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Thank you so much for your continued support and encouragement as we build for the future, because together we make the difference!

A special thank you goes to Laughery Auction Services for their expert auctioneering, Brittney Arganbright for the countless hours spent organizing the auction, Tom Reil for being our MC, the ladies at Peoples Bank for taking payments, Cabbage Rose for providing a wonderful meal, and Sheryl Clark for leading us in prayer. - Guthrie County Fairboard

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ON THE COVER: Twins Hayden and Hudson Rochholz. Photo courtesy of Thia's Photography, Bagley IA.



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UPDATES & INFO:

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

THE PROOF IS IN THE NUMBERS

The word "audit" makes many of us cringe, especially this time of year as we gather materials to submit for our taxes. But, in the media world, "audit" has a positive meaning, as it is proof or verification of what we claim to have as our distribution and readership. As a reader, you certainly don't question this, but those who place advertising do — and they should. Believe it or not, the media world also has some dishonest people who make big claims about their listenership, viewership or readership without any proof to back it up.

I thank those of you who participated in the Guthrie Center Times audit. Our other publications (Lake Panorama Times and Panora Times) have now been audited as well. We had the results from all three combined so we could have a better idea of who is reading our publications. This is important, as many of our advertising customers buy in all three publications. Here are a few data points you may find interesting:

• With all three publications, we

have a combined net circulation of 7,122 copies to 10,288 readers. In a county this size, that is a large audience of readers of our publications.

We also have **Goodman** 6,748 digital con-

tacts, creating total estimated gross contacts of 17,036. This, of course, does include some duplication.

Shane

- On average, our print publications have 1.85 readers per copy.
- 73.2% of our readers say they purchase products or services from
- ads seen in our publications.
 48% say they keep our publications one month or more.
- 56% of our readers are female.
- The average age of our reader is 56.3.
- Our average reader household in-

come is \$125,342.

• 81% of our readers have attended college.

For years, I have been frustrated when advertisers tell us they get customers from their websites and social media platforms, but they don't give us credit for driving their customers to those platforms. In our most recent audits, the following question was asked, and the results are in parenthesis.

How do you respond to ads seen in the publication? (% of total)

- Call the advertiser for more information (19%)
- Go to the advertiser's store or business (44%)
- Visit the advertiser's website (56%)
- Visit the advertiser's social media (13%)
- Internet search the advertiser's business (34%)
- Email the advertiser for more information (01%)

The results are not unexpected to us

and probably not to you as a reader either. You know that, when you see a print ad, you seek out additional information on the customer before you buy. These are enlightening facts for those who place advertising to market the goods and/or services of their business.

Times are certainly changing, and all of us are seeking multiple ways to seek out information before we spend our hard-earned money. I feel fortunate to know that so many of you look to us before you buy, and I truly appreciate that. Those who advertise in the pages of this publication do, too.

As always, I thank you for reading.

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



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COVER STORY

DOUBLE VISION Local twins form special bonds

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Over the years, many TV shows and movies have used twins as a theme for comedy, drama or both. Twins were featured in TV commercials as part of Doublemint Gum's "Twins" campaign, which ran from the 1950s into the 1990s. The jingle included the lyrics, "Double your pleasure, double your fun."

But do families that include twins view the situation as "double the fun" or as "double the trouble"? The short answer is, yes.

The rate of multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.) in the U.S. has increased significantly in recent decades. In the early 1980s, the rate was around 20 multiple births per 1,000 live births. By the year 2000, that had climbed to more than 30, and since then it has hovered in the 30 to 35 range.

Experts say the change is partly because of the increased use of assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization, when multiple eggs are fertilized and implanted. Also, the average maternal age has increased, and, on average, older women are more likely to use assisted reproductive technologies than younger women.

Locally, there are numerous examples of multiple births, sometimes with surprising frequency. For example, the ACGC graduating class of 2020 included five sets of twins (Caprice and Carissa Bashaw; Kendra and Mac Kenzie Campbell; Kaitlyn and Carley Merical; Jon and Ben Pavelka; and Jenna and Jessica Stringer).

Below, a few local families shared their experience with twins.

DAMIEN AND DAMIANNA ELEY

Twins generally have a lot in common, but they don't always look like twins. In the case of 6-year-old Damien and Damianna Eley of Guthrie Center, most people who first meet them have no idea they are twins.

Nicole Lee, mother of Damien and Damianna, already had a 5-year-old daughter when she found out she was carrying twins. She recalled her reaction to the surprise.

"When I found out I was pregnant, I



Damianna and Damien Eley pause their game to sit with mom.

was sure it wasn't two, but my mom said, 'Watch out; this time you're going to have twins,' " Lee said. "When I went to the hospital to confirm my pregnancy, sure enough, there were two of them. I cried, but it was tears of joy."

Although multiple births can often create medical challenges, Lee had no significant issues during the pregnancy. She and her mother coined the term "womb-mates" to describe the situation of the two bundles of joy growing side by side before their birth.

"I carried them to 38 weeks," Lee said. "She was 5 pounds, five ounces, and he was six pounds, two ounces. They were healthy babies. Twins usually don't make it to full term. I'm definitely blessed. I thank God every day that I was able to have healthy babies." For whatever reason, Damien is larger than Damianna, so they aren't always recognized as twins out in public.

"He's always been bigger than her," Lee said. "They've always been about 10 pounds apart and about 2 inches different in height."

But the two definitely have a special bond anyway.

"Where you see him, you'll see her. If



Nicole Lee has arms full of babies.

they're not right next to each other, one's not far behind the other," Lee said.

According to Lee, multiple births run in the family.

"The crazy thing is my aunt is a twinless twin, and Damien and Damianna's dad is an identical twin."

"Twinless twin" or "alone twin" are terms referring to a twin birth in which only one of the twins survives.

Lee said that, since both of her twins were healthy, she has not faced many significant challenges as the kids grew.

"When they were babies, it was a lot harder to find childcare," Lee said. "That's really the only disadvantage.

There really haven't been too many challenges. They just started school this year, and they're doing phenomenal. They're very smart."

As often happens with twins, the two developed their own way of communicating.

"I would say, around the time they really started talking, when they started forming sentences, they had their own little language," Lee said. "They still use it sometimes to this day."

Lee has seen numerous instances in which some type of extrasensory communication appears to be happening between the twins. She said when either Damien or Damianna is not feeling well, she notices similar behavior in the other. She has also notices times when the kids' father mentions his own twin immediately before his twin calls or shows up. Damien shared his thoughts on the good and bad in being a twin. When asked what's best, he said he likes playing soccer with his sister. But, when asked what isn't fun about being a twin, he replied, "She orders me around."

Through the good and bad, the family enjoys celebrating the special world of twins.

"When they get a little older, we want to take them to Twinsburg, Ohio, for the annual Twins Days Festival. It's the largest gathering of twins and multiples in the world," Lee said. "Their dad and their uncle want to take them, as a twin



Damianna and Damien Eley on Independence Day, 2024.



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Lucas and Hopper Herron are twins and best friends

group."

For now, Lee cherishes watching her family grow.

"I just love watching them together. The joyful moment for me is being able to say I've got twins, and I'm able to watch them grow and interact with each other. Every day they surprise me and come up with something new."

HOPPER AND LUCAS HERRON

Nearly 10 years ago, Cory and Laura Herron of rural Adair welcomed twin sons into the world. The boys now are in fourth grade. They recently sat with their mom, Laura, and her sister, Lacey, to share their story.

Pregnancies are often complicated when more than one baby is on board, and that was true for Laura. She recalled the medical concerns during the twin pregnancy.

"The babies put so much pressure on me that the doctor wanted me on bedrest at 24 weeks, but I did not do that," Laura said. "I worked and sat for my job after that. The babies tried to come at 30 weeks, so then I was put on bedrest. Then I got to come home for one week. At 33 weeks, they were born. They got to spend three weeks at the NICU."

Despite the medical concerns, all turned out well.

"They were a little earlier than planned, but they were still 5 pounds, 6 ounces and 5 pounds, 1 ounce. So,



RIDE

Hopper and Lucas Herron playing together.

they were still decent sized," Laura said. "They both were breech birth, but we had seen that ahead of time."

Laura recalled using nail polish on toenails to tell the boys apart in their infancy. Eventually, minor skin differences began to allow the family to distinguish them.

When asked about any unique "twin language," Hopper and Lucas did not recall ever using such a "code," but Laura remembered it happening.

"They did, when they were babies. They would sit on the floor and just jabber to each other," Laura said. "Twin lan-



Lucas and Hopper Herron love the Chargers.

guage is 100% real. It lasted until they were about 3."

As with most siblings, Hopper and Lucas are a combination of best friends and, occasionally, opponents. But even though they have moments of conflict, Laura says they always make peace.

"Sometimes we help each other, and sometimes we don't," Hopper said.

"They've definitely been a blessing and a challenge," Laura said. "Everything they do, they do together. They even ran away together once."

Laura explained that, a few years ago, for some reason, the boys decided to run away by walking down the gravel road to their grandparents' home, 3 miles away.

"I went downstairs to sew pillowcases for about 10 minutes," Laura said. "I came upstairs, and they were gone."

The boys remain active but have given up running away. When asked about a favorite outdoor activity, the boys simultaneously replied, "Football." Laura said the boys are eagerly awaiting this year's football season, as they will move up from flag football to wearing pads and playing tackle football.

Laura has some practical advice for any new parents of twins.

"Take all the support you can get. With

my husband working long hours, I could not have handled it alone," Laura said. "Between my mom and my sister, they helped a lot. The patience you need is tremendous. One step at a time."

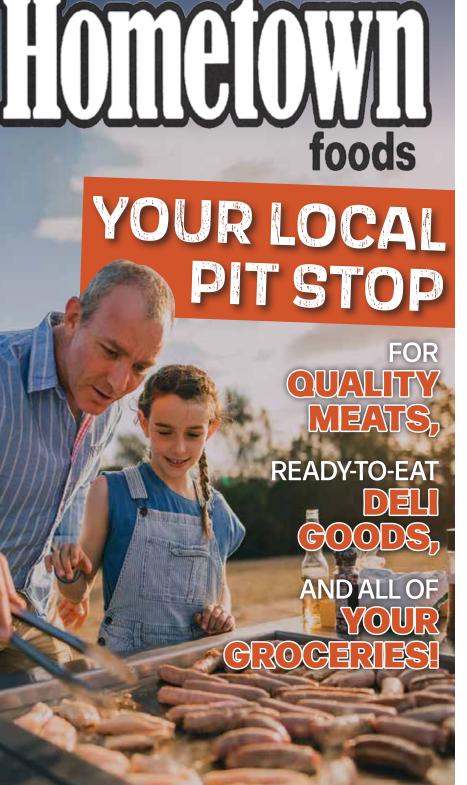
HAYDEN AND HUDSON ROCHHOLZ

The CJ and Kalyn Rochholz family in rural Casey shared their twin story, which shows that a surprise is not always completely unexpected.

