

Guthrie Center TIMES

FREE!

JUNE 2025

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SUMMER JOBS

**AREA RESIDENTS SHARE HOW
THESE WORK EXPERIENCES
POSITIVELY IMPACTED THEM**

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SALAD IN TOWN**

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Yale 4th of July CELEBRATION!

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025

Slow Pitch Softball Tournament.

Concessions provided. Team sign up by June 26th call 641-431-0387 Scheduled Games to be assigned.

Ball Field

7 p.m. – 11 p.m. — RUKKUS Street Dance & Beer Garden Mickey's will serve limited menu. Please feel free to bring lawn chairs. **Main Street**

Look for updates at yaleiowa.com



FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025

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8:30 a.m. • Pickleball Tournament

Any skill level, register by June 30th jijadamson@hotmail.com **City Park**

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. • Parade Registration

Parade Begins at 11:00 a.m. **School Campus**

Noon • Horse Show

Concessions provided by Yale Saddle Club **Horse Arena**

2 p.m. • Bags Tournament

515-709-1912 to register. **Christian Church**

1 p.m. – 4 p.m. • Ironside Axe Throwing

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3 p.m. – 5 p.m. • Horseshoes **City Park Horseshoe Pits**

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2 p.m. • Kids Pedal Pull Registration at 1:00 p.m.

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. • Free Craft Time & Cookie Decorating

Noon – 4 p.m. • Dunk Tank Panorama Jr. Class Fundraiser **Main Street**

1 p.m. • Bathtub Races Panorama Jr. Class Fundraiser. Registration at Noon **Main Street**

3 p.m. • Five One Foam Party Join us for a bubble explosion dance party! **Main Street**

11 a.m. • Deardorff Highland Cattle Pulled Pork, Burgers, Highland Phillies and assorted sides. **Main Street**

11 a.m. • Mickey's

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SUMMER JOBS. VETERANS. AND THE BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY

Like many of you, my first summer jobs consisted of mowing lawns, walking beans and detasseling corn. It felt good to have some money in my pocket, and the responsibility of a job was good to learn at an early age. Sure, I would have rather been sleeping in and messing around with my friends, but that wasn't an option. I thank my parents for instilling that work ethic in me as a youth and for providing me with transportation to the farms and the use of a lawn mower to get me started.

In this month's cover story, we share how other area residents were positively impacted by their summer jobs and how, years later, they recall specific incidents that make them still smile today.

VETERANS SECTION

Last year, we published our first effort at a Guthrie County Veteran Salute, complete with photos of local veterans through the years who have had ties to Guthrie County. You can view last year's edition by scanning this QR code.

After the section published, we continued to collect photos for our second effort. I am proud to say that we now have nearly 300 photos to include in this year's edition. If you or someone you know is a veteran with ties to



Shane Goodman



the county, and you would like to see that person included, please visit www.gctimesnews.com/veterans and submit the information. Or, if you need help, just give us a call at 641-332-2707.

BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY RETURNS

Our Best of Guthrie County poll is now up to 442 votes, which is an incredible start. We had a total of 471 votes last year, and we will certainly exceed that with a strong push in the final weeks. We appreciate your support of the people, businesses, places and events of Guthrie County by voting in our poll.

If you haven't voted yet, there is still time. There are 82 categories to vote in ranging from best place to take your dog,

to best plumber, to best dinner spot. You can even vote for best teacher, best coach and even best elected official. Your vote can make a difference. Cast it now at <https://gctimesnews.com/best-of>.

As always, I thank you for reading. ■

Shane

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SUMMER JOBS

Area residents share how their early work experiences positively impacted them.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

The term “summer job” seems simple. It just means a job worked during the summer. But, in the real world, it means much more. For most, a summer job is the first time a teen enters the workforce and the first time the teen starts earning enough money to taste independence.

Summer jobs may bring funds to save toward a car, college, or a trip. Also, a summer job is often a person’s first real experience with grown-up responsibilities such as work attendance, tax withholding, professional versus personal behavior, customer relations and finding a work-life balance.

For some, a summer job may be a way to try out a possible career path or gain skills needed for future jobs.

Here are a few local examples of summer jobs and the impact they have.

JERRI HAWKINS

Jerri Hawkins is the library director at the MJB Library in Guthrie Center, and she enjoys working for the city.

“Both of my parents graduated here in Guthrie Center. I grew up and graduated here, too,” Hawkins said.

She shared the jobs she held during her high school days.

“I did a few different jobs, and I was in a lot of 4-H stuff, too. I detasseled corn. I remember riding a little shuttle bus with Betty Simmons up to the northern part of the county. I did that for a few years with my brother and Laurie Schafer,” Hawkins said.

“I also worked at the swimming pool all four years of high school as a lifeguard. And I also worked at the grocery store back when



Jerri Hawkins is happy to again work for the city of Guthrie Center, this time as the library director.

it was Reinhart’s Foods. When they started doing that outdoor grilling thing, I would set up the grill and other stuff out there. I also cashiered there off and on.”

Hawkins said her earnings during her high school years usually went toward en-

tertainment and things she wanted to save up for. She experienced the satisfaction of working for what she wanted.

“A lot of my money went to things that you were enjoying in high school,” she said.

“I had to buy my own car, so I had to save up

for that. And gas, and then, if there were activities going on at the school, like prom or stuff, I had to pay for my own dress.”

Hawkins remembers the detasseling job was hard work. For those unfamiliar with detasseling, it means removing the tassels

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from the top of young corn plants, usually in June, so the corn kernels will be pollinated from other corn plants in rows that have not been detasseled. This allows for creating hybrids of corn to achieve certain traits, such as drought resistance.

Hawkins recalled the job was difficult but rewarding.

"Detasseling corn is a little hard for short people like me," Hawkins said. "You get up really early, normally before the sun is up because you want to get out there before it's too hot."

"The corn will be wet from the morning dew. You reach up and pull out the tassels at the top. So, your arms get cut up if you don't wear long sleeves."

Hawkins recalled the job usually involved a lot of walking as well.

"There were a few times we got to ride on a machine that would drive you through, but that was also hard because it moved pretty fast," she said. "But, most of the time, you were walking and pulling tassels."

The reward for all the pain and effort was money.

"Detasseling usually paid pretty well, because it was hard work and a lot of kids didn't want to get up that early," Hawkins said.

Despite the physical challenges of the job, Hawkins recalled the kids still found ways to have fun.

"Kids would spook each other pretty good out in the fields," she said. "They'd tuck around the corner, so you never knew what was going to jump out at you. It was interesting."

Hawkins fondly recalled her time working at the swimming pool. She was a lifeguard and also taught swimming lessons. She said the staff took their work seriously, but many of the kids who came to the pool could be "a handful" at times. She has enjoyed seeing some of those kids grow up into responsible adults.

"I always enjoyed working with the kids for their swim lessons. And, at the pool, we had some kids that were the troublemakers

that you needed to remind the rules to or set them out for a little timeout, but I always enjoyed it," Hawkins said. "It kind of makes me laugh. Some of them are in law enforcement and things like that."

Hawkins recalled that one of the challenges being a teen lifeguard was simply boredom on slow days.

"Rainy days were tough when nobody came to the pool, but those were also some of the best days because the water was warmer than outside, so you wanted to be in the pool," Hawkins said. "Or we'd play Uno or something until the city told us to close down."

Hawkins took her lifeguarding duties seriously but she said emergencies were rare, fortunately.

"I don't recall having to save anybody too much. Most everybody is a pretty good swimmer and follows the rules. The baby pool is where we'd have to jump in sometimes," Hawkins said. "I enjoyed all four years I worked at the pool. American Red Cross was hard. It took a lot of practice and hard work to pass that test. I worked hard to become a lifeguard because I just idolized the ones that taught me how to swim."

JAYLA HOOVER

Jayla Hoover, a 2025 ACGC graduate, will be attending Iowa State University this fall, aiming for a degree in nutritional science. But she is certainly not taking the summer off before college begins.

"I actually have three jobs this summer. I work here at the golf course (Guthrie Center Golf Course), I work at Guthrie County Quality Meats, and I work at Cabbage Rose," Hoover said.

Hoover estimates she works a total of approximately 30 hours a week, on average. But in addition to working, she is also a member of the ACGC softball team, so practices and games fill up much of her non-working time.

Hoover said managing her busy schedule can be challenging at times, but she appreciates that all of her workplaces are coop-



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Jayla Hoover greets golfers at Guthrie Center Golf Course.

erative.

"Everyone is very lenient; all of my bosses are very understanding," she said. "They're all good to work for."

Although the three jobs are different, the one thing in common is customer relations. Hoover said she has improved her skills in that area through her work.

"I've learned how to talk to people more," she said. "I've improved my social skills, just small talk and being polite with customers."

The differences in her three jobs provide Hoover with a nice change of pace.

Hoover said working at the golf course and the meat locker tends to be fairly steady, but waiting tables at Cabbage Rose can become very busy at times, and she strives for accuracy even when busy.

"At Cabbage Rose, I'm a waitress. So that's a bit more hectic and running around. I've worked there since I was in eighth grade. The hardest part of being a server is making sure you're getting everything to where it needs to be," Hoover said.

"At Cabbage Rose and the locker, I like getting tasks done, making sure people have a good time and that everything's running smoothly."

Hoover said the golf course is the most relaxing job.

"Here at the golf course, it's pretty low-key. I rent out carts and get people drinks and food. I've worked here since my freshman year," Hoover said. "At the meat locker, I work at the counter and cash register. But I'd have to say I like all three jobs."

Hoover's jobs provide her with paychecks and cash, in the form of tips at Cabbage Rose.

"If I get any cash, I usually use that for spending money. But my checks usually go into savings for college," she said.

Although future years are difficult to predict, Hoover expects that she will be back in Guthrie Center for the summers during her college years.

"I'll probably be back for the summers to work here, until I actually get into a job or an internship," she said.

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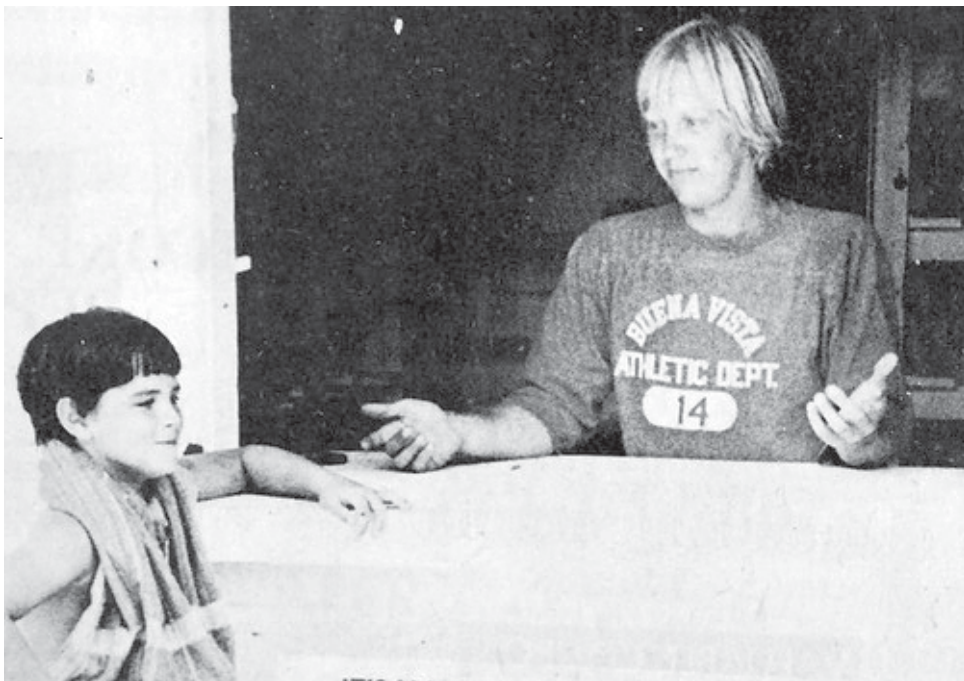
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Steve Smith talks with a young swimmer at the pool in August of 1975.

STEVE SMITH

When Steve Smith of Guthrie Center was a college student attending Buena Vista College (now Buena Vista University), he already knew he was aiming for a career in education. During those years, he worked summers at the Guthrie Center Swimming Pool. Smith taught lessons, lifeguarded and served as pool manager.

“Nowadays, a lot of college kids will get internships, which allows them to test the waters in a job. I don’t think those opportunities were as prevalent back then,” Smith said. “That job was a summer job that I took when I was in college, and I believe one year after college.

“I just fell into it, but I was kind of looking for something that I could use as a resume-builder in terms of where I was headed for my career, because I had pretty much landed on the idea of being an educator. Knowing that managing a swimming pool was going to be similar to having your own classroom, it was a good experience. I dealt with



Steve Smith is grateful for the lessons he learned in his summer job.

kids, parents, the staff and the city.”

Smith noted that his time at the pool taught him valuable skills in managing a team and in responding to crises.

“I think you grow into those things, learning how to manage people. That was a great beginning for me,” Smith said. “You had to be able to react in the moment. I remember there were kids who might have a seizure in



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the pool. That carried over into the school. You will always have unexpected things come up, especially when dealing with a large population.”

Besides learning skills and adding to his resume, the job also allowed Smith to pad his wallet.

“Summer jobs are a way for all of us in trying to manage our lifestyle and our money. Most of us were still living with our parents, so our needs weren’t really great. So, what we did earn, we tried to save or buy something for a dorm room or something for fun,” Smith said. “I just knew that I needed additional money at college, for the school year, so I just tried to save up as much as I could.”

However, Smith recalled that the nature of the job made paychecks somewhat unpredictable. Weather-related closings meant less pay for all of the staff.

“Because it was a part-time job and we didn’t have such things as sick time or PTO, when the pool had to be closed, we didn’t get paid,” Smith said. “But I would say that sometimes that day off was needed by some of the staff just because we had long hours. At that time, we would start at 10 or even 9 in the morning, and then in the afternoon and evening you actually guarded the pool. The days could be about 9 to 9, and the pool was open seven days a week.”

Smith also recalled learning about the

many things that can be included in “other duties as assigned” during a job. Due to budget tightening, he was eventually asked to help mow the park. So, on those days, he would take himself out of the lifeguarding rotation for the time he would be mowing. He noted that, even while mowing, he was close enough to the pool to get there in a moment if trouble arose.

“That was my first experience of ‘other duties as assigned,’ and that continued into the world of education, too,” Smith said. “In order to make an organization work, you’ve all got to do your part.”

Smith recalled a favorite story about helping two young swimmers get over their fear of the water.

“I was giving private swimming lessons to two boys, I’m guessing 5 or 6 years old, and, like most kids, they were a little frightened of the water. They would jump from the edge of the pool into my hands, and then I’d lower them into the water,” Smith said. “One day, I encouraged them to go off the low diving board. They got up there, and they took a lot of convincing, but they jumped, and I caught them, initially, but as we continued to do that, I didn’t catch them, and I let them jump straight in, and then come up. And to this day, they both remember the day that I didn’t catch them. They’re like 50-year-old men now, and it’s funny to talk to them because they’ll bring it up.” ■

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Q: WHERE CAN I PROPERLY RETIRE A TATTERED AMERICAN FLAG LOCALLY?

A: A flag disposal box is located inside Guthrie Center City Hall. Haver Lumber in Guthrie Center accepts them as well. Generally, American Legion Posts and VFW Posts accept U.S. flags for disposal, as do Walmart stores and USPS post office locations.

If you choose to retire your American flag yourself, these steps are in accordance with the United States Flag Code (4 USC Sec 8 Para (k), Amended July 7, 1976).

- Build a medium-sized fire in a safe, approved location. The fire will need to have reached a proper size and level of heat so it will fully burn the flag without leaving any remnants of the flag intact.
- If the flag is currently flying, respectfully lower the flag and remove it from the pole. Fold the flag in the traditional triangle fold.
- Place the folded flag on top of the fire, being careful to not injure yourself. Watch the flag to make sure it is fully incinerated.
- While the flag is in the process of being burned, observe the flag with respect and reverence.
- While the flag is being incinerated, recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Once the process of burning the flag is complete and no part of the flag remains, safely put the fire out completely.

Q: WHEN ARE THE FARMERS MARKETS IN THE AREA?

A: The Guthrie Center farmers markets

began June 14 and will be held every other week from 9-11 a.m. in downtown Guthrie Center.

Adair's farmers markets are held on Sundays from 4-7 p.m. at the Adair City Park, 401 Fourth St., and will begin July 13 and run through Oct. 12.

Casey is currently looking for someone to coordinate their farmers market. In years past, it has been every other Saturday from 9-11 a.m., July through August, at the Casey Railroad/Kite Park, 300 E. Second St.

Q: WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE AIRPORT WITH ALL THE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT?

A: We asked this question to Matt Pearey, the airport board chair, and he provided details.

"The current construction project is the re-paving of the airport apron," Pearey said. "The timeline, weather permitting, is to have the project completed by the end of July."

An airport's apron (also known as the ramp or tarmac) is the area where aircraft can be parked, loaded and unloaded, and serviced.

The total cost of the project, including design and construction, is expected to be around \$1.6 million. Pearey explained why the project was needed.

"It began as just fixing the existing ramp, as that concrete was getting to a point where it could be hazardous for smaller aircraft," he said. "We are actually extending the ramp area further to the south to move the fuel pump station."

The project is 90% grant-funded, with the airport receiving three federal grants through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). ■

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THE BIG GUNS ARE HERE — AFFLECK. CRUISE. CAGE. VAUGