is that the house where the dogs are lying on the trampoline?'" Adam said.

The Ayers have no children, so they are pet parents, and that role inevitably leads to moments of panic that later make for great stories. Mathison recalled a favorite story when Ryder was barely 1 year old. Mathison had brought Ryder to Diamondhead Lake, where Ryder enjoyed jumping off the dock into the water.

"Ryder jumped off, and the ball went under the dock. She went under there after it, and I thought she was trapped under there, so I jumped in, fully clothed,



Adam and the dogs go to work.

to pull her out, and it was in the spring, so the water was freezing. Then I noticed that it was open under there, so she could have easily gotten out. I scraped myself on something, and it was bleeding, and Ryder didn't even care. From then on, I always brought Adam along."

Adam told the story of driving his truck down a gravel road when, suddenly, Rip decided to jump out the window. Rip rolled and stood up, unharmed, but then Adam noticed another truck speeding down the road toward them, so he quickly got Rip back in the truck.

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Mathison and Adam Ayers cool off with their dogs.

had to get the gravel and rock out of his face," Adam said. "But he's never done that again."

#### ANNA MILLER AND RAYA

*"The dog was created especially for children. He is the god of frolic."* - Henry Ward

Anna Miller of rural Guthrie Center believes greater dogs are not necessarily those of purebred lineage, and she has plenty of experience on which to base that belief. The family operates Mitzie Rue's Canine Corral, a dog boarding facility named after Miller's previous dog.

Miller's current dog, Raya, is a mutt, but pit bull is a large part of its genetic makeup. Although pit bulls have a reputation for being aggressive or even dangerous, Miller recognizes that each dog is an individual.

"She's some kind of pit mix, and I only know that because I've seen her parents. It looks like maybe she's got some bird dog in her because of the freckles," Miller said. "Raya is one of a kind."

The family did not get Raya as a puppy. Instead, Raya initially belonged to someone else who brought her to the kennel for boarding. According to Miller, own-

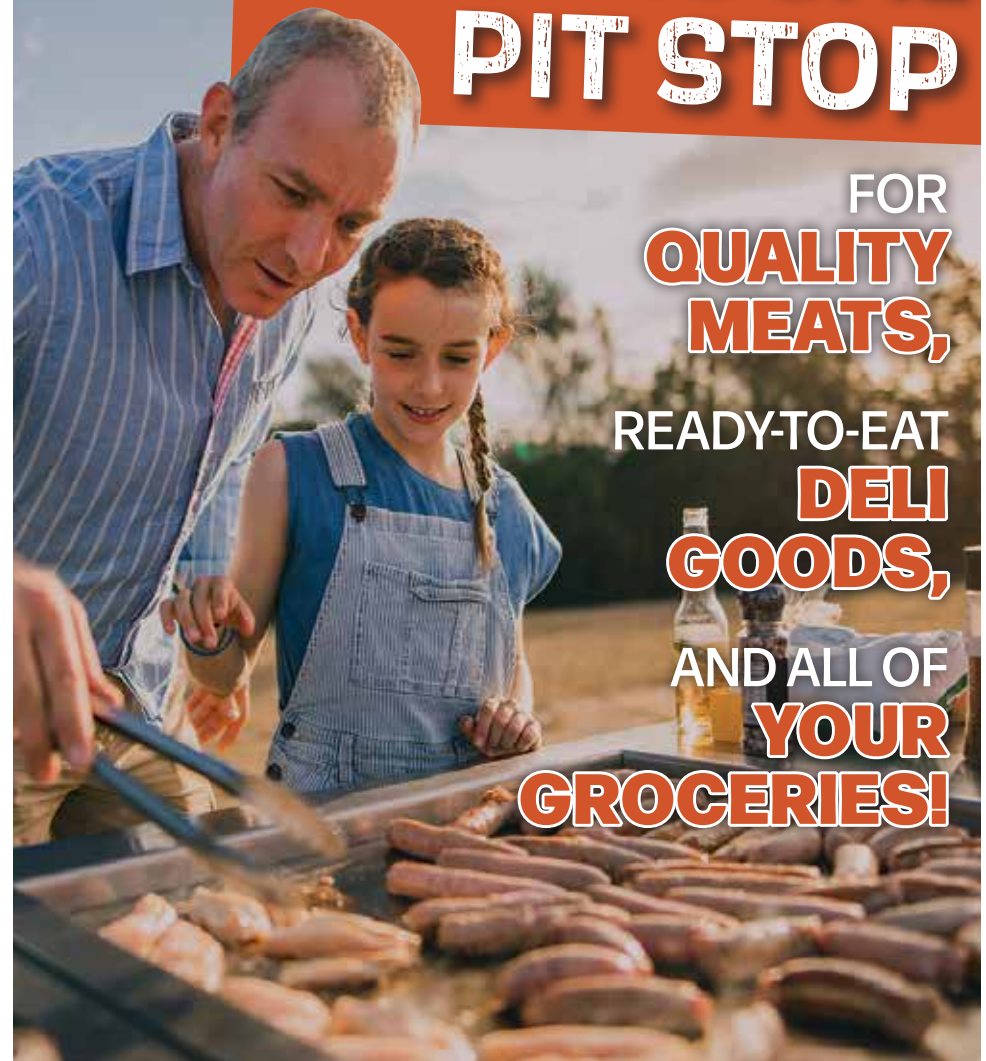


Alice paints Raya's toe nails.

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Victor, Alice and Raya in their home.



Raya and Victor relax on a summer day.

ing multiple dogs that are siblings often leads to behavioral challenges, and that seemed to be the case at Raya's first home. Raya's original owner was looking to find a new home for the dog, so Miller agreed to help.

"I was going to foster her and try to help find a home, which I did. It was us," she said. "We'd had her for about five or six months, and then we decided to adopt her."

Miller recalled noticing Raya's gentle temperament early on.

"When I was fostering her here, she was such a quick learner," Miller said. "And if there was a scared dog here, she would just calmly go in to help them."

The Millers have two children: Alice, 7, and Victor, 5. Raya and the kids quickly bonded.

"She's just so sweet and tolerant of the kids, and she'll follow them anywhere. She's been in tutus. She's had manicures. She will jump and climb on anything and everything with the kids," Miller said. "When Alice was 6, she

showed Raya at the county fair, through Clover Kids. They did great."

Many dog owners tell stories of their dogs showing impressive intelligence or understanding. Miller shared such a story. It happened on a fall day when the yard was full of leaves. As the kids played in the yard, a small tube of lip balm fell out of Alice's pocket, and the family couldn't find it.

"After looking for it for a while in all those leaves, I knew there was no way we were going to find it," Miller said. "The only way we would find it would be if Raya found it... and, by golly, the next day she had brought it and put it by the back door. The fact that she knew who it belonged to and where to bring it was amazing to me."

Since then, Raya has continued to demonstrate her intelligence and loyalty to the family.

"That kind of goes to show to not judge a book by its cover, because she's a great family dog and very loving," Miller said. ■

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# Guthrie Center ASK TIMES



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## Q: I JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE GUTHRIE COUNTY REC STATING A BIG RATE INCREASE. WHY SUCH A BIG HIKE ALL THE SUDDEN AFTER NO INCREASES SINCE 2001?

**A:** We directed this question to Cozy Nelson, CEO of the Guthrie County REC. She said the board of directors had discussed a possible rate increase for several months and settled on a gradual rollout. The service charge, currently \$26.25, will increase to \$36.25 effective April 1. On Jan. 1 of each of the next three years, the service charge will increase by an additional \$5.

“The main result was we increased our service charge, and we also took the Power Cost Recovery Adjustment (PCRA) and rolled it into the energy portion of it. It was not taken lightly by this board of directors,” Nelson said. “For the average customer using 1067 Kilowatts, it is about a 13% increase for them.”

## Q: WHAT DOES THE GUTHRIE COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER GROUP DO?

**A:** The mission of Pheasants Forever is to conserve pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy. They also aim to offer opportunities for hunting enthusiasts to meet and get to know each other. The annual Guthrie County Pheasants/Quail Forever banquet will be held at the Lake Panorama Conference Center, 5071 Clover Ridge Road, on Saturday, April 5. Doors open at 5 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. For

more information, contact Dan Brubaker at 515-238-7875 or Cindy Kisting at 515-339-5226.

## Q: HOW MUCH IS GUTHRIE COUNTY FARMLAND WORTH TODAY?

**A:** Iowa State University released the results of its annual farmland value survey. The full report is available on the ISU Extension and Outreach website, by navigating to “Whole Farm,” then “Land Values,” then “Farmland Value Surveys.”

The ISU Land Value Survey was initiated in 1941 and is intended to provide information on general land value trends. It is an expert opinion survey based on reports by licensed real estate brokers, farm managers, appraisers, agricultural lenders, county assessors and selected individuals knowledgeable of land market conditions. The 2024 survey is based on 479 usable county-level land value estimates provided by 330 agricultural professionals.

Fifty-six percent of respondents reported fewer sales in 2024 relative to 2023. Only 13% reported more sales, and 31% reported the same level of sales in 2024 and 2023.

Statewide, the average was \$11,467 per acre as of Nov. 1, 2024, which is a decrease of \$369 per acre (or a 3.1% decrease) from Nov. 1, 2023.

Guthrie County sales averaged \$10,896 per acre, a decrease of 4.6% from the previous year. Of the counties that border on Guthrie County, the highest value was Carroll County at \$13,023 per acre (down 5% from 2023) and the lowest was Adair County at \$8,990 (up 0.9% from 2023). ■

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# GORGE, MONKEY, DOG MAN, ARCHITECT, HOSTAGES — AND THE RED HULK



“Presence”



“The Brutalist”



“September 5th”



“Companion”

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Guthrie Center Times*

## “PRESENCE”

I am a fan of director Steven Soderbergh. He has made some great movies and some recently that I would call head-scratchers. I am happy to report that his latest movie, “Presence,” is a modern day ghost story about a family moving into a new home that happens to be haunted by an evil spirit. Here’s the great twist: The entire movie is seen from the point of view of the ghost. For a lot of the film, the ghost just observes this family, but the longer it observes, the more it involves itself in their lives. That involvement could be as simple as a book falling off a shelf, but as the film goes on, the intrusions are much more intense. This is not a slasher film, and I don’t recall seeing even a drop of blood, but it is a well-made movie about



a creepy “presence” in this family’s new home. An effective movie you will think about a lot after seeing it. **Grade: A**

## “THE BRUTALIST”

Now that I know that “brutalism” is actually an architecture style, the title of this film makes more sense to me and answers why most people have not seen what the year’s best film might be. Adrien Brody (who won the Oscar) plays a brilliant architect who also happens to be Jewish at a time when that was not really accepted. It is the late 1940s, and he immigrates to the United States and begins to make a name for himself in the furniture business and, eventually, back into architecture. This is a long, but never boring, film. (It had an actual intermission in the theatres.) It is also easily one of the year’s best. Maybe THE year’s best. I am not sure if the brilliance will translate



to the small screens at home, but do not overlook this fabulous movie. **Grade: A**

## “SEPTEMBER 5TH”

I was a freshman in high school in September of 1972 and probably wasn’t paying much attention to the Olympics in Munich, Germany. This was the year the hostages were taken, and ABC Sports had to step in because it was a dire situation, and they didn’t have a news crew on site. Jim McKay and the team did a fascinating job in handling this world crisis, and the movie recreates it beautifully. This is such a sad and important piece of history, but it was great to see it from this unique standpoint. **Grade: A**



## “COMPANION”

The year’s craziest movie to date, “Companion” tells the tale of a group of young people invited to a wealthy

friend’s house for a weekend. Without giving too much away, it is not what they expected. This is a well-made film that will include a couple of horrifying scenes and more humor than you might expect. **Grade: B+**



## “DOG MAN”

This kid’s movie is based on a series of books written by the guy who gave us the “Captain Underpants” series. I don’t know anything about the author or either of the books series, but, if the books are in any way as annoying as this movie, I have dodged a bullet. I was one of three people in the theatre for a morning matinee when I realized I had much better things to do than waste 90 minutes in a movie that was clearly not going to need to be reviewed. **Grade: D**

## “LOVE HURTS”

Ke Huy Quan, in one of the early

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"Dog Man"



"Love Hurts"



"I'm Still Here"



"Captain America: Brave New World"

"Indiana Jones" films, played the character of Short Round in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom." He also won an acting Oscar in 2022 for the movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once." This new movie looked fun, and funny, as he plays a secret agent with crazy martial arts skills. Looking good and being good can be light years apart, and that is the case with "Love Hurts." Sue and I walked out after the movie shaking our heads about what we thought we were going to see and what it actually turned out to be, which was dreadful. **Grade: D**



this, or last, year. It is the true story of a woman and her family living in Brazil. Her husband has been taken by the authorities, and they don't know if he is dead or alive. The movie depicts this situation in a way that breaks your heart for this woman who refuses to give up and raises their five kids on her own while continuing to fight with the government about the fate of her husband. Her performance is the best I saw last year, and she was nominated for (but didn't win) an Oscar. You might have to look for this one, but it is well worth the search. **Grade: A**



In one of the last Marvel movies, Captain America relinquished his shield and gave up the gig. The shield was given to his former partner, the Falcon (played by Anthony Mackie), who must stop the bad guys from taking over. The President of the United States, played by Harrison Ford, needs help, and the Falcon steps in and finds himself in bad situations where he has to save a lot of people. He also needs to stop the Red Hulk. Mackie does a nice job as the Falcon, and Harrison Ford drags the movie down in a role he was not a good fit for. Still, it was a fun comic book movie that will certainly lead us to another (hopefully) fun return of the Falcon. **Grade: B**



"Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy"

### "BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY"

The first two "Bridget Jones" movies with Renee Zellweger were fun, and this might be my favorite of the three movies.

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"Paddington in Peru"

Her life has gone on, not necessarily the way she wanted, but she finds herself single and being pursued by a very young (and cute) man. The movie is charming and funny with some cameo appearances that will surprise and entertain you. It is streaming on Peacock and is worth a watch.

**Grade: B+**



**"PADDINGTON IN PERU"**

After the disastrous "Dog Man" experience, I was afraid to see another kid's movie, but I thought Paddington would be less offensive. What I found was a funny and charming movie. The family is in



"The Gorge"

search of a missing relative, and they hire a boat, helmed by Antonio Banderas' character, to take them down the Amazon River.

**Grade: B**

**"THE GORGE"**

Two of the most interesting young actors working today, Miles Teller and Anna Taylor-Joy, team up in a movie on Apple TV in "The Gorge." Both characters have excellent rifle skills, and they are both asked by their separate entities to guard a gorge in a deep forest. With each being



"The Monkey"

on separate sides of the gorge, they strike up an unlikely relationship that eventually means they need to team up to accomplish their goal of not being killed by the crazy entities in the bottom of the gorge. I know how crazy this sounds, but it is a really fun movie. These two actors could not be more engaging. **Grade: A**

**"THE MONKEY"**

"The Monkey" is an adaptation of a Stephen King short story. Many great directors have tried to adapt Stephen King stories and have failed. This one falls into the same category. **Grade: C-**



"My Dead Friend Zoe"

**"MY DEAD FRIEND ZOE"**

"My Dead Friend Zoe" is a horrible title but an amazingly good movie about two female soldiers trying to come back to the world and finding issues in making the necessary transition. Morgan Freeman and Ed Harris add great supporting help.

**Grade: A**



*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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# REINHART JOINS GCH CLINICS

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Steph Reinhart, ARNP, has joined Guthrie County Hospital (GCH) Clinics in Guthrie Center. Reinhart graduated from the University of Iowa with a bachelor of science in nursing degree and Allen College with a master of science in nursing degree. She joins GCH with a background in emergency medicine and urgent care with years of experience caring for patients of all ages and all conditions.

“I’m excited to join the team at GCH and have the opportunity to serve patients right here at home,” Reinhart said. “I’ve spent the last 15 years caring for patients in the Des Moines metro area, working at both MercyOne in the ER and at Exemplar Care, which I

have loved, but being close to home and taking care of my fellow community members is something I’m really looking forward to. I’m passionate about helping patients reach their individual healthcare goals, and I’m proud to join such a well-respected team of clinicians. I can’t wait to see the familiar and friendly faces of Guthrie County. Thank you for giving me such a warm welcome ‘home.’”

Reinhart will start seeing patients in the near future at GCH Clinics in Guthrie Center. To schedule an appointment, call 641-332-3900. ■



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# GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS APPROVE 5% INCREASE IN LIBRARY FUNDING

BY RICH WICKS  
Guthrie Center Times

During the meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, Feb. 13, the supervisors heard budget presentations from two department heads.

County Attorney Dana Minter highlighted the budgetary line items with changes from the previous budget.

Regarding the revenue from the county's collections program, Minter explained her projection.

"I have an estimate at the end of the fiscal year that the portion going to my office would be about \$9,000," she said.

Supervisor Mike Dickson questioned that number, noting that the current fiscal year has seen only \$3,053 in such revenue so far.

"So, \$9,000 would be a stretch," Dickson said.

The consensus was that \$6,000 would be a more realistic projection.

Conservation Director Brad Halterman explained the Conservation Board's budget projections.

"The Conservation Board approves the budget to be sent over here to you guys, so it definitely is not something that's just thrown together at the last minute. It's a lot of discussion and good back and forth that takes place," he said.

Following the budget discussions, Dickson reported that the recent Farm Bureau meeting went well. He said County Engineer Josh Sebern attended and answered many questions related to county roads.

## FEB. 18 - SHERIFF DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEWED

Sheriff Matt Harmann offered a budgetary presentation of the revenues and expenses he anticipates in the upcoming fiscal year. He explained that he is working to allocate budget items into four main categories: Patrol, Jail, Dispatch and Administration.

Regarding revenues, Harmann pointed out that the main outside source of revenue is the fee collected for jailing inmates from other counties. But, since those numbers fluctuate, Harmann said he prefers to budget that revenue conservatively.

"The revenue changes with the increase of housing out-of-county inmates. We've kept it far below what its potential is," Harmann said.

Supervisor Steve Smith asked if the county's daily fee (\$60) is in line with what other counties charge, and Harmann said most are \$55 to \$60.

Harmann explained that his proposed budget includes adding one officer, which he said would help decrease overtime. Harmann also said he plans to look into ways to access additional funding, such as the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) and Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). He said, when these programs run, they may be able to help pay overtime wages. Harmann also said he would look into available grants.

Harmann said the overall budget is projected to increase, but he feels that is needed for the county.

"My ask is \$85,000 from the previous year," Harman said, and added that this

should help with response times and officer safety.

## FEB. 20 - DICKSON QUESTIONS AUDIT EXPENSES

County Engineer Josh Sebern showed a budget presentation regarding Secondary Roads and Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM).

Sebern told of the various supplies and equipment needs, as well as road/culvert/bridge projects planned.

"We have been burning through some salt, so it may hit this current fiscal year budget... I rely heavily on averages, because you might have a heavy salt year or a light salt year," Sebern said.

Supervisor Mike Dickson questioned an email showing the county owes \$70,000 for the annual audit done by the state. He also noted that it showed 350 hours of work went into the audit, which he said seems excessive.

"This is getting to be a little too much, especially since they make you do it every year," Dickson said.

County Auditor Dani Fink said she will look into the matter.

## FEB. 25 - NEED TO CUT \$300,000 IN NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS

The supervisors had lengthy discussion regarding the upcoming fiscal year budget. The main topic was seeking ways to trim expenses.

County Auditor Dani Fink summarized the information she provided on the proposed budget.

"At this point, we've gone through all of

the worksheets. The overall number, the only thing that's really changed there is Josh's (Secondary Roads budget)," Fink said. "I know the libraries are asking if a decision has been made on their FY 2026 contribution."

Fink shared that the county provided \$139,261 for county libraries in the current year, and the libraries are asking for an 8% increase, which would be \$150,402. No decision was made at this time.

Supervisor Mike Dickson brought up that the county needs to work on cutting about \$300,000 overall over the next two fiscal years.

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved a Payroll Change Notice for a new hire, Sarah Hanson, as a mental health therapist, at a pay rate of \$38 per hour.

## FEB. 27 - STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE COUNTY

County Engineer Josh Sebern explained his request for approval of wage increases for employees in the Secondary Roads Department. He asked for a base 7% increase to bring wages in line with the state average and the averages of neighboring counties.

"I don't know if I'd go 7%," Supervisor Mike Dickson said.

No formal action was taken at this time. Sebern also discussed his efforts to develop a wage scale system based on a combination of tenure and performance, as well as employee evaluation of the 30-plus staff.

Chris Whitaker, Region XII, met with the supervisors to discuss the Zoning Admin-

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istrator contract, strategic planning, and to review Zoning Ordinance recommendations.

Supervisor Brian Johnson commented regarding strategic planning for the county.

“For me, the most important part is economic development and growth. I think the county can do more than just let people come to us and ask for tax abatement or something,” Johnson said. “Our costs aren’t going to go down, and if we don’t find a way to grow... the ability to have enough taxes to keep our services where they are is going to be very difficult.”

The supervisors appointed Dustin Capps as medical examiner investigator, per a request from Medical Examiner Dr. Strehle.

### MARCH 4 - 5% INCREASE APPROVED FOR LIBRARIES

The supervisors discussed the county’s funding of the Guthrie County Libraries Association. The libraries asked for a 7% increase from the current fiscal year.

Supervisor Steve Smith shared his view that libraries are an important community hub, especially in the smaller cities in the county.

“I think they’re pretty essential,” Smith said. “Their ask is 7%. For me, that might be a stretch. I’m probably thinking more about 4.5 to 6%.”

“I’d like to look at 5.5 or 6%,” Supervisor Brian Johnson said.

After discussion, the supervisors unanimously voted to approve a 5% increase.

The supervisors discussed the Feb. 28 payroll, with Supervisor Mike Dickson objecting to the Secondary Roads department payroll.

“I just don’t approve of the way it’s computed,” Dickson said. “Using personal time to gain comp time... They’re using sick time, personal time to gain overtime.”

Smith said he feels that issue could be addressed at another time, but he made a motion to approve the Secondary Roads payroll as submitted. The payroll was approved, 4-1, with Dickson opposed.

A public hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Notice was set for Tuesday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Supervisor JD Kuster said he has been asked by several citizens when the supervisors will return to the issue of a possible countywide EMS plan. After discussion, the supervisors agreed to revisit the issue after budgeting, which is expected to wrap up around the end of March.

### MARCH 6 - PROCESS FOR CLOSING OFFICES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Discussion was held regarding county offices and/or the courthouse being closed

during inclement weather events. Supervisor Steve Smith asked if there is a standard process and if each department makes a decision.

“If you close the courthouse, there are essential workers that have to work, and that puts them into overtime then,” Supervisor Mike Dickson said.

“I would love to have a process in place that is a little more cut and dried,” Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said. “I think identifying a committee to make a decision, rather than putting it on one individual.”

Armstrong suggested putting the matter in the “parking lot” for now and having it discussed further during the safety meeting in April. No action was taken at this time.

Jake Anderson provided an update as the lease holder of the County Farm. He said lime application is completed, and some fencing repairs and new fencing are needed. Anderson estimated about 850 feet of fencing is needed on the north side of the property, but he said it remains usable for the time being. Fencing will be done after July 1.

As part of the budgetary work session, the supervisors reviewed and approved fiscal year 2025-2026 contributions to Region XII, Midwest Partnership, Guthrie County Fair Board, Hungry Canyons, New Oppor-

tunities, and Western Iowa Tourism.

The supervisors went into closed session to discuss a matter with counsel that may involve litigation.

### MARCH 11 - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EXPANSION

Jotham Arber, Health Services director, provided an update of Guthrie County’s plans to expand mental health services.

“This is the culmination of five years’ worth of work,” Arber said. “Finally, I feel like we’ve gone from the ‘identify’ phase into the ‘we can actually do something about it’ phase. Our hope is, over the next few weeks, to start getting out into the community... so that, when folks are in Guthrie County and they need access to mental health services, they have it.”

Brenda Dudley of Midwest Partnership told the supervisors about the upcoming Bonnie and Clyde Run, which is set for April 26 on White Pole Road. She said this year’s event will include an 18-mile bike ride.

The supervisors held a 2026 budget work session.

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



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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL LOWERS SPEED LIMITS ON BLUFF AND SCHOOL STREETS

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

At the Feb. 24 meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, the second reading of the proposed ordinance to lower the speed limit on Bluff Street and School Street from 35 mph to 25 mph was held. No councilmember indicated hearing significant feedback against the proposed change.

Councilmember Garold Thomas said he is in favor of the change, for safety reasons, especially for Bluff Street.

"On the road up there by the hospital, there's always somebody walking along there, and there's no sidewalk," Thomas said. "Those are the only two roads in town that haven't been 25 mph."

The council unanimously approved the second reading, waived the third reading, and adopted Ordinance 25-02 to make the speed limit change official. New speed limit signs will be posted as soon as available.

The council appointed 2025 Aquatic Center committee members Alan Mahaffey, Kari Carroll, Dana Stein and Megan Railsback.

Dr. Steven Bascom addressed the council on behalf of the library board regarding the library budget. He explained that the board is asking to implement a \$1.50 hourly wage increase for library staff, to match the increase for other city employees. After discussion, the council approved an increase of 75 cents per hour.

The council set a public hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 property tax levy. The hearing will be Monday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m., immediately prior to the regular council meeting.

### MARCH 10 - FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES CONSIDERED

During the March 10 meeting,

Susanne Gerlach of Public Financial Management (PFM) addressed the councilmembers regarding the financial advisory services PFM can provide to the city. She explained that PFM serves Panora and many other cities throughout Iowa and the nation.

Gerlach said, if they wish to partner with PFM, she suggests the city contract with PFM at a cost of \$10,000 per year, plus an additional \$5,000 the first year for collecting information to build models of the city's situation and projects.

"So, if we have a big project coming up on the horizon, you can kind of hold our hand through that from beginning to end, to help us figure out where to get the financing," City Clerk Kris Arrasmith said.

Gerlach listed some of the services available to the city through PFM.

"Services related to financial planning, budget and strategic advice and planning, policy development, and services related to debt issuance," Gerlach said.

No action was taken regarding PFM at this meeting.

The council unanimously approved renewing the agreement between the city and Rose Acre Farms for discharge into the city's sanitary sewer system. The five-year renewal included no changes from the current agreement.

Arrasmith told of a plan in the works for Guthrie Center to host "Munchies at Mitchell" events in the city park this summer on Sunday evenings. She said she is working on scheduling various food trucks to sell food at the events. More information will follow as decided.

Arrasmith also said the city intends to hold citywide garage sales again this year, since the 2024 event was popular. Details are not yet finalized.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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## EDUCATION

# SCHOOL BOARDS HEAR ABOUT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES, OPEN POSITIONS, EVENTS

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

At the joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards on Feb. 24, the principals reported strong attendance numbers from the recent parent-teacher conferences. Principal Ed Den Beste said attendance was about 89% for AC Elementary and ACGC junior high, while Principal Tandem Eischeid reported 98.7% attendance for GC Elementary.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen stated the district has the following open positions: third grade teacher at Adair-Casey, high school science teacher at

Guthrie Center, food service at Adair-Casey, and school bus drivers at Guthrie Center.

Upcoming dates/events noted included a two-hour early-out on March 12 for professional development, a two-hour early-out on March 19 (end of third quarter), and no school March 20 and March 21 (spring break).

Two public hearings were set. One was set regarding the 2025-2026 school calendar at 7 p.m. on March 19 at ACGC High School, immediately prior to the regular board meeting. The other is on the proposed property tax rate and will be held at 7 p.m. on March 24 at the ACGC Junior High Media Center. ■

## HEALTH

# GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL TRUSTEES REVIEW QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

During the Feb. 27 monthly meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital's board of trustees, Danielle Lauzon and CEO Chris Stipe discussed the various measures the hospital uses to track quality improvement efforts.

Lauzon reported on the process for handling complaints and grievances. She also described the categories involved.

"We break them down to determine what category they fall into. We had one for quality of care, two for provider/staff behavior, and one for active care," Lauzon said. "And then the department they originated in. We had two for the emergency department, one for the lab, and one for the Adair clinic."

Lauzon explained this allows the reports to be reviewed and directed to appropriate staff to address the relevant issues.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery told of upcoming foundation events, including the Handbags and Bingo event on Friday, April 4 and the annual golf tournament July 8.

The trustees formally approved the Fiscal Year 2024 annual audit report.

The new chemistry analyzer machine that the hospital purchased is expected to arrive March 18.

At the end of the public meeting, the trustees went into a closed session.

The next meeting of the trustees is set for March 27 at 4 p.m. in the Todd-Neff Conference Room. The public is welcome to join in person or via remote technology. Details can be found at [www.guthriecountyhospital.org](http://www.guthriecountyhospital.org). ■



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# THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

BASKETBALL PHOTOS BY MARK REINO | WRESTLING PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



ACGC's No 3 Jathan South skies for the two-handed dunk against West Central Valley.



**6 ACGC WRESTLERS QUALIFY FOR STATE TOURNAMENT, TYING SCHOOL RECORD:** Top: Assistant Coach Daniel Woods, Gavin Sloss (126), Carter Richter (190), Angel Martinez (165), Head Coach Lane Rumelhart. Bottom: Ryder Cline (144), Jack Sheeder (285) and Jackson Pfrang (175).



Angel Martinez gets tangled up at the IHSAA state wrestling tournament on Friday, Feb. 21.



No. 14 Shay Lemke attempts a floater in the lane against Earlham on Feb. 18.

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No. 2 Joe Crawford and No. 3 Jathan South rise up to protect the rim against Audubon on Thursday, Feb. 20.



No. 21 Becca Littler leads the fast breaks against Central Decatur on Feb. 21.



No. 1 Stella Largent goes for the layup against Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont on Wednesday, Feb. 26.



No. 34 Payton Policky fights the Exira-EHK players for the rebound on Feb. 17.



Gavin Sloss (126) competed in the consolation fourth round at the IHSAA state wrestling tournament on Friday, Feb. 21.



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# VORRATH FOLLOWS HER DREAM IN ADAIR

BY RICH WICKS

*Guthrie Center Times*

For many people, owning a business is part of the American dream. If that business also happens to center around a person's hobby, it is even better. That's what led Chanel Vorrath to open a tattoo shop in downtown Adair.

Vorrath says the TV show "Miami Ink" initially caught her attention years ago and inspired her interest in tattooing.

"I only started tattooing as of last March. I've always wanted to do it. In high school, I was obsessed with Kat Von D. She was an amazing artist," Vorrath said. "I started on fake skin, but then I got bored with that. I ended up doing my whole leg, and then I started on my arm."

Businesses often strive for a name that will be remembered, and Vorrath picked a business name that definitely stands out. "White Trash Tattoo" is the name of her shop. When asked how she selected that name, she replied, "I just liked it."

Vorrath reports that the new venture has gone well so far.

"March 1 was my first day open," Vorrath said. "I've been overcome with support from locals and even people from further away."

Vorrath is the only artist in the shop for now, but she hopes to eventually expand.

"I do plan on having my boyfriend come in as a tattoo artist at some point, but, right now, it's just me," she said. "And I would love to open a full-service shop with piercings, tattoos, multiple artists and tattoo removal."

Although Vorrath is relatively new to her art, she is fully certified.

"For the state of Iowa, you have to have a Bloodborne Pathogens certificate, and then you apply for a license as an artist, and the establishment has to have a permit, too," Vorrath said. "And then, each year, there's an annual inspection."

Vorrath pointed out that the shop's location, 314 Audubon St., is ideal because of other businesses in the same building. The shop is accessed by the alley entrance.



Chanel Vorrath in her tattoo studio, White Trash Tattoo, located at 314 Audubon St. in Adair.

"The girl who owns this building, Ashley Smith, bought it and opened a massage place in here. She also has someone in here as an aesthetician," Vorrath said. "So, I figured if I could help Ashley and get my business up and running, that's the best of both worlds."

Vorrath says she doesn't yet have a particular type of tattooing she specializes in.

"I wouldn't say that I specialize in anything, because I don't yet have a niche," she said. "But if I had to pick a style that I

love to do, it's traditional or neo-traditional, because there are more bold lines."

Vorrath admits that tattooing can be painful, but she's learned that certain areas of the body are less sensitive, and she is happy to help customers discuss ways to lessen any discomfort. Also, Vorrath is a strong believer in proper after-care for tattoos to help speed the healing and protect the artwork. She offers various products and advice for those purposes.

Vorrath is eager to speak with those in-

terested in discussing a tattoo they may be considering. Examples of her art are viewable on the shop's Facebook page.

"If someone wants to get a tattoo, they reach out to me and they tell me what they want, and I draw it up ahead of time and send it to them," she said.

Anyone interested in learning more or booking an appointment with Vorrath can reach her by phone at 641-740-0459 or by email at whitetrashtattoo33@hotmail.com. ■

## EVENT



Racing to put 300 puzzle pieces together is a daunting challenge.

# PUZZLES EVENT DRAWS LARGE CROWD

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Saturday, March 8 proved to be a puzzling evening in Guthrie Center as 21 teams of four competed at the Guthrie Center Activity Center in the first-ever “Puzzles, Pies and Pints” event. Proceeds supported the

Activity Center.

When the signal was given to begin, each team raced to put together a 300-piece puzzle while also eating a large pizza and downing 12 pints of beverage. ■



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## EVENT



Panora Fiber board members, back row: Ron Reynolds, Chris Arganbright, Trudy Hastings and Lynnea Anderson. Front row: LeRoy Oxley, Dave Ryan and Kelvin Hafner.

# PANORA FIBER HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

BY SHANE GOODMAN  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Panora Fiber held its annual meeting on March 3 in Panora at the Community Center. The agenda included the election of directors and the sharing of financial and operating reports.

Chris Arganbright, Mark Cates and Kelvin Hafner were running for two open seats. Arganbright and Hafner were both incumbents, and both were reelected to the board.

Board President Ron Reynolds recognized years of service for staff members, including Plant Manager Bill

Dorsett with 45 years, General Manager/CEO Andrew Randol with 30 years, and Customer Service Specialist Pam Klinkufus with 30 years. Combination Technicians Mike Moore and Paul Brewster each have served 25 years as well.

General Manager/CEO Andrew Randol shared the company's balance sheet and statements of operations while also sharing maps with the territory growth of fiber connections in Dallas and Madison counties, as well as in the Bagley area.

Drawings were also held for numerous door prizes for attendees. ■



Panora Fiber staff in attendance at the annual meeting on March 3, back row: Bill Dorsett, Andrew Randol, Paul Brewster, Andy Carson, Nathan Van Zee, Shane Murphy, Dave Garland, Mike Moore and Curtis Thornberry. Front row: Jaime Waddle, Geri Thompson and Pam Klinkufus.

PHOTOS BY SHANE GOODMAN | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



# MEALS PROGRAM HELPS SENIORS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Guthrie Center Times

A congregate meals program has been available in Guthrie Center for many years. Kim Betts, food and nutrition services manager at the Guthrie County Hospital, has been coordinating the program for 16 years.

Meals are prepared and served Monday through Friday at Sneakers Café in the Guthrie County Hospital.

“We serve an average of 10 to 15 people daily at the meal site, with most of those from Guthrie Center and a few from Panorama,” Betts says. “Meals delivered to Guthrie Center residents currently averages 24, with an average of 12 meals delivered in Panorama.”

Congregate meals and home-delivered meals are funded by donations and by the Elderbridge Agency on Aging. Elderbridge covers 29 Iowa counties including Guthrie County.

The home-delivery service isn’t technically called Meals on Wheels, but that is the name most people recognize. The meals site in Guthrie Center only delivers within the city limits of Guthrie Center and Panorama. There also is a meal site in Stuart that provides home delivery.

“To be eligible for meals, the individual must be 60 years of age or older,” Betts says. “To have a meal delivered, the individual also must have a reason why it is too difficult to come to the meal site. There is a registration form that needs to be filled out when someone starts and then needs to be completed annually.”

Betts says the Guthrie Center meals site uses a four-week rotational menu with a goal of providing a third of the daily nutritional needs for older adults.

“We try to have a meat, starch, vegetable and a fruit daily,” she says. “Some days, we have dessert. For example, one day we might have meatloaf, red mashed potatoes, green beans, grapes and chocolate cake. Another day might be goulash, buttered corn, mixed fruit and a dinner roll. It’s hard to please everyone. I try to have a variety of foods that the majority like.”

Betts coordinates the volunteers who make meal deliveries in Guthrie Center.

“Without volunteers, there would be no program. It would be very difficult for the hospital to do that on a regular basis. Hospital employees do deliver meals sometimes, when it works in their schedules. I

have a short list of people I can call on to deliver if volunteers are unavailable or forget. If I cannot find anyone to deliver on short notice, it’s usually a cook or me delivering the meals in Guthrie Center,” she says.

Several organizations take turns scheduling volunteers in Guthrie Center. These are the Christian Church, Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Lutheran Church, Presbyterian Church, Royal Neighbors, Lions Club, Leo’s Club, Guthrie County Hospital and The New Homestead. If someone would like to volunteer, they can do so through one of these organizations or contact Betts at 641-332-3818 or [kbetts@gcho.org](mailto:kbetts@gcho.org).

Volunteers can get a free meal at Sneakers on days they deliver.

Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. at Sneakers Café. Volunteers are given two bags with food; one has hot food and the other has cold items. They also receive a list of names with addresses and any special instructions. They take food to the door, knock and announce themselves. Some people come to the door, while some ask the volunteer to come in and place the meal on a table. There is no meal delivery on major holidays or during inclement weather.

The program does not charge for meals, but donations from clients for their meals help with the cost of the service.

“The congregate and home-delivered meals program is donation-based,” Betts says. “This means, no matter what the meals actually cost, we do not send out bills or charge a specific amount. If someone needs a number to go by, we recommend \$5 per meal; however, that is just a suggestion. Most people getting a meal pay an average of \$3 per meal.”

Guthrie Center residents interested in applying to attend the meal site or receive home delivery can call Sneakers Café at the Guthrie County Hospital at 641-332-3818. ■



Kim Betts is the food and nutrition services manager at the Guthrie County Hospital and coordinates the congregate and home delivery meals program available to seniors who live in Guthrie Center.



**LEFT:** Jean Densmore is one of many volunteers who deliver meals to seniors who live in the Guthrie Center city limits. **RIGHT:** Sheryl Clark shows the two bags of food she will deliver to seniors in Guthrie Center. One bag holds hot food, and the other has cold items. Volunteers also receive a list of names with addresses and any special instructions when they pick up food bags at the Sneakers Café in the Guthrie County Hospital.



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# OBITUARIES

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



## WILLIAM (BILL) WARREN MASTERS

1946-2025

William (Bill) Warren Masters, 78, son of Alva C. and Ruby Myrnell (Knauer), was born in Des Moines on Nov. 14, 1946, and passed away at his home in Guthrie Center surrounded by his loved ones on Jan. 3, 2025.

Bill spent the younger years of his childhood in Guthrie Center. After his father's death in 1953, Myrnell moved Bill and the rest of the family to San Diego, California, in 1954. Bill graduated from Point Loma High School in San Diego in 1966. Bill served his country by joining the Air Force later that same year. He was a jet engine mechanic and spent the majority of his military career at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. After his honorable discharge in December of 1970, he returned to Iowa to make a home in Guthrie Center.

Bill was married to Carolyn Stewart in May of 1967. Three children —

Tami, Nicole and Tim — were born to this union. They later divorced.

Bill began his civilian career working for the Guthrie County Road Department from 1971 to 1973. He then worked for The Des Moines Register until 1994. Bill loved to fix things and craft with his hands, so he decided to start his own painting and remodeling business and called it "The Masters Touch." Later, Bill also owned another business, Bredeaux Pizza, in Panora until he finally retired in 2015.

In July of 1990, Bill married Judy Hill, and he welcomed her daughter, Trina Brusman, as part of the family.

After Bill retired, he and Judy took many memorable vacations traveling and spent their winters in Tucson, Arizona, where he volunteered as a maintenance worker at Gilbert Ray Campground and gained a whole new family of terrific friends.

Bill enjoyed spending time in the garage working on woodworking projects, traveling, wintering in Arizona and cruising around in his 1939 Studebaker Commander and entering it into car shows. Bill also enjoyed working in the yard, birdwatching and watching the other wildlife that frequented their acreage. Perhaps Bill's favorite pastimes were cooking and gathering around the table to share memories and talk about the future with his beloved family.

Bill is survived by his wife, Judy; his children, Tami Masters (David),

Nicole Hansen (Ed), Tim Masters and Trina Brusman (Ulises); grandchildren, Nathan Somsky (Danielle), Owen Hansen (Mallory), Abby Hansen (Rush), Daniel Jensen (Kena), Teresa Stillwell (Nick), Heather Brusman (Kyle) and Shelby Brusman (Ashton); great-grandchildren, Carter Somsky, Dameon Lawrence, Dominik Stillwell, Finn Stillwell and Izabella Bookout; brother, Robert Masters; nephews, Dan Masters, Ken Masters, Ron Masters, Andrew Masters and Mike Mohr; and niece, Tina Mohr.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Richard Masters (Caryl), and sister, Joyce Mohr (Gary).

Bill was a cancer warrior and fought a very brave fight as he was cared for by the oncology staff at the Des Moines VA Medical Center and nurses of Hospice of the Midwest. His family will be forever grateful for his caregivers and their tireless efforts to give Bill the best life he could have in his final months.

Bill will be greatly missed by many lifelong friends and family.

A Celebration of Life for Bill will be held at the Guthrie Activity Center, located at 209 State St., Guthrie Center, on April 13, 2025, from 1-4 p.m. The family looks forward to sharing stories and celebrating Bill's life with everyone who knew him.

Bill's remains will be laid to rest at a small, private graveside service at Union Cemetery in Guthrie Center at a later date. ■



## DELBERT LEE ARTIST

1932-2025

Delbert Lee Artist passed away peacefully on Feb. 21, 2025, at The New Homestead in Guthrie Center, at the age of 92. Born on Aug. 16, 1932, in Adair, Delbert was the son of Homer and Violet Artist.

Delbert graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1950, marking the beginning of a life dedicated to hard work and service to his community. He was a man of the land, a farmer who understood the value of honest labor and the importance of nurturing the earth. Delbert's entrepreneurial spirit led him to become a successful insurance business owner and a respected crop adjuster, where his expertise and integrity were well-regarded by his peers. The Artist Farms have been a multi-generational operation in the Bear Grove Township area, and Delbert took pride

in maintaining the operation. This was the same as the Artist Insurance Company that was started by Delbert's father, Homer. In his professional life, Delbert was known for his generous spirit and friendly demeanor. He was a man who built lasting relationships, both in business and in his personal life. His work ethic was unparalleled, and he found great satisfaction in the challenges and rewards of his chosen professions.

Delbert's life was rich with the love of family.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 73 years, Barbara Jean (Charter) Artist. Barb and Delbert were united in marriage on June 30, 1951. Their children: Ricky Lee Artist (Julie), Craig Gene Artist (Rhonda), Randal Dean Artist, Teresa Ann Johnson (Steve), Michael Paul Artist (Jennie) and Mark John Artist. He was a proud grandfather to 17 grandchildren and a doting great-grandfather to a multitude of great-grandchildren. Delbert was predeceased by his parents, Homer and Violet Artist, and his brother, Dean Artist.

Throughout his life, Delbert's interests were deeply rooted in the work he loved. Farming was not just a job for him; it was a passion that he pursued with dedication and joy. His connection to the land and his commitment to his work were a testament to his character.

Delbert's legacy is one of kindness, generosity

and a friendly smile that could light up any room. Delbert was a member of Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church. He was involved in several organizations through the years. One of his kids' favorite memories was of him playing on a volleyball team for North Branch. The last 30-plus years, he has resided in Audubon, where he had many friends. A favorite activity was his coffee group at Darrell's Café. His absence will be deeply felt by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

As we say goodbye to Delbert, we celebrate a life well-lived, a life filled with love, hard work and the joy of family. His memory will live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind, and his influence will continue to be felt for generations to come. Delbert's life was a journey of love, commitment and service. He was a pillar of strength for his family, a trusted friend to many, and a respected member of his community. We take comfort in knowing that his was a life full of purpose and that his spirit will remain with us, guiding and inspiring us always. Delbert Lee Artist will be dearly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

The visitation was held at Twigg Funeral Home, Thursday Feb. 27, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. The funeral was Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, at Bowman Chapel Church at 10:30 a.m. with burial service and lunch to follow. ■

# OBITUARIES

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



## WILLIAM R. JORDAN, SR.

1933-2025

William Richard Jordan, Sr., 91, son of Samuel and Frances (Lacy) Jordan, was born July 15, 1933, in Ross. He passed away on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at his home.

Bill enlisted into the United States Navy, serving from 1951 to 1954 during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge, Bill worked several jobs including boiler technician, tractor sales, garage maintenance, and was a truck driver for many years, working for Crouse Cartage for more than 20 years and even obtained his GED in 1982. On June 25, 1966, he was united in marriage to Linda Sue Lynam in Omaha, Nebraska. They made their home in Audubon, Carroll, Kansas City, Chicago, North Carolina, Kansas and, for the last 10 years, in

Panora.

He was a member of the Guthrie Center United Methodist Church, Life member of the American Legion, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for more than 55 years.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Jordan of Panora; daughters, Debi May (Steve) Barrington of Florida and Donna Trask of Tennessee; sons, William "Bill" Jordan, Jr. of California; Randolph Jordan of Arizona; and Scott Jordan of Panora; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; sister, Lee (Verdon) Sorensen of Shenandoah; and brother, Franklin (Pat) Jordan of California; along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Andrew Barrington; sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Jim Young; two nephews, Mike and Jeff; father-in-law, Dale Lynam; mother-in-law, Betty Lynam; brother-in-law, Carl Kepple; and sister-in-law, Pam Lynam.

Cremation has taken place, and memorial services were Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at the Guthrie Center United Methodist Church. Visitation was one hour prior to the services at the church. Burial was in the Brethren Cemetery, Panora, at a later date.

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



## MILDRED KENT

1926-2025

Mildred (Millie) Sloss Kent was born Nov. 24, 1926, at the family farm home of her parents, Samuel and Mary (Shroyer) Sloss, Sr., south of Guthrie Center. Millie and her twin brother, Willard, were so tiny that they initially slept in a warm chicken incubator in the storm cellar. In 1943, she graduated from Guthrie Center High School.

Millie married John Brotherson, and, to this union, two sons were born, Ronnie and Gary. In 1954, she married Ivyl Kent, and they had two sons, Doug and Dan. Millie was a hard worker and spent many years waitressing at Cronk's Café and the Beef 'N Brew. In later years, she worked for the Guthrie Center School District in the kitchen.

Family was important to her, and she delighted in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She enjoyed playing

cards and participated in regular groups that played cribbage, pinochle and pitch. Even in her 90s, she was still winning at cribbage. She was known for her apple pie, homemade buns and Christmas peanut brittle, all of which she generously shared.

Millie died Feb. 23, 2025, and is survived by sons Gary (Carol) of Burlington, Doug (Teresa) of Guthrie Center, and Dan (Cindy) of North Richland Hills, Texas; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands; son, Ron; grandson, Jim; and her siblings, Edna Rhodes, Gerald, Phil, Max, Richard, Sam Jr., Lulu Cline, Willard and Maxine Miller.

Visitation with family was held Friday, March 7, 4-6 p.m., in the Fellowship Building of First Christian Church, 104 North Fourth St., Guthrie Center. Per her wishes, there will be no service.

Memorial gifts may be made to the ACGC school lunch program in memory of Millie. ■



## KERRY K. SHEEDER

1960-2025

Kerry K. Sheeder was born Dec. 6, 1960, in Guthrie Center, to Richard and Betty (Sheley) Sheeder. He passed away on March 8, 2025, at the Guthrie County Hospital in Guthrie Center.

He grew up on a farm west of Guthrie Center. He graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1979. On May 26, 1990, he married Brenda Barnard in Pickrell, Nebraska. They were blessed with two children, Richard and

Kassandra. They were his life, and he enjoyed sharing his passion of farming with them.

Kerry's passion was farming. He loved his cows and enjoyed raising hogs when he was growing up. He worked on the pipeline from 1979 to 1991, where he enjoyed meeting new people and seeing many sites around the country. He returned home to his farming career where he farmed until he got sick in 2020.

He fought a long hard battle with various health conditions.

He had a big heart, liked to tell stories, and he never knew a stranger.

Kerry is survived by his wife, Brenda, and children, Richard Sheeder of Guthrie Center and Kassandra Sheeder of Guthrie Center. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Doug; and brother, Danny.

Funeral services were Friday, March 14, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church in Guthrie Center. Visitation was Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at the Twigg Funeral Home in Guthrie Center. ■

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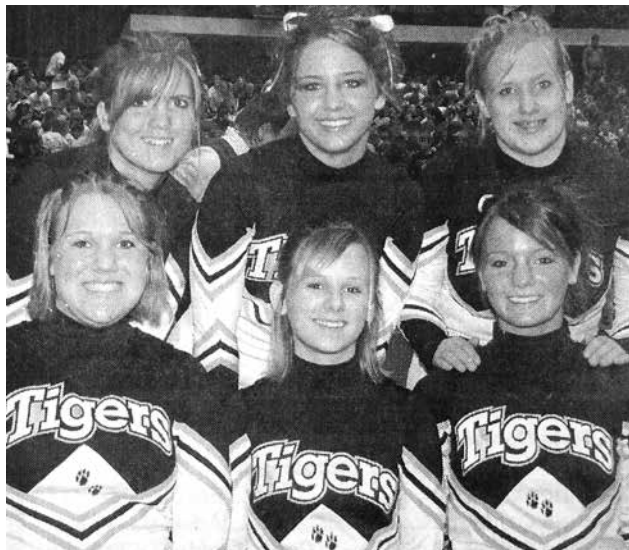
## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 12, 1975

**LICENSE DEADLINE NEARS:** Jodene Schwaderer, GCHS senior, gets out the drill to do some makeshift work on her license plates. Many motorists have had to enlarge holes to get their plates to fit. The 1975 license plates must be displayed by Saturday, or area residents may find themselves penalized in magistrate court.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 9, 2005

**WRESTLING CHEERLEADERS:** Front row: Bailey Tews, Britni Larsen and McKenzie Benton. Back row: Shannon Carter, Dania Bolton and Alison Haves.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 13, 1985

**THE END?:** Ricky Wagner, Casey, has had the job of shoveling snow at Mary's Cafe this winter. Hopefully, Monday's wet snow was the last of the season.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 25, 2015

**TEAM KICK-OFF:** Kim Durst, community manager for Relay for Life, (left) helps Cindy Derry register her team, BIFS Go-Getters, during last week's Team Kick-off.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 1, 1995

**SECOND AT CRESTON:** Members of the GCHS jazz band placed second in Class 1A at the Creston Jazz Festival Feb. 18. Kneeling, from left, Katy Snyder, Donald Steensen, Phil Hunt, Tony Menning, Julie Vandevanter and Abby Gonzales. Standing, Amanda Sheeder, Abby Snyder, Jenni Wedemeyer, Barry Bradford, Lynne Morgan, Kyle Chance, Maria Feilmeyer, Clint Collier, Erica Brown, Tim Hunt and Lisa Foresman. Not pictured, Dave Sheeder, Andrea Franzeen, Matt Reinhart and Jim Terwilliger.

## 5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, March 19, 2020

**SIMPLE STEPS TO TAKE TO FEND OFF VIRUS:** A hand-written sign on the front door at All About State on State Street in Guthrie Center lets patrons know the shop will be closed for two weeks. ■

ART

# CREATING CLOTH POUCHES WITH FABRIC MOD PODGE AT ART ON STATE

Special to the Times Vedette

Art on State held a class on Saturday decorating cloth pouches with fabric mod podge

and glitter. An upcoming class on March 15 at 10 a.m. will use napkins and mod podge on glass. Treats are included. All free.

Art on State is an art gallery created by the Guthrie County Arts Council as an opportunity to bring together the artists of the county, encouraging them in

their talents by providing means to display and sell their work and to bring awareness of artistic endeavors to the community at large by presenting performing

and visual arts programs. Art on State is located at 320 State St. in Guthrie Center. Learn more at [www.guthriecountyartscouncil.org](http://www.guthriecountyartscouncil.org) or call 641-332-2267. ■

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Hadley Knobbe painting on her pouch.



Alyssa Westphal and Shua Westphal with their pouches.



Hadley Knobbe and her mom, Wanda Knobbe.



Kathy Feilmeyer with her pouches.



Wanda Knobbe with her finished painting.

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**2024 BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY WINNER**

# LASER ENGRAVINGS BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

**Matt Sprague's most notable creation yet is on display at the Guthrie Center Fire Hall.**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

In the fall of 2024, Matt Sprague of Guthrie Center bought a laser-engraving machine, and he's been putting it to good use ever since. Although he has enjoyed woodworking for many years, the laser engraving was a new challenge he decided to try.

"It's just something I started dabbling with," Sprague said.

Sprague noted that the machine was not difficult to operate.

"It's pretty user-friendly. You have to get whatever image you want to use and then convert the image," Sprague said. "Then you set your parameters, depending how big you want it. Then you set your power levels, and then you let it go, and it does its own thing."

The pieces Sprague has created so far have taken between 30 minutes and 2½ hours for the machine to engrave, depending on the size and complexity of the design. He explained that the machine moves very precisely, so fine detail is possible.

"If you remember back in the day, the old printers, on the reel where it went



Matt Sprague shows one of his creations.

across really slow, that's exactly what this process is," Sprague said. "But it's just millimeters that it is moving that laser each time."



Matt Sprague puts the laser engraver to work to create artwork.



The fire and rescue logo was engraved on the Guthrie Center Fire Hall counter by fellow firefighter Matt Sprague.

Sprague has come up with several ideas for how his creations can be of benefit to the community, even though it remains mostly a hobby.

"It's just a toy to have fun with," he said. "My idea was to sell things at the farmers market, but I haven't gotten ready for that yet. I'm thinking of doing cutting boards

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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This patriotic work is a colorful example of Matt's Sprague's newfound hobby.

and things like that.”

Sprague is also planning to create items to auction for fundraisers.

“I'm part of a peer support group for mental health awareness for First Responders. We have a conference and a gala, so I'll probably make something to auction off there this fall.”

Sprague's most notable creation yet is on display at the Guthrie Center Fire Hall. He joined the Guthrie Center Fire Department in the spring of 2024, and he

realized his new hobby could be used in the fire hall. So, he laser-engraved several images into the counter in honor of firefighters. The engravings were then covered with varnish to protect them from damage.

Sprague expects to keep learning what he can create as he experiments with ideas that occur to him, or as people ask him to make specific items.

“It's something for me to do to keep me busy and out of trouble,” Sprague said. ■

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## MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Spring is just around the corner. That means adjusting to Daylight Savings Time, tulips and spring cleaning. As you clean your closets, many people think of the library as a place to donate things. We appreciate donations, but we do have some limitations on what we can accept. Unfortunately, we do not have unlimited space, so we have to be judicious with the donations we accept.

We would be thrilled to have donations of Guthrie Center High School and ACGC High School yearbooks. We are working on a grant to digitize our collection of yearbooks, so the more complete our collection, the better.

We do take books, but only books in good condition with a copyright less

than five years old. If the book is one that we already have, we would be glad to add it to our Friends of the Library fundraising book sale.

We can use board games and puzzles in excellent condition with all the pieces. Recent DVDs and audio books that we do not have would also be appreciated.

If you have something that you think the library can use, please feel free to call or stop by to check with us.

### COLLECTION DISPLAYS

Do you have a collection you would like to show off? If so, please be in touch with the library. We would be happy to schedule your collection for a month in our locked display case.

### STORY HOUR

Our preschool story hour is every Fri-

day at 10 a.m. Preschoolers of all ages and their caretakers are welcome to join us for a fun time of stories and crafts. On March 21, we will talk about the alphabet, and bugs will be the theme on March 28.

### BOOK CLUB

Reads Well With Others Book Club will be reading "All the Colors of the Dark" for March book club. The meeting will be March 25 at 5 p.m. Stop by the library if you need a copy of the book.

### COOKBOOK CLUB

Ina Garten's "Barefoot Contessa Cookbook" will be the topic of discussion for the March 20 cookbook club at 6:30 p.m. Stop by the library to choose a recipe to share with the group at the meeting.

### SEED LIBRARY

Our seed library is still available for gardeners who would like to get some



Agnes Russell has loaned the library her Missouri Star quilt to display through March. Stop in and see this lovely quilt.

seedlings started. We have many varieties of herbs, flowers and vegetables. Stop in to see the free seeds we have for you

SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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to try out.

#### CARD MAKING CLUB

Led by Judi Zimmerline, the card making club meets on the third Thursday of each month to create some

unique and beautiful greeting cards. This month's meeting will be from 9-11 a.m. on Thursday, March 20. The cost of \$5 covers all the supplies and equipment needed. All are welcome to join in and create. ■

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## RECIPE

# CELEBRATE SPRING'S ARRIVAL WITH A SKILLET FISH FRY

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

*Guthrie Center Times*

I am a fan of fish and seafood in general. Healthy and light, it satisfies my hunger every time. Grilling is typically my preparation method, as it is easy with little clean-up and no "fishy" smell.

This time of year, I look forward to the local fish fries. I must confess, "fried" foods do delight my taste buds. So, when I saw this recipe recently, I wanted to give it a try. The Pan-Fried Catfish recipe is perfect for enjoying flaky fillets without the mess. Because this catfish is pan-fried instead of deep-fried, I recommend using butter and olive oil. The mixture adds a delicious, creamy flavor, and it is easy to work with. ■

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



**Jolene Goodman**

## PAN-FRIED CATFISH

*Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"*

Servings: 4-6

### Ingredients

- 1/3 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons mesquite seasoning (or seasoning of choice, such as lemon pepper)
- 1 stick butter
- 1/4 cup avocado oil (or oil of choice)
- 1-2 pounds thawed catfish fillets (1/2 pound each)
- cooked rice, for serving

### Directions

In pie dish, mix flour and seasoning.

In skillet over medium heat, melt butter and add oil.

Coat fish fillets in flour mixture on both sides. Place fish in skillet and fry 5 minutes then flip and fry 5 minutes.

Place fish on paper towel to drain excess oil then



serve with rice.

**Tip:** If skillet is large enough, fry two fillets at once. If frying more than four fillets, discard butter and avocado oil then start fresh before frying more. ■



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# WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of last month's wings mural is on the east side of the building at the corner of State Street and South Fourth Street in Guthrie Center. We had multiple correct answers but Candi Glade was the first. 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](mailto:shane@gctimesnews.com). ■



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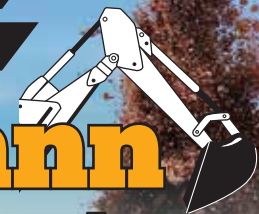
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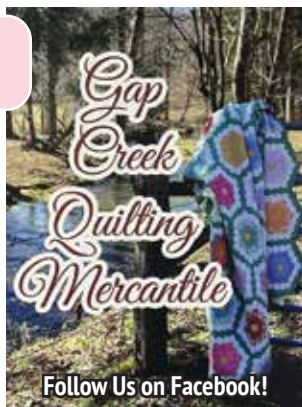
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L R L K C B A N K L T D J R E F E R E E S L J I E F  
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