Some families never consider the possibility that they may have more than one child at a time. However, in the Rochholz family, there are several examples of twins within the family tree (on each parent's side), so the news wasn't a shock.

"My great grandma had three sets of twins. My grandma had a set, so we knew it might happen to us, and it did," Kalyn said. "We were told, if we got pregnant again, there's a 95% chance we would have twins again."

CJ recalled the unusual way that he and Kalyn first learned they would be having twins. They were shown an early ultrasound image, and he noticed what he thought was a second fetus. He pointed this out to the medical staff, who then



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Hayden and Hudson Rochholz proudly show their ribbons at the State Fair.

took a closer look at the ultrasound image

Hayden and Hudson were born at 34 weeks and five days. Although the babies needed extra medical care initially, they weren't slowed down for long.

"We stayed in the NICU for a month, but now you can't tell because they're wild as can be and meaner than a rattlesnake," Kalyn said.

Another set of twins within the family tree is CJ's father, Travis, and his twin, Troy. Travis and Troy were born in 1977, and Travis said he later learned that, by a strange coincidence, another set of twins was born that same day at the same hospital.

Travis has noticed many similarities between his twin experience and that of his grandsons, twins Hayden and Hudson.

"You're either fighting with each other or sticking up for each other," Travis said.

Although Travis and Troy are not identical twins, their resemblance is strong. Travis remembered times when he and his brother would fool people about which twin was which, although it was not always as much fun as he hoped.

"We did that at the doctor's office once, until I found out we were getting shots,"

Travis said.

Similarly, Hudson and Hayden look very much alike.

"Daycare still can't tell them apart, and they've been going there since they were



Hudson and Hayden Rochholz with their grandpa, Travis, and his twin, Troy.

and confirmed what CJ had noticed.

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Hudson and Hayden Rochholz crawling to look for trouble

babies," Kalyn said.

Kalyn recalled when the boys were learning to talk, they developed their own lingo. She said if anyone asked about it, the boys' answer was often, "I'm not talking to you."

Each August, Hayden and Hudson attend the Iowa State Fair to compete in the "Twins, Triplets and More" contest. The contest awards multiple-birth children

and adults in various ages groups in two categories (most look-alike and least lookalike). Hayden and Hudson placed second among 3-year-olds at the 2024 Iowa State Fair for "most alike."

"We'll keep taking them every year until they don't want to anymore," Kalyn said. "As long as mom can dress them, then we'll go." ■



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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

SNOW WHITE. STATHAM. MICKEY. NOVOCAINE. AND A BLACK BAG.



"Night of the Zoopocalypse"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY Guthrie Center Times

"NIGHT OF THE ZOOPOCALYPSE"

This is what it looks like when a studio makes an animated film that they really have no care for, nothing to really gain and, frankly, just threw it into the theaters to see if it might stick. It didn't, and for good reason. No story, nothing memorable in the cast

of characters, and just a sloppy effort to cash in on kids when they were home for spring break. **Grade: D**



"MICKEY 17"

I was not a big fan of this writer/director's last film, "Parasite," but it won Best Picture, Best Director and a bevy of other important awards a couple years ago. "Mickey 17" tells us the story of a future



"Mickey 17"

society that has created a way to bring people back to life after death. Instead of letting them reestablish their lives, they use them as guinea pigs to go into dangerous situations — over and over again. So, Robert Pattinson, who still owes me money for those weird "Twilight" vampire movies, is Mickey 17, an "undesirable" who has died and been brought back 17 times. When an undesirable decides to stay alive and not die, the plot thickens. By the time that two Mickeys come back to life and have a threesome with a woman, I mentally checked out. I guess I won't have to

wait for the writer/director's next release. I left the theater thinking of just one question: "What's the point?" **Grade: C-**

"BLACK BAG"

Stephen Soderberg has directed and written some great movies including his



"Black Bag"

last film, "Presence," a modern ghost story from the ghost's point of view. "Black Bag" gives us the story of some government spies in England with a potential mole in the group. Many dinners and conversations later, we find out who it is, but there was really no way for us

to even have an educated guess. The movie is still good, but the pace is decidedly different than you may be used to. **Grade: B+**

"NOVOCAINE"

I have no idea who Jack Quaid is. I guessed he was Dennis Quaid's son, and I was correct, but I never would have guessed that his mother is Meg Ryan. Talk about hitting the genetic jackpot. In "Novocaine," he plays a young man with a condition that prevents him from feeling any pain. You can burn him, knife him, run him over with a car or whatever.



"Novocaine"

Quaid plays it well, though it slips dangerously close to slapstick

at times. I did laugh out loud several times, but the finale went on way too long. **Grade: B**



"THE ALTO KNIGHTS"

∎ Vaina ∎

This movie is a bit of a conundrum for me. You take a well-respected and awardwinning director like Barry Levinson ("Rainman," "Wag the Dog" and "Disclosure"), hire a top-notch writer like Nicholas Pileggi ("Goodfellas," "Casino" and "City Hall") and then hire Robert DeNiro ("Cape Fear," "The Deer Hunter," "Raging Bull" and "The Godfather Part 2") and

ask him to play two different roles? Maybe they were short on money and saved a little cash? I wish I could report that it was worth all that talent, but







"The Alto Knights"

I can't. It was a good — sometimes very good — movie, but the gimmick wore me out. **Grade: B**

"SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS"

The remake of one of Disney's top five classic films, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," will always raise eyebrows. As expected when you touch a classic film, criticism will follow before anyone has even seen it. In my opinion, this time the criticism was particularly vicious. It started with the cast-

ing of a non-white actress in the lead role. Heaven forbid! Then, they chose (rightly, in my opinion) to use CGI to recreate the





"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"

seven dwarfs (again, in my opinion, the only way it could have been done well). In spite of the criticism, I found the movie to be charming, funny and everything the original was, in different ways. I believe that 95 out of 100 kids who see this movie will love it. Isn't that who it was made for? **Grade: B**

"A WORKING MAN"

I'm a big fan of Jason Statham. If you love action films, here is a guy who seems to have all the skills one would need to take down 25 guys at once.

He also can have a nice touch of self-deprecating humor. Interestingly, this movie was written and directed by Sylvester Stal-



"A Working Man

lone. Statham plays a construction foreman with a "past" and some crazy good skills. When the boss' daughter is abducted in a bar, Statham's character is asked to step in. Let's just say that he more than steps in. The first half of this movie is great fun. Then the whole darned thing goes so far off the rails it is amazing it got released. There has to be 100-plus people killed in some of the most gruesome and gory ways, and the violence just never quits. What a disappointment. **Grade: B+for the first half of the movie and D- for the second.**

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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GUTTY GOVERNMENT NEWS GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS DENY CHANGE TO BEREAVEMENT POLICY

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

MARCH 13 - SUPERVISORS APPROVE 3% WAGE INCREASES

At the March 13 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, discussion was held regarding possible wage increases for county employees for the upcoming fiscal year. Supervisor Steve Smith suggested a 3% increase.

Supervisor JD Kuster brought up the recommendation from the Compensation Board, which suggested a 7% wage increase. Kuster said he has heard from the Compensation Board in years past, voicing frustration when the recommended number isn't used.

Supervisor Mike Dickson acknowledged that but pointed out that the county needs to budget for several large projects as well.

"We've talked about the generator

down here. That's a \$200,000 project or a little more. We've talked about tornado shelters for some of our buildings... that money has to come from somewhere," Dickson said.

Supervisor Brian Johnson made a motion for a 3% wage increase, excluding the Board of Supervisors. That motion passed on a 4-1 vote, with Kuster opposed.

Johnson then made a motion for no wage increase for the supervisors. That motion passed on a 3-2 vote, with Dickson and Maggie Armstrong voting nay.

Dickson voiced his concern about depleting the county's fund balance.

"With the 3% that was just done, you're looking at eating into your fund balance almost \$400,000," Dickson said.

The supervisors discussed ways to cut around \$100,000 from budgetary expenses to help spare the county's fund balance.

The supervisors will ask two departments (Sheriff and County Attorney) to come back and meet with the supervisors to work on ways to cut expenses.

MARCH 18 - BRIDGE POSTINGS, INSPECTIONS

Significant discussion was held about the upcoming fiscal year's budget. Matters still need to be decided by the State Legislature that will impact county budgets statewide, but those decisions will likely not be made until after budgets are due. Supervisor Chair Maggie Armstrong described the work she did in finding ways to alleviate some expenses out of the General Basic category.

"We then landed with 29% General Basic carryover, 22% General Supplemental carryover, and 26% Rural Service carryover," Armstrong said. "That gives us some room for some potential projects."

The working budget includes 3% increases for all county employees (except the supervisors, who would not receive a raise) and some specific additional raises in certain departments.

"I'm not OK with the extra raises above the 3%. I'm not in favor of that," Supervisor Mike Dickson said.

Armstrong asked the supervisors for their comfort level with the carryover percentages she mentioned.

"I'm comfortable," Supervisor Steve Smith said.

"I think we've got to move ahead. That legislation may not be done until about May 1, so I think we've got to go ahead and do our business," Supervisor Brian Johnson said.

The supervisors voted to approve the carryover percentages Armstrong stated, by a 4-1 vote with Dickson opposed.

County Engineer Josh Sebern addressed the supervisors regarding Resolution 25-19 (Bridge Weight Limit Posting).

"Every year about this time, we update our bridge postings, and the inspections

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usually take place in November/December," Sebern said. "It has to be done by resolution because they are white signs. They are regulatory. They are enforceable."

Sebern told of two bridges in the county that are currently closed.

"We did have to close two bridges this year, due to the postings," he said, noting that the bridge near the county's Bear Grove shed was closed due to "severely deteriorated wood pilings."

"It is in design. It could go into construction in 2026," Sebern said. "That's on the fast track, as much as federal aid can fast track."

Sebern described the other bridge closure.

"The other bridge that is closed is Baker 180 on Iris Avenue... Not eligible for federal aid... We are reviewing all options," Sebern said.

Sebern explained the bridge does not meet traffic volume requirements for federal aid.

The supervisors unanimously approved the Bridge Weight Limit Posting as submitted.

The supervisors also discussed the possibility of filing a Petition to Intervene regarding pipeline issues. Armstrong said she met with officials from Greene County, who are also working on a the same effort.

Armstrong summarized the purpose of a Petition to Intervene as asking to "have a seat at the table." No formal action was taken at this time, but the matter will be further discussed at the March 25 meeting.

MARCH 25 - PETITION TO INTERVENE

The supervisors unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 25-20 (Resolution Directing the Guthrie County Attorney to File a Petition to Intervene on Behalf of Guthrie County in Iowa Utilities Commission Docket Number HLP-2024-0004).

Brian Hoffman provided a departmental update regarding information technology. He shared the status of various equipment and said efforts are ongoing to weed out equipment that is no longer used.

"It's good to eliminate what you don't need, so you can see what you do need," Hoffman said.

County Engineer Josh Sebern provided a departmental update regarding secondary roads. Sebern also described proposed Resolution 25-21: Contract for Project FM-C039(102).

"This is pertaining to a project...for patching of the Yale-Springbrook road," Sebern said. "We had eight bidders...and the lowest bid was \$345,000, thereabouts, by Midwest (Midwest Contractors Inc.)... This resolution does two things. It awards the contract to Midwest, and it authorizes me to sign the contract," Sebern said. The supervisors approved the resolution.

A public hearing was held at 10:30 a.m. on the Fiscal Year 2026 proposed property tax notice.

MARCH 27 - BULK OF WORK ON BUDGET IS DONE

Auditor Dani Fink explained that the bulk of the work on the county's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is done. Fink is awaiting some final information on health insurance rates.

"It's just going to be accounting for potential new hires for next year, making sure of their budgeted amounts in case they want insurance. We'll do that at the family rate, just to be safe," Fink said.

The supervisors set a public hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 budget on April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

APRIL 1 - BEREAVEMENT PAY, ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

Denise Ballard (Iowa Governmental Health Care) discussed the county's Fiscal Year 2026 Health Insurance Renewal. She shared options for the supervisors to consider. No action was taken at this time.

Human Resources Coordinator Jamie Lindsay updated the supervisors on possible changes to the county's employee handbook in the areas of call out/overtime pay, bereavement pay, sick leave, and personal leave.

Lindsay explained that currently, only fulltime employees qualify for bereavement pay, and she suggested adding some bereavement leave for part-time staff.

"I'd like to table this until we have a full board. I'd like to have everybody there to discuss this; I think this is a big change," Supervisor Brian Johnson said.

The supervisors voted to table the bereavement pay issue.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong described the draft ordinance "Providing for Animal Protection and Control." She suggested removing the wording about "bite" and replacing it with wording of "incident" so that non-bite incidents would also be covered by the ordinance.

Health Director Jotham Arber stressed that the county's aim is not to take animals away but to have a system to address dangerous behavior of animals as needed. Consideration of the proposed ordinance was tabled. No formal action was taken at this time.

The supervisors voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Bill McDer-

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mott from the Guthrie County Board of Health. Andrew Knorr was unanimously approved to fill the vacancy.

APRIL 8 - BEREAVEMENT PAY FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES VOTED DOWN

The supervisors returned to consideration of changing the bereavement policy to allow bereavement leave for part-time employees. Supervisor Mike Dickson voiced his opposition.

"I don't agree with that. This conversation has come up in the past, and parttime employees can work around that with their schedules," Dickson said.

Brian Johnson voiced agreement with Dickson, and the supervisors voted 3-1 to deny the proposed change with Maggie Armstrong as the sole vote to oppose the denial. Supervisor JD Kuster was absent.

The supervisors discussed the draft of a proposed Ordinance 25-38 (Survey Permit Ordinance). Armstrong read the draft aloud as part of the first reading process. The supervisors approved the first reading as presented with Johnson opposed. The supervisors also voted to waive the second reading and have the proposed ordinance published. Johnson voted against.

Johnson voiced his concerns about enacting Ordinance 25-38. "I think there's a pretty good chance we're going to see a lawsuit on it," Johnson said. "I don't know why we'd move forward with lawsuits and that kind of aggressive action when things are kind of in a pause right now."

Three department heads gave updates/ reports to the supervisors. Beth Watson provided a quarterly report on Veterans Affairs. Jotham Arber shared information regarding the Health Services department. Brad Halterman told of happenings in the Conservation department.

"We're going to be opening our campgrounds April 15, and turning on the water, weather permitting. The weather looks good to do that," Halterman said.

Arber shared updated plans regarding vaccinations.

"As far as COVID shots and those kinds of things, they're coming out with some new recommendations. We'll make those available to the public as we know more," he said.

Armstrong said discussion of the proposed Vicious Animal ordinance will be on the agenda for the April 15 meeting.

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



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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

www.guthriecentertimes.com

CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS CASEY CITY COUNCIL HEARS UTILITY BILLS DISPUTE

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

During the Clerk's Report portion of the April 7 Casey City Council meeting, City Clerk Gwen Blass updated the council regarding two disputed utility billing accounts.

"Last month, we had a gentleman that came into our office and stated that he was Dave Kuster's attorney, and that they were going to sue the city for all the utility bills that Dave Kuster has, and that he also represented Lucas Jensen, and that he's also getting utility bills for a property that he doesn't own anymore," Blass said. "I explained to him that Lucas Jensen's bill is a past due bill from when he lived there, and that the utility bills on Dave Kuster are sewer line bills, sewer charges for properties that he never shut off the sewer line for." Blass reported that the same gentleman came back to the office later and said Kuster would not be suing the city.

Blass also reported that the city has a CD valued at \$26,425 that has matured. She suggested renewing it into another CD, and the council voted to do so.

Public Works Director Jon Welker reported on repairs and changes needed on certain areas of the city's water lines. The council approved the repairs and costs as proposed.

Discussion was held regarding the recent storm spotter training in Casey. Approximately 100 trainees attended, and it reportedly went smoothly.

As part of the consent agenda, the council approved a liquor license renewal for Pioneer Pub and Grub.

The next regular meeting of the council will be May 5. The public is welcome. ■



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EDUCATION CHRISTENSEN NAMED NEW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Shane Christensen, Ed.D., current principal at Indian Hills Junior High, has been named the next principal at Valley High School.

Christensen will begin his new role July 1, 2025, pending approval by the West Des Moines Community Schools Board of Education at its regular meeting April 14.

"Dr. Christensen is an experienced educator, an innovative strategist, and a respected leader in our district," superintendent Matt Adams said. "His passion for education and the care he shows for his students and staff are unmatched. He is the right person to lead Valley High School."

Christensen has served WDMCS for 24 years, the last 19 as principal at Indian Hills. His collaborative nature and ability to think systemically has had a direct impact on student outcomes. Over the last six years, Indian Hills has seen marked improvement on the Iowa School Performance Profiles. "I am beyond excited and honored for the opportunity to lead Valley High School, where excellence is the standard," Christensen said. "I take very seriously the challenge of supporting all students and staff around the 'Four A's': Academics, Activities, Arts and



^{ld} Shane Christensen

Athletics, while fostering a culture of belonging. Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed."

Valley owns the largest student enrollment of any high school in Iowa. It offers one of the largest selections of academic programs in the state and consistently ranks among Iowa's best athletics and activities programs.

Christensen takes over for David Maxwell, who will serve as Valley's principal through the end of the school year. Starting July 1, Maxwell will transition to the district's first director of strategic outreach and systems change. ■

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GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES ACCESSORY BUILDINGS

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

Guinrie Center 11mes

During the March 24 meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, discussion was held regarding "accessory buildings," such as carports and similar structures. City Clerk Kris Arrasmith explained that many of these structures are in the city, and some have become an eyesore due to longterm exposure to wind. The council agreed that, if the city addresses some, it will need to address all such structures. Arrasmith said she will collect more information for the next council meeting.

The council discussed the possibility of approving a letter of engagement for services from PFM Financial Advisors. Councilmember Fidel Hernandez said he is not comfortable signing the agreement since the city doesn't know how much benefit would occur.

Councilmember Garold Thomas spoke in favor of the letter of engagement.

"My viewpoint is, we can't be experts on everything," Thomas said.

The council voted 4-1 in favor of the letter of engagement, with Hernandez opposed.

Tony Young was approved as 2025 Nuisance Abatement Contractor.

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 14 regarding the city's FY 2025-2026 proposed budget. The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

HEALTH GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL MOVING AHEAD ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

During the March 27 monthly meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board, the trustees heard from Cris Kuhns, bond counsel for the hospital's upcoming construction project. She outlined the next steps in the process and the funding plans.

Regarding the upcoming fiscal year budget, GCH CEO Chris Stipe explained the ongoing process.

"We'll be publishing a proposed budget," Stipe said. "Whatever we put in the paper is proposed, because the board still has to vote on it, and we can change it."

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery shared details on upcoming foundation events and voiced appreciation for

corporate and local family sponsorships.

"We're working on getting our golf letters out. This will be our 25th anniversary golf event, so this year we're going to do a little something extra. More to come on that," Flanery said.

Danielle Lauzon reported on strong patient satisfaction survey data.

"The ER score is just off the charts. Surgery is at 100%," CEO Chris Stipe said.

The next meeting of the trustees is set for April 24 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.



EDUCATION ADAIR-CASEY AND GUTHRIE CENTER SCHOOL BOARDS ADDRESS SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

At the joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards on March 19, a public hearing on the proposed school calendar for school year 2025-2026 was held. No members of the general public attended.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen explained the date of the first school day for the upcoming year may still be changed, depending on what the Iowa legislature does.

"There are bills in both the House and Senate to change the start date. I don't think there's enough support, specifically in the House, to get it done," Rasmussen said. "But, if they would move that start date up, we would probably come back to the board with a little different calendar, probably starting that Wednesday after the State Fair."

"We had a group of parents come up and... they want to take on replacing our dugouts down at the baseball field," Rasmussen said. "Along with that, I think the bleachers can probably also be refreshed."

Rasmussen said the group is willing to volunteer to do the work on the dugouts if the school provides the needed materials.

Later in the meeting, the fitness center/ weight room maintenance plan was discussed. It was estimated that maintenance would cost approximately \$1,000 per year.

Board member Brian Sheeder asked if any of the maintenance money would be used to assure safety. He then brought up

another safety concern.

"There's an elementary playground that's 30 years old, made of wood and held together by nails," Sheeder said. "We know what happened. It's a proven safety issue, ripping kids' legs up... There's not been any conversation about keeping that stuff up; we want to buy new... Neglecting and overlooking that is going to put guilt at our feet, and I'm not going to be part of it."

Rasmussen said he'll look into what's needed at the playground.

Regarding the recent school days canceled due to late winter storms, Rasmussen explained how those will be handled.

"We missed two days earlier, and the plan is to bring teachers for two days, and students won't make those up," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen added that the "virtual day" schoolwork seems to be going well when needed due to weather cancellations.

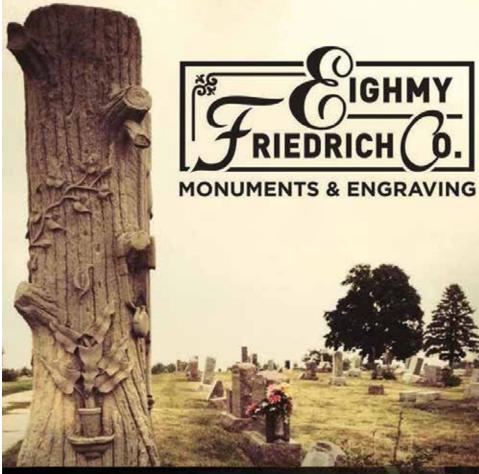
Austin Sonntag, representing Snyder & Associates Engineering, presented information about the roofing project to be done at the Adair-Casey school building. He said the cost of the project is expected to be around \$500,000. Sonntag said bids for the project will soon be sought, and he described the expected timeline.

"The construction period is basically your summer break," Sonntag said.

The Adair-Casey School Board formally approved bid letting for the project.

The next regular meeting of the boards will be Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. at Adair-Casey. The public is welcome. ■





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COLLECTIONS & HOBBIES COLLECTING TRACTORS IS STEENSEN'S HOBBY

Purchase of a John Deere 730 Diesel in 1970 led to a lifelong pursuit.

.....

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

.....

Most anyone who likes classic tractors would be thrilled to walk into the shed of Cletus and Cindy Steensen of rural Adair.

"I've been a tractor nut from the day I was born. I grew up on the Fords and the John Deeres. My uncle lived next door, and he was a tractor nut, too, and he liked the mechanic work," Steensen said. "My dad was more of a woodworker."

Steensen recalled his father assigning him the job of maintaining the family's tractors, which included tuning them up, changing oil and making numerous repairs. Steensen quickly learned much of what it takes to keep a tractor running smoothly. That experience later paid off both professionally and as a hobby.

"In 1998, hog prices had really dropped,

so I got out of the hog business, and, just by word of mouth, people started asking if I'd help them with some tractors. I had a little mechanic shop and welding stuff," Steensen said. "I ended up doing a lot of tractor repairs and restorations as a business, and then I retired from that in 2018."

While working on other people's tractors, Steensen also worked on a few of his own. He now has a small collection of his favorites.

"The collection I have here, the six of them, are the 30 series. It's the last series of two-cylinder tractors that John Deere made," Steensen said. "The one I bought first was the 730 Diesel. I bought that in 1970, and I didn't know it was a 1960; I just wanted a tractor."

That purchase in 1970 led to a lifelong pursuit and hobby.

"I started wanting to collect the 1960 series. That was the thrill of the hunt," Steensen said. "One came from 50 miles west of Fort Smith, Arkansas, in Oklahoma. Another one came from South Dakota. One I bought at a Carroll machinery auction."



Cletus Steensen and his favorite tractor.

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The Steensen family drove tractors in the Guthrie County Fair parade.

Besides that series of six classic John Deere tractors, Steensen also has a few Ford tractors in his shed. But even that isn't his entire collection.

"I've got a few more tractors down at my son's place," he said. "It's been fun, and I still do it. I've got one in the shop I'm waiting on parts for."

Some of the tractors Steensen has restored sat unused for as many as 20 years. This can make his task more challenging, but he doesn't back down. In particular, carburetors, injection pumps and fuel tanks do not age well when neglected for many years. But, for Steensen, the end justifies the means.

"I tear them clear down and rebuild them. And when you first hit the switch to start them up, it's kind of a neat thing to hear them running," he said.

Steensen displays great attention to detail in his hobby.

"I like to keep everything as original as I can," he said. "But I've had some parts that I couldn't find, so I had to have a friend machine one for me."

As if finding, fixing and restoring classic tractors to near mint condition was not enough to keep him busy, Steensen has also found himself doing similar work on vintage sewing machines. In his shed, along with the tractors, he has several Singer sewing machines manufactured more than a century ago.

"Usually, in the winter, I work on them," Steensen said. "That first one I did, we took it to the county fair, and my granddaughter sewed with it."

Steensen recalled a favorite memory with his John Deere tractors.

"It's been a few years ago that we had all six of them in the Guthrie County Fair parade," he said. "My youngest boy drove the



From tractors to vintage sewing machines, Cletus Steensen likes making things run.

830. My next youngest drove the 730. My youngest daughter drove the 630, and my oldest daughter drove the 530. My wife, Cindy, drove the 430, and then I came up behind with a hayrack with the grandkids on it."

Steensen plans to continue his hobby.

"I'll keep working on these things until I can't do it anymore," he said. "I've had a good time doing it." ■

Know someone in Guthrie County whose vehicle, collection or hobby would make an interesting story? Email ideas to rich@gctimesnews.com.



ACGC HIGH SCHOOL PROM PHOTOS The A



Garrett Lemke and Lucy Knutter



Charlie Christensen and Kelsey Steensen



Jacob Risinger and Caydence Boals



Max Trujillo-Garcia and Ava Sneller



Eli Madsen and Belle Fagan



Jathan South and

Ruthie Rich



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Luke Brinks and

Elizabeth Drake



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Wyatt Rudy and Gracie Hodges



and Makenna Nichols

Allison Drake



Bryce Betts and Caitlyn McCool



BUSINESS FEATURE

FAITH'S FASHION DESIGNS

Guthrie Center business offers custom-designed apparel and accessories.

BY RICH WICKS *Guthrie Center Times*

Guinne Center Times

A well-known saying suggests, "Choose a job you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your life." Faith Hockenberry of Guthrie Center has put that concept into practice. She enjoys clothing, and she also likes making artistic designs. So, she merged those interests into a business called Faith's Fashion Designs, where she creates custom-designed apparel and accessories.

"I've been doing this for four years," Hockenberry said. "I got excited to start my own business, and I wanted to create clothing and designs. I've been in this store for 2.5 years."

Hockenberry specializes in small quantity special orders for events such as family gatherings, weddings, business occasions or school events. She especially enjoys the creative process. She listens to what a customer wants and then works with software to make the idea become a reality.

Hockenberry's designs include a variety of themes, including inspirational, daily affirmations, seasonal/holiday and school pride.

The items Hockenberry sells include T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, coffee mugs, shopping bags and ACGC and Panorama items (such as stadium seat cushions).

Hockenberry is thankful for the assistance of two friends who help in her en-



Faith Hockenberry and Alicia Ciesielski show ACGC and Guthrie Center items.

deavor. Lill Delin serves as a mentor at the store, and Alicia Ciesielski is Hockenberry's job coach, providing guidance as needed.

Ciesielski told of the usual process when

an apparel order comes in.

"Faith designs it on the computer, and then she cuts it out, and then we iron it on," Ciesielski said. "We can do just about anything people want." Ciesielski and Hockenberry said there is not any clear best-selling item, but Hockenberry said she sells quite a bit of ACGC Charger wear. She also told of recently completing an extensive apparel order for



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Faith's Fashion Designs is located at 300 State St. in downtown Guthrie Center.



A friend from Colorado picks out a new sweatshirt.

Special Olympics in Winterset.

Faith's Fashion Designs store is located at 300 State St. in downtown Guthrie Center. Normal store hours are noon to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The store accepts cash, check or Venmo but not credit or debit cards.

"I've got a Facebook page and website for the business," Hockenberry said.

The store's website is www.faithsfd.com. Hockenberry believes in supporting the community, and she has found a way to do that with her business, while also creating a win-win situation for her customers. To celebrate her upcoming birthday, she is accepting donations of canned goods at her store. The donations will then be delivered to New Opportunities to help feed those in need. Those who bring in canned goods to Hockenberry's store will receive a coupon for \$5 off their next order.

www.guthriecentertimes.com



Faith Hockenberry sits at her computer, where her creative process begins.

Hockenberry enjoys the variety of tasks at her job, which range from doing the hands-on work of printing the apparel or filling orders to putting on her thinking cap and letting the ideas flow.

Hockenberry and Ciesielski shared a story of a recent order in which Hockenberry made 39 shirts to commemorate International Down Syndrome Day and shipped them to Oregon.

"We're doing T-shirts for a family reunion this summer," Ciesielski said. "And we did some for the all-school reunion, with the old Guthrie Center Tigers image."

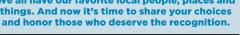
Hockenberry invites everyone to stop in to see what she does. Although the store hours remain standard throughout the year, she stays even busier during the summer months.

"In the summer, I set up at the farmers market, too," Hockenberry said.

POLL NOW OPE **/HO WILL BE VOTED THE**



BEST IN GUTHRIE COUNTY? We all have our favorite local people, places and things. And now it's time to share your choices





Make your voice heard and cast your votes in the 2025 BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY poll. This contest is being hosted by Big Green Umbrella Media and the results will publish in the September issues of Lake Panorama Times, Panora Times and Guthrie Center Times.

POLL CLOSES JULY 1, 2025.

See rules and vote at https://gctimesnews.com/best-of

FOOD & DRINK:

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

AUTOMOTIVE:

- Car Wash
- Auto Service Center
- Auto Parts Store
- Vehicle Detailing **Business**

COMMUNITY:

- Pastor (person)
- Teacher
- Coach
- Church
- Daycare
- Library Chamber of Commerce
- School
- Park

GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

- Community Festival
- Camping Spot
- Place to Hold an
 - Event

- Elected Offical
- Employer Customer Service
- (overall)

SHOPPING:

- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Place to Purchase Gifts for Her
- Pharmacy
- Grocery Store
- Nursery or Garden Center
- Hardware Store
- Florist

ENTERTAINMENT:

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

HEALTH/BEAUTY:

- Hair Salon
- Doctor (person)
- Dentist (person)
- Chiropractor (person)

- Eye Doctor (person)
- Veterinarian (person)
- Health Club/Gym
- Dance Studio
- Massage Therapist (person)
- Esthetician (skin care professional)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Bank
- Photographer
- Barge Service
- Realtor (person)
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Landscaping Company
- CPA (person)
- Insurance Agent (person)
- Senior Living Facility
- Home Builder
- Home Improvement Contractor
- Plumber (business)
- Electrician (business)

Lawn Care Business

Attorney or Law Firm

Pest Control Company

Dog Boarding Facility

Real Estate Company

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Financial Planner

Home Painter

HVAC Company

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DELBERT (TOBE) GENE BENTON

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1932-2025

Delbert (Tobe) Gene Benton, son of Clarence (Rich) and Opal (Sheeder) Benton, was born on the family farm in Guthrie County on Jan. 7, 1932. He passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, at the Guthrie County Hospital surrounded by his loving family. He spent his early life in Grant Township attending country school. Tobe graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1950. Following graduation, he worked as a farm hand for various farmers in the area until he enlisted in the United States Army Reserve on Dec. 9, 1952. Before he headed overseas to Korea, he married his soul mate and the love of his life, Ruth Cannon, on June 23, 1953, at the Christian Church in Perry. They were blessed with nearly 72 years of married life together.

Tobe was so very proud of the years he spent

serving our country. While in Korea, he worked in the motor pool. He was awarded the Korean Service Medal, the Bronze Service Star, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal during his time in the service. Always a humble man, he felt great pride whenever someone would thank him for his service, and he took great pleasure in riding on the American Legion float in the Guthrie County Fair Parade each year. He spent his life

dedicated to farming the land. Farming was not just a job but a way of life that he cherished. For many years, he raised hogs, cattle and row crops. During the 1970s and 1980s, he and Ruth had a dog kennel in which they raised purebred Pomeranians, Maltese, West Highland White Terriers, and Old English Sheepdogs. Dogs were truly a passion for Tobe. Until just a few years ago, you would always see him with a trusted companion riding beside him on his fourwheeler or in the back of his pickup as he checked cows. His commitment to his community was very important to him. He served as a director on the Guthrie **County Beef Producers** and the Farm Service Administration. Tobe always enjoyed working with kids, and while his children were in school, he served as a 4-H Leader and was recognized as

an Honorary Chapter Farmer by the Guthrie Center FFA. He was instrumental in organizing the Guthrie Center Booster Club and helped raise funds for the first weight room at Guthrie Center Schools. He loved watching his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren participate in school activities. Many good times were spent enjoying wrestling tournaments, football and baseball games, band and vocal concerts, and school plays. He took great delight in spending many hours at the pond dropping a line with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It was always a contest to see who could snag the biggest fish.

Although Tobe worked hard, he always made time to enjoy the good things in life with his family and friends. He and Ruth belonged to a card club that met monthly for more than 50 years. Pitch was the game of choice whenever family members would get together, and he smiled with pride when his grandchildren learned how to "shoot the moon!" He and Ruth spent several years vacationing in Minnesota with their neighborhood group. Numerous neighbor kids found amusement in visiting the Bentons so they could ride the bag swing Tobe had assembled in the old cottonwood tree in the corner of their yard. He loved going to the county fair and spending time

looking at the exhibits or just stopping to catch up with old friends. You could always find him and Ruth at their same spot in front of the former **Guthrie County Bank** building enjoying the fair parade. Tobe was a member of Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church where he shared a pew with the same people and looked forward to fellowship with his church family following worship each Sunday.

Tobe was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Opal Benton; his stepmother, Adah Parish Benton; brother, Max Benton and wife, Jean; his sister, Bea Millhollin and husband, Bob; his in-laws, Frank and Minnie Cannon; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Roger and Lois Wickland; and his nephew, Pat Benton. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Ruth; children, Julie (Doug) Rutherford, Scott (Karen) Benton, and John Ely, who summered with them for nine years; four grandchildren, Brody (Michelle) Benton, Bethany (Nicholas) McCool, Ian (Claire) Rutherford, and Alec (friend, Sara Freimuth) Rutherford; and his great-grandchildren, Ethan, Norah, Levi and Jace Benton, and Casen, Crayton and Coy McCool, as well as many other family and friends. Tobe will be greatly

Tobe will be greatly missed, but his memory will live on in all those who knew and loved him.



DERRY HICK 1959-2025

With love and remembrance, we announce the passing of Derry Gene Hick, born on Oct. 14, 1959, who peacefully passed away on Feb. 19, 2025, in Honolulu, Hawaii, with his wife, Elizabeth, and their two daughters, Melissa and Erika, by his side. He was 65 years old.

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Born in Guthrie Center, Derry joined the U.S. Air Force after high school, serving his country with honor. After leaving the service, he lived a life defined by acts of service and generosity to others. Known to so many as a kind and generous man, Derry left a lasting impact on all who knew him. His love for music, movies and cross-country driving brought him joy throughout his life.

While on military leave after a deployment in Korea, Derry met Elizabeth, a nursing student and his sister Debbie's friend, during a

visit to his family in Des Moines. They married in 1983 in Los Angeles and had two daughters, Melissa Ann and Erika Elizabeth. Derry and Elizabeth spent more than 41 years together, building a lifetime of cherished memories. Both Derry and Elizabeth served in the United States Armed Forces, sharing a deep sense of duty, service and love for their country.

Derry and Elizabeth were blessed with four grandchildren: Cameron and Gisele, children of their daughter, Melissa, and her husband, Stephen; and Henry Wyatt and Jane Lillian, children of their daughter, Erika, and her husband, James. Derry loved being their "Papa" and cherished every moment with them.

Derry is survived by his beloved wife of more than 41 years, Elizabeth Hick; his two daughters, Melissa and Erika; his four grandchildren; his mother, Joyce; and his brothers, Dan and Michael, along with their spouses and children. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend with a legacy of kindness and generosity that will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Derry will be laid to rest at the VA National Cemetery in Riverside, California.

A Celebration of Life was held from 1-3 p.m. in the basement at First Baptist Church, 113 N. Fifth St., Guthrie Center, on April 12. ■

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ALAN LYNN ELGIN 1951-2025

Mr. Alan Lynn Elgin, age 73, of Adair, passed away on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at UnityPoint Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines.

Alan Lynn Elgin was born on Nov. 13, 1951, in New Haven, Connecticut, to A Lynn and Alice (Winn) Elgin. Alan graduated from Adair-Casey High School with the class of 1969. He then continued his education at Iowa Lakes Community College, where he earned an associate degree in vocational technology in 1971. On Feb. 2, 1973, he married Shanee Frohling in Guthrie Center. From this union, two children were born, Tori and Tyler.

Alan was a mechanic both professionally and as a hobby in his garage. He worked at various places, including implement dealerships, diesel shops and power lift companies, until his retirement in 2020. He enjoyed target shooting with his brothers, assisting during harvest season with his brother, Bill, and, even more, restoring tractors with his son, Tyler. Alan went on three WHO Iowa Tractor Rides. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Adair, where he was an elder for more than 20 years. He sincerely enjoyed his family, especially his granddaughters and great-granddaughter, who FaceTimed him every night.

Alan is survived by his wife, Shanee (Frohling) Elgin of Adair; daughter, Tori Elgin (Bruce Hartger) of Cedar Rapids; son, Tyler Elgin (Christy Wester) of Tenino, Washington; granddaughters, Lexi Knutsen of Anamosa, Logan Knutsen of Cedar Rapids, and Danielle Pickett of Tenino, Washington; greatgranddaughter, Baylor Rae; brothers, Bill (Betty) Elgin, Les (Theresa) Elgin, and John (Rita) Elgin.

Alan is preceded in death by his grandparents, Arthur and Eva Elgin, and Edgar and Mildred Winn; and his parents, A Lynn, and Alice Elgin, and a nephew Michael Elgin.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church in Adair with Rev. Richard Boatman officiating. Interment took place at Sunnyhill Cemetery in Adair. A luncheon was held following the committal in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church.

Public visitation with the family was held from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the Schmidt Family Funeral Home in Adair.

Memorials may be directed to the Alan Elgin Family to be designated at a later date in his memory. They may be mailed to the Schmidt Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 523, Atlantic, IA 50022.

Funeral services were handled by the Schmidt Family Funeral Home of Adair. ■



JOHNNY 'MAC' MCNELEY 1958-2025

Johnny "Mac" McNeley, 66, passed away suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, with his wife by his side. He was born Feb. 16, 1958, in Omaha, Nebraska, and lived in Iowa. He was a member of the wrestling team from Guthrie Center High School, a treasurer of the local FFA chapter, and a dairy judge. After graduating in 1976, he joined the Navy and was honorably discharged in 2002 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, Damage

Controlman, after proudly serving for 26 years. Upon discharge from the Navy, he attended horseshoeing school in Oklahoma, becoming a farrier.

Johnny was known to his friends in the South as Mac. He worked for Steel Warehouse of Memphis for 22-plus years and retired Oct. 31, 2024. When the grandchildren were young, he loved to have them spend the weekend at the farm. Easter on the farm was always a fun time with easter egg hunts for the kids and "special" egg hunts for the grown-ups. He enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid hunter, as well as a fisherman. He loved to participate in retriever hunt tests as a handler, judge and worker. He was an active member of Southern Flight HRC and a Started judge for HRC/UKC. He was also an active member and on the board of directors for Mid-South Hunting Retriever Club where he judged AKC Junior and Senior retriever hunt tests. Johnny lived in Holly

Springs, Mississippi, with his wife, Janice. He is pre-

deceased by his father, Billy McNeley, and a brother, Francis McNeley. Surviving family members are his mother, Shirley McNeley (Chichester), and two brothers, Roger and Terry McNeley, all still in Iowa, and his sister, Peggy Williams (McNeley) in Maryland. He has two adult children, Timothy McNeley in Millington, Tennessee, and Sarah Gaynor (husband Ryan) in Spanish Fort, Alabama. He has five grandchildren whom he loved dearly and bragged on whenever the chance arose: Dylan and Presley Gaynor; Drake, Mason "Cash" and Waylon McNeley. He also had two stepchildren, Samantha Poole (Williamson) in Holly Springs, Mississippi, and Chris Williamson in Clearwater, Florida.

Johnny's remains will be interred at the Van Meter Veterans Cemetery, 34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Van Meter Township on Friday, June 20, 2025, at 11 a.m. with full military honors. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow at the adjacent American Legion from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ■





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SHELLEY HAYES 1966-2025

Shelley Renae Hayes, 58, daughter of Darrell and Ida Gayle (Freeman) Kromrie, was born June 22, 1966, at the Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center. She gained her eternal freedom from pain on Monday, March 31, 2025, at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Des Moines.

Shelley grew up in Guthrie Center and graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1985. She worked many jobs in the community: a CNA at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center, in-home day care, and, finally, as a teacher associate at the Guthrie Center High School.

Although Shelley had many jobs and accomplishments over the years, her proudest was her family. Shelley was the oldest of Gayle's four children. As soon as her little siblings, Terry, Mary and Mike, started making their debuts, Shelley became their biggest protectors. This was a lifelong badge Shelley wore with honor. Shelley has always spoken loudly and proudly of her family.

In 1986, Shelley was especially proud to welcome her twin girls, Ashlee and Alison — "the Chickee Birds." These girls were the light of her life. The bond shared between them was a testament of the amount of love they had for each other. In 1994, she married Wayne Hayes, and they made their home in Guthrie Center. With this union. she gained Eric and Valarie. Once her grandbabies

started being added to the family, another light was lit in her heart. Her girls were so thankful to have such a present mom with their children. Shelley continued the tradition of attending as many of her grandkids' activities as possible, just like she did for her girls, always beaming with pride. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, whether that was coming up with recipes and baking or sending out a daily Snapchat summarizing the day with goofy shoutouts. Her grandbabies always knew they had a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, or a big squeeze when they needed a hug.

Shelley shared a special bond with her younger siblings. She spent the last few years living as Buck's (Terry's) neighbor. Buck regularly popped through the door with a "whattaya doing" or "what's for dinner?" Even though he sometimes was met with a sassy comment from Shelley, she loved having him there. Shelley was first to proudly let people know that was her brother, Terry. She was so grateful for his presence in her life and the heart he has.

She was very close to her sister, Mary. She regularly told people her sister was actually older because the gray hair came quickly for her. I'm sure this had to do with Mary's three children: Breanne, Peyton and Haeleigh. The three had a second home and a second mom with Shelley. She and Breanne were partners in crime. They were always getting into some type of shenanigans together. When Haeleigh and Peyton came along, they became her "babies." Well into their 20s. she still referred to them as her babies. Shelley's great nephew and niece, Axl and Frankie, also played a special role in Shelley's life. They loved her and always looked forward to going to Aunt Shelley's.

Shelley's youngest brother, Mike, also was very special to her. She regularly talked about how he was her "little Mikey," even though he has grayed and is a grandpa himself. Regardless of anything, he was always her "baby brother," and all those around knew about it. Shelley held a special place with all her siblings and was so proud to have them. Her favorite part of having her siblings was knowing it was them against the world. She

took on a role as a mama bear to them. In a close second, being an aunt to their kids was another proud title she carried. Shelley had an undying love for all of her nieces and nephews.

Shelley accepted anyone and everyone into her circle. She didn't know a stranger. She had the title of "Mom," "Aunt Shelley" and "Grandma Shelley" to many people even outside her family. This included her children's friends, her nieces and nephews' friends, her babysitting kids over the years, and, more recently, her grandchildren's friends.

Shelley was known for her cooking and baking. If you were close with Shelley at all, she fed you at one point or another. Whether that was her famous mints, beautifully put-together Christmas candy platters, or the type of home cooking that made you have to wear sweatpants afterwards. She loved cooking for her grandchildren and making sure their friends and teammates were fed, too.

Shelley's existence was a privilege to this world. Regardless of any hardship she endured, her heart was pure. She was never hardened by anything she went through. She was kind, compassionate and full of love to give. She loved to joke with everyone and was known for giving people a run for their money. She will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Alison (Derek) Herron of Guthrie Center; Ashlee (Jeremy) Wolfe of Guthrie Center; Eric Hayes of Minot, North Dakota; and Valarie Levy of Jefferson; 17 grandchildren, Brooke, Katelyn, Lane, Logan, Braelyn, Lillee, and Luke (Alison); Calleigh, Cordell, Cambree, and Cayla (Ashlee); Brayden, Riley, and Aria (Eric); Eva Mae, Kailynn, and Rosabelle (Valarie); siblings, Terry Kromrie of Guthrie Center; Mary (Troy) Busse of Guthrie Center; Mike Kromrie of Winterset; Becky (Andy) Boss of Stuart; Dan (Ginger) Kromrie of Dexter; and Jean (Devlun) Whiteing of Ida Grove. Also her very dear friend, Tracy (John) Beer of Panora. Shelley has numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends whom she leaves behind. She was preceded in

death by her parents and husband, Wayne.

A Celebration of Life was held from 4-8 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2025, at the Guthrie Center Activity Center, 209 State St., Guthrie Center. Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center, was

entrusted with her services. ■



Universal Banker, Panora Branch



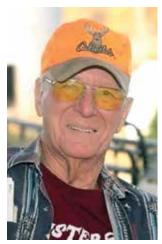




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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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'JACK' JACKIE LYNN STRINGER 1941-2025

"Jack" Jackie Lynn Stringer was born on Dec, 2, 1941, and passed away peacefully, surrounded by his large, loving and loud family, on March 15, 2025. The birth and death of this dedicated father and farmer are not nearly as relevant as the days he lived between those two dates.

Jack was born to Ralph and Jody (Mary Josephine Hoyt) Stringer on his Great Grandpa Stringer's home place. In the spring of 1942, the family moved just down the road to the farm of Rufus Couch, Jack's other Great Grandpa. Jack and his sisters grew up in the house that their Great Grandpa built in 1909. Jack still owns the land he loved so much and was proud to have had both farms designated as Century Farms. His childhood farm is currently home to the sixth generation of Couch/ Stringer descendants. Jack attended Beaver

Country School through

junior high and had fantastic stories to tell of the shenanigans that he, some cousins and other neighbor boys could instigate. For high school, Jack attended Guthrie Center Community High School. He loved playing sports and excelled in all of them. It was there where he met a cute cheerleader named Beverly Railsback, who would become the love of his life. He graduated from high school in 1960 and then attended an auto mechanical school in Omaha.

After several years of dating through high school, on July 16, 1961, he married that cheerleader. In the spring of 1962, Jack, Bev and baby John moved to the farm west of Wichita. where Jack lived, raised his family and farmed for 63 years. They had two mischievous boys: John (1962) and Jimmy (1970), and one somewhat strongwilled, bossy daughter, Brenda (1964). During the 1980-81 school year, they welcomed an exchange daughter from Greece, Elizabeth Xanthopoulou. A lifetime of love and adventure spanned over 56 years until Bev's death in 2017.

Jack was a very progressive farmer. In 1969, he was selected as a soil conservation winner in the "Guthrie District Owner-Tenant Division" of The Des Moines Register contest, recognizing farmers practicing outstanding soil conservation. He served many years on the Soil Conservation Board. In the early 1970s, he was recognized as an outstanding Beef Producer. The Guthrie County Fair was a huge part of the Stringer family life and tradition. Jack started as the Sheep Superintendent, then Swine Superintendent, and later served many years as a Fair Board member. Years and years of wonderful memories were made camping at the fair, riding motorcycles, and showing off Bev's 1955.

Arm wrestling was a 45year family tradition. Jack started by taking John in 1979 to the first of many years of competitions in Monster Arm Wrestling. It was just a matter of time before it became a family event, as Jimmy joined in at age 18, followed by many of the grandkids, and even a great-granddaughter in 2023.

Jack has always felt a need for speed, whether in his Chevy cars or Mud Bog Trucks. In 1999, he started mud bog racing at Guthrie with a stock truck named "Grandpa's Toy," eventually graduating to a 1,000-horsepower truck in the Outlaw Class. At the age of 82, after 24 years of racing, he won his final race in 2023.

Farmers never retire, so when Jack finally slowed down his farming operation, he simply pivoted to another passion that he had put on hold playing in the dirt. Doing dozer work, running the excavator, or buying calves at the sale barn and raising them at the farm was definitely his happy place.

Jack loved sports and livestock. He especially loved football and basketball, and watching grandkids play sports or show livestock at the fair was something he truly enjoyed. In recent years, his companion, Judee Eischeid, and her family joined him in life's many adventures.

Immediate family waiting in heaven to welcome him are his wife, Bev; his parents; grandson, Jacob Stringer; and son-inlaw, David Christensen.

Jack left deep roots in the family who remain. His infectious laugh and giving heart will be missed by his loved ones: his children, John Stringer; Jimmy (Laurie) Stringer; Brenda (Michael) Esdohr; and exchange daughter, Elizabeth Xanthopoulou.

He leaves 10 grandkids: Lainey (Drew) Stringer (John's daughter); Brea (Derek) Chaplin; Ashley (Wes) DeMaris; Cory (Heather) Esdohr; Elizabeth Esdohr; Ali Stringer (Brenda's kids); Laurisa Stringer (Austin Fabian); LeAnna (Mason) Rasmussen; Jessica Stringer (Brandon Thomas); and Jenna (Dustin) Deist (Jimmy's kids).

Twenty-seven greatgrandkids: John: Lilah (Jacob and Katie); Cooper, Emery, Griffin, Nora,

> Pasture Spraying

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and Juniper (Lainey and Drew); Brenda: Noah, Asher, Kaleb, Leah, Elijah, Rebekah, Benjamin, Jude, Sam, and new baby No. 10 due in August (Brea and Derek); Olivia and Stella (Ashley and Wes); Sal, Niki and Lexi (Ali); Hally, Zach and Luke (Cory and Heather); Jimmy: Waylon and Landry (Laurisa and Austin); and Opal (LeAnna and Mason).

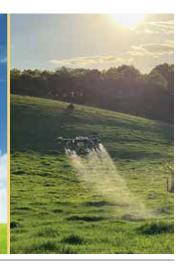
He is also survived by his three sisters, Mary Jo (Jim) Laughery, Barb Hambleton, and Martha (Rick) Buttler, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and so many good friends.

Visitation was held on Monday, March 17, 2025, from 4- 8 p.m. at the Event Center at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds. Funeral services, officiated by Pastor David Morris, took place on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Guthrie Center.

Deb Menning accompanied the congregational hymn "It Is Well With My Soul," while special music included "Monsters," performed by LeAnna Rasmussen, Jenna Deist, and Jessica Stringer, along with two recorded songs, "In Color" and "Lead Me Home" by Jamey Johnson.

Interment followed at Monteith Cemeterv in rural Guthrie Center. Pallbearers included grandsons-in-law: Andrew Stringer, Derek Chaplin, Wes DeMaris, Austin Fabian, Mason Rasmussen, Dustin Deist, Brandon Thomas, and stepgrandson Cory Esdohr. Honorary pallbearers were granddaughters: Lainey Stringer, Brea Chaplain, Ashley DeMaris, Laurisa Stringer, LeAnna Rasmussen, Jenna Deist, Jessica Stringer, stepgranddaughter-in-law Heather Esdohr, stepgranddaughter, Elizabeth Esdohr, and adopted daughter Ali Stringer.

Following the services on Tuesday, the family invited all guests to a time of fellowship and a luncheon at the Event Center at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds, catered by Café on the Hill in Guthrie Center. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.



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RONALD L STEVENS 1940-2025

Ronald L Stevens, better known as Ronnie to friends and family, 85, died peacefully March 13, 2025, at Thomas Rest Haven Nursing Home, Coon Rapids. He was born at home in Guthrie County on Feb. 24, 1940, the eldest son of Glenn E. Stevens and Lillian J. (Richey) Stevens.

Ronald graduated from Audubon High School, class of 1958. Following graduation, he served with the U.S. Navy through December 1963. Following his time in the U.S. Navy, he studied at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. After his correspondence with Josefina V. Daugdaug, they married in Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines, in 1974. They resided in Jefferson where Ron worked in manufacturing and was also self-employed. He was married to Josie until her death in 2021.

Ron enjoyed being physically active and outside in nature. He would often spend time at the local high school track and walking trails in Jefferson. He enjoyed reading and had an assorted collection of books and movies. Self-education was an important attribute that he passed on to his daughters. He wrote poetry and jokes. He often discussed movies and would readily debate

politics and other social issues.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his daughter, Valerie.

He is survived by his daughter: Vanessa; his grandchildren: Kimora, Jaxon and Giovanni-Carlo; brothers: Kerry Stevens of Waukee, and Rick Stevens and his wife Peggy of Indianola; sister: Melodee Powers and her husband, Jay, of Newberg, Oregon; his nieces and nephews, great niece and great-great nephew.

Visitation was held from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home and Crematory, 1721 Park St., Perry, IA 50220. A service was held graveside at Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center following the visitation. Flowers and memorials can be sent to the funeral home. Online condolences may be left for the family at www. caldwellparrish.com. ■



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BEVERLY JEAN SHEEDER 1953-2025

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Beverly Jean (Benton) Sheeder was born on April 27, 1953, to Donald and Delia (Rasmussen) Benton in Guthrie Center. She passed away Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at her home.

She attended Guthrie Center Schools and graduated in 1971. After high school, she attended the University of Iowa for three years then settled back in the Guthrie Center-Panora area. Beverly married Rick Sheeder on Sept. 29, 1996, under a small tree in their front yard surrounded by their children. Their home with Rick in rural Guthrie Center was her favorite place to be. It was especially important for Bev to make memories with their grandchildren in their home. Grandma Bev will be remembered for her smell of perfume, her fashionable clothes, her famous popcorn, her watchful eye, ice cream treats, tea parties and little girl dances.

Bev was baptized a Jehovah Witness on June 7, 1997. She enjoyed learning about Jehovah and educating others on Jehovah. Her belief in and understanding of Jehovah are what made the journey through her illness easier.

Keeping up to date on fashion, finding a good bargain thrifting, and working in her flower beds were also things she enjoyed. Bev was especially fond of spending time with her husband. Frequent togetherness was spent going to the shooting range, trips to Des Moines, and spending time on the porch or in the grove enjoying the peacefulness of their home.

Beverly worked several jobs through the years, but her favorite was working the past 13 years in the Guthrie Center Elementary School library. She knew the name of every child who went through the school, along with their lunch numbers. Bev enjoyed the silliness of the kids, the kids who walked backwards in line, and felt that children needed to enjoy every moment of being of kid.

Beverly is proceeded in death by her parents, Donald and Delia Benton, and her in-laws, Gay and Viola Sheeder.

She is survived by her husband, Rick; children, Sarah (Steve) Blakely and David (Paula) Sheeder; and six grandchildren, Regan (James) Stagg, Morgan Sheeder, Shae Allers, Tessa Sheeder, Bristol Sheeder, and (little) Steve Blakely along with two great-grandchildren, Estes and Lydon. She is also survived by sister, Barb (Merv) Krakau, sisterin-law Terri (Darwin) Holmes, and brotherin-law, Randy (Mary) Sheeder, along with many nieces and nephews.

Beverly Jean Sheeder will be greatly missed, but her memories will be cherished by those who knew and loved her.

Memorial services will be 6 p.m., Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the Twigg Funeral Home in Panora with visitation starting at 4 p.m.



nsen

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Q: CAN I STILL USE MY FIRE PIT WHEN A BURN BAN IS IN EFFECT?

A: A burn ban means conditions are drier than normal and fire risk is much higher. A countywide burn ban may be issued by the State Fire Marshal when a majority of fire chiefs in the county concur. Individual cities or fire districts may also issue a burn ban for specific areas.

During a countywide burn ban, campfires, fire pits and backyard fireplaces are generally still allowed, assuming safe practices are used. Check for city, campground or park regulations to be sure. Penalties for violating a burn ban may include up to 30 days in jail and/or fines of \$105 to \$800. During a burn ban, local fire chiefs are able to approve permits for controlled burns. More information about burn bans is available from the Adair/Guthrie County Emergency Management Agency or from Guthrie County's website (guthriecounty.gov).

Q: WHEN WAS THE FIRST GUTHRIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILT IN GUTHRIE COUNTY?

A: Although the first county seat was Panora, the construction of the first brick courthouse started in 1877 in Guthrie Center at a cost of \$30,000.

Q: I READ THAT PHEASANTS ARE NOT NATIVE TO THIS AREA. IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN HOW DID **THEY GET HERE?**

A: According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, pheasants are not native to this area or the United States at all. but they seem to have found a home in the Plains and upper Midwest. Iowa's birds can be traced back to a wind storm in 1901 that damaged William Benton's private game

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farm in Cedar Falls, liberating around 2,000 pheasants. Rumor had it. Benton obtained his stock from a Tacoma, Washington, importer. That unintentional release was followed by intentional stockings in 1908-09 by private landowners in Kossuth and O'Brien counties that helped the exotic birds get a foothold in northern Iowa. By 1910, the state Conservation Commission got involved, purchasing 6,200 eggs and distributed them to farmers in 82 counties. Farmers would often have hen houses where the pheasant eggs would be placed alongside chicken eggs.

Q: WAS DALMANUTHA ONCE A TOWN?

A: According to discoverguthriecounty. org, Dalmanutha, which was laid out in 1855, became a business place of importance along the Western Coach stage line. The Porter Hotel was a well-known stop along the Underground Railroad, and it is believed that the famous abolitionist, John Brown, stopped there on his way to Harper's Ferry. Once the railroad lines were laid out in the southern portion of the county and the town was bypassed, Dalmanutha's importance soon faded, as did its population. Today, nothing remains of the town except for the cemetery.

Q: WHAT EXACTLY IS THE M&M DIVIDE?

A: The Missouri and Mississippi Divide, located about 7 miles west of Guthrie Center along the Western Skies Scenic Byway, is a topographically high area between two watersheds known as a hydrologic divide. At this location, the water to the west flows to the Missouri River, and water to the east flows to the Mississippi River. The elevation is 1,440 feet.

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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



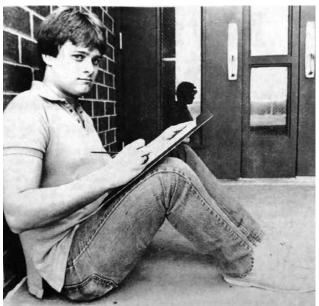
From the Guthrie Center Times, April 23, 1975 **50-YEAR MASON:** Gerald Laughery of Lake Panorama recently was presented his 50-year Masonic pin by Orange Lodge No. 123 A.F. & A.M., Guthrie Center. Present for the ceremony were three of Laughery's brothers. In rear, from left, are Wayne and Lloyd of Guthrie Center and Burdette of Bayard.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 6, 2005 **COUNTY AUDITOR :** John Rutledge explains why the board of supervisors reduced the number of voting precincts from 18 to 8. It's strictly a matter of saving money. From left to right: Rutledge, supervisors Larry Laughery, Jim Petersen and Lonnie Bench.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 17, 1985 **REAPS TOP HONORS:** Rod Baier, Guthrie Center High School senior, won three first-place awards at the West Central 8 Conference Art Fair at Earlham Monday. In March, he won the "Best of Show" award at the West Central Art Fair at Carroll. Baier has received a \$500 scholarship to attend the Fashion and Art Institute of Dallas at Omaha.

.....

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 1, 2015 **LEGO CARS:** Gaberial Readinger, 12, of Guthrie Center (left) and Stone Cash, 10, of Guthrie Center, contemplate their Lego cars during the Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library's Lego club March 26.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 12, 1995 **GCHS NAMES EIGHT NHS INDUCTEES:** Eight Guthrie Center High School juniors were inducted into the National Honor Society last Tuesday. They were, front row, from left, Heather Readinger, Katy Snyder, Tawnia Sheeder and Jenni Wedemeyer. Back row, Kim Holle, Luke Wells, A.J. Menefee and Courtney Bosier.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, March 19, 2020 GUTHRIE CENTER NATIVE TAKES COMMAND OF NAVY WARSHIP: Cmdr. Kathryn J. Dawley takes command of the USS Hopper from Cmdr. Holman R. Agard during a change of command ceremony aboard the ship on April 3. Dawley, a 1992 graduate of Guthrie Center High School, is the daughter of Lyle and Roxana McCool of Bagley. ■

ROOF BLOWS OFF IN GUTHRIE CENTER



PHOTO COURTESY GUTHRIE CENTER

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

On Friday evening, March 14, a strong storm brought powerful straight-line winds through Guthrie County and much of Iowa. In Guthrie Center, the strong winds blew a roof off the building at 111 S. Third St. and left it on a neighboring building and power lines.

Firefighters worked to remove the roof in sections. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

included Guthrie Center Fire Department, Panora Fire Department, Guthrie County Emergency Management, Panora EMS, Guthrie Center Utilities Department, Guthrie Center Streets Department, Guthrie County Sheriff Department, and Alliant Energy. ■

Agencies at the scene

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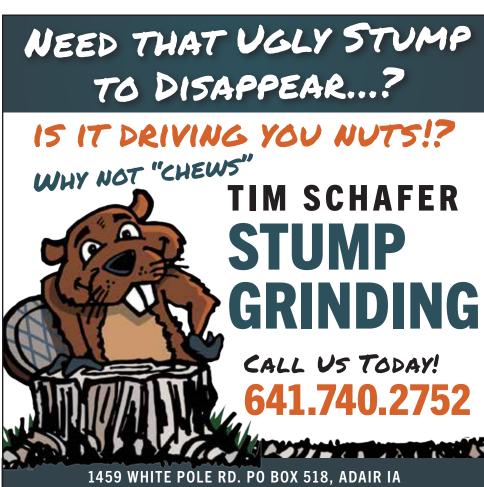
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COMMUNITY



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.

MEALS PROGRAM HELPS SENIORS IN GUTHRIE CENTER

Congregate meals and home-delivered meals are funded by donations and by the Elderbridge Agency on Aging.

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 Panora," Betts says. "Meals delivered to Guthrie Center residents currently averages 24, with an average of 12 meals delivered in Panora."

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 Panora. 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."

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Jean Densmore is one of many volunteers who deliver meals to seniors who live in the Guthrie Center city limits.

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.

H

"We try to have a meat, starch, vegetable and a fruit daily," she says. "Some days, we have dessert. For

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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."

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."





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MARY J. BARNETT LIBRARY NEWS

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MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

BY KAREN KELLY Special to Guthrie Center Times

If you don't have a library card yet, now is the perfect time to get one. If you already have a card, come on in and see all the fantastic things we have going on. We have just refreshed our children's area with new, neurodivergentfriendly furnishings that provide comfort for everyone.

We have loads of fun programs for both adults and kids, so there's something for everyone. If you're looking for a warm, welcoming place to hang out, the library is ready to welcome you. You can check out computers, browse through our selection of magazines, or join a community jigsaw puzzle while enjoying a nice cup of coffee.

Need a quiet spot to focus? Our small

meeting room is available for you to reserve, whether you are studying, working or having a Zoom meeting. Don't forget to check out the beautiful quilts and intriguing collections that our wonderful patrons share for display each month. We can't wait to see you at the library.

The library has many resources for vou besides the vast selection of children's books, adult books, audiobooks and DVDs to check out. Laptops, tablets and hotspots are also available to check out. We have cake pans and candy molds to borrow. Homeschool families are welcome to participate in our sharing library of homeschool books and materials. Patrons who have an interest in astronomy can check out our telescope.

For fans of ebooks, digital magazines

and audiobooks, use your library card to access the app called Libby; this app will give you access to thousands of resources.

These are just a few of the many reasons that you might be drawn to the Mary J. Barnett Library. Stop by this week to celebrate the library and the many people who support it including our Friends of the Guthrie Center Library, the Library Board, and our many volunteers who make the library so special.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

MJB Library will be hosting several new STEM activities for youth of all ages. Be sure to register online or by calling or emailing the library. All ages are welcome for these events. Some of the activities have advanced options; teens can also mentor younger participants.

On Monday, April 21, the youth mov-

ie "Moana 2" will be playing at 12:30 p.m. Following the movie, there will be some activities and coloring activities. At 3:30 p.m., the Guthrie Center STEM lab will be making sail cars.

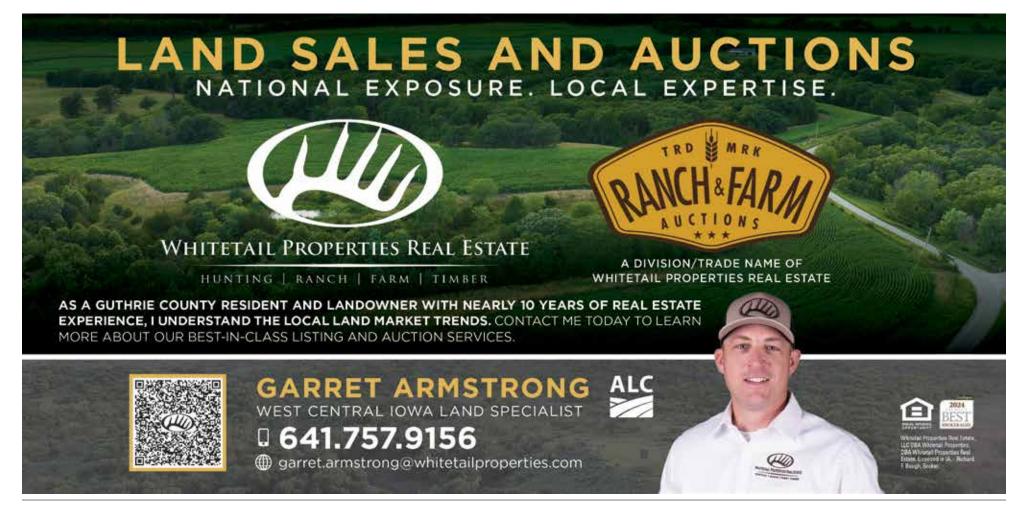
Creation Corner will be happening on Wednesday, April 30, at 2 p.m. Youth will be engaging in an art activity.

Fridays at 10 a.m., MJB Library holds a Preschool Story Hour. Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to attend to enjoy stories and crafts centering around a particular theme. Flowers will be the topic of April 11's story hour, while Easter is the subject of April 18. April 25 will focus on rainbows.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Cribbage meets each Monday morning and the Bridge Class/Club each Wednesday; both groups meet from 9-11 a.m. and welcome newcomers.

Card-Making club, led by Judi Zimmerline, will meet on the third Thurs-



GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



The new furniture in the children's section of the library is being enjoyed by patrons of all ages. New seating purchased with the donation from the Friends of the Library, using funds from 10 Squared Women, provides a cozy spot for caregivers to enjoy reading with their youngsters.

day of the month from 9-11 a.m. All supplies and materials required to make lovely, one-of-a-kind greeting cards will be provided for the \$5 cost for each class.

At 6:30 on Thursday, April 17, Cookbook Club will be meeting to discuss the Taste of Home Copycat cookbook. Stop by the library to pick out a recipe to make and share with the group on April 17.

Reads Well With Others evening book club will meet at 5 p.m. to discuss "The Briar Club," a haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, D.C., boardinghouse set during the McCarthy era. Everyone in this all-woman boardinghouse keeps to themselves until the lovely widow Grace March moves into the attic room and draws her odd collection of neighbors into unlikely friendships.

Be sure to sign up for the Guthrie County ISU Extension program, Window Floral Box Planter, in the Taylor Meeting room on Tuesday, April 29, at 5:15 p.m. Participants will be planting a floral window box to take home. Sign up soon to secure your spot. A \$15 registration fee is required.

Friends of the Library will have their regular meeting at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, May 5. The meeting topic will focus on the June 14 golf tournament. Registration for the tournament is



Cindy Steensen's intricate quilt is on loan to the library through the month of April. The pattern is Celestial Garden. Cindy created this quilt using strip pricing and paper piecing; it was quilted by Laura Brenner.

open at the library website.

Be sure to explore the seed library at MJB Library. We encourage people to take some seeds for their gardens. We have herbs, vegetables and flowers. Patrons are welcome to donate any leftover seeds to the library. After harvest, seeds that have been saved and dried are welcomed.

As people are spring cleaning, the library would welcome donations of Guthrie Center High School Yearbooks, LEGOs and Hot Wheel cars and tracks.

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RECIPE **ASIAN GROUND TURKEY BOWL IS HEALTHY AND FLAVORFUL**

BY JOLENE GOODMAN Guthrie Center Times

When our girls were younger, and we were running from one activity to the next seemingly every night, we treated ourselves, often to Chinese take-out. Shane and the girls loved the sweet sauce on orange chicken. My choice was cashew chicken, and we all devoured the fried rice.

.....

We like Asian food, but, it has not been something I cook at home. This recipe caught my eye the other day, so I thought I would test it out. My family loved it!

I appreciate this Asian ground turkey bowl recipe for its perfect balance of flavors and textures. The savory turkey, cooked with garlic, ginger, hoisin sauce and soy sauce, brings a rich base that pairs well with the freshness of crunchy vegetables. It is a healthy yet satisfying dish with lean ground turkey providing a great



Jolene toppings - like cucum-Goodman

bers and lettuce - add just the right amount of crunch. It is one of those meals that feels indulgent but is actually good for you with

source of protein.

only 366 calories and 32 grams of protein per serving. Enjoy and let me know what you think.

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

ASIAN GROUND TURKEY BOWL

Ingredients

- 2 pounds lean ground turkey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1.5 cups carrots, shredded
- .5 cup water chestnuts, chopped
- 4 teaspoons minced ginger
- 4 teaspoons minced garlic .
- 4 tablespoons low sodium soy sauce
- .75 cup hoisin sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 4 cups rice (any variety I use Jasmine)
- 1-2 cups lettuce, finely chopped
- 1-2 cups cucumbers, diced

Directions Make sauce by combing hoisin sauce, soy sauce, rice vinegar and sesame oil. Save for later. Heat olive oil over medium high heat.



Add turkey once hot and brown for 3-5 minutes. Push the turkey to the sides of the pan. Add red and green bell peppers, green onions, water chestnuts, garlic and ginger. Stir together and cook for 4-7 minutes. Cook until turkey is cooked. The vegetables should be tender-crisp.

Add sauce and cook 2-3 minutes. Sauce will thicken and coat the turkey and vegetables nicely. Serve turkey and vegetables on top of a bed of rice. Top with lettuce and cucumbers. You can add additional carrots and green onions if desired. Serves eight.

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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the vehicle in the photo in last month's contest is Frontier Outfitters at 1503 310th Road, north of Adair. Kim Wedemeyer was the first person with the correct answer. 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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Friday, Aug 1 Panorama Days @ 7pm • Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 6pm

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■ 記念 ■







GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

2025 Summer Day Camp								
Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost		Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cos		
June 5 th 9am-12pm	Up, Down, Spin Around K-3rd	\$20		July 17 th 9:30am-3:30pm	Clover Cookie Factory 4th-8th	\$25		
June 12 th 9am-2pm	Science of BBQ 4th-8th	\$25		July 22nd 9am-12pm	Growing in the Garden 4th-12th	\$25		
June 19 th 9am-12pm	Fun with Bots K-3rd	\$20		July 24 th 9am-12pm	Art Explosion K-3rd	\$20		
June 26 th 9am-2pm	Ag Everyday 4th-8th	\$20		July 29 th 1pm-4pm	Hour at the Fair K-3rd	\$20		
July 10 th 9am-12pm	Kids in the Kitchen K-3rd	\$20		July 31 st 9am-2pm	Ricochet 6th-8th	\$25		

**ALL Camps will be held at the Guthrie County Extension Office, unless noted otherwise * The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the 4-H Youth Development County Extension Program

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BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

On the morning of March 21, the Guthrie County Farm Bureau held its annual Grocery Cart Races fundraiser event at Hometown Foods in Guthrie Center. Teams competed to race through the store and "shop" for groceries to total as close to \$100 as possible without going over \$100. Teams had a base of four minutes to shop but also earned extra time by correctly answering quiz questions immediately before the shopping began.

The annual event had a goal of raising \$3,000 to support local food pantries. ■



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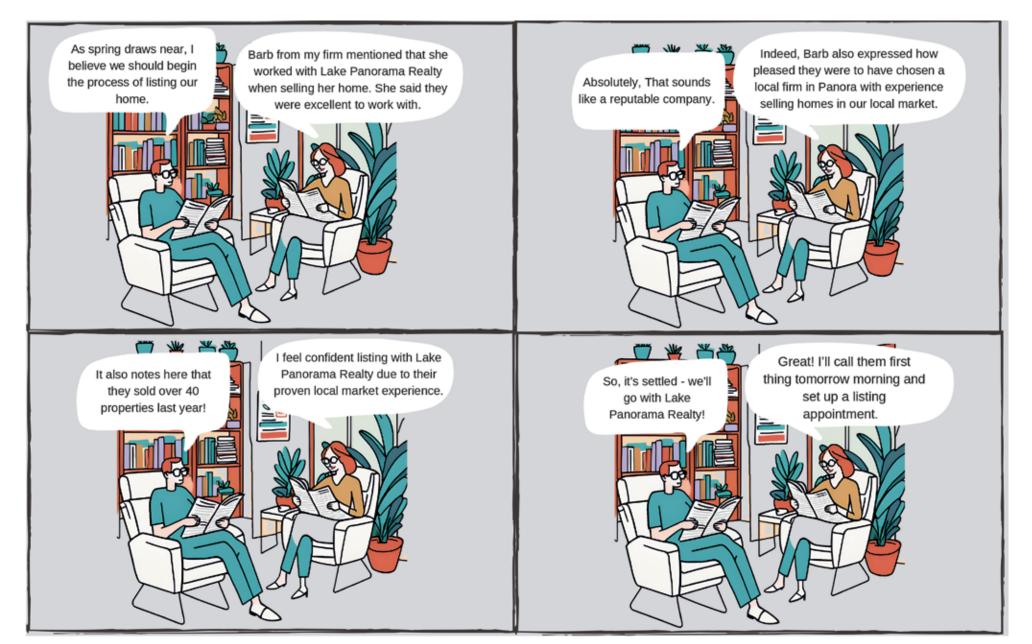
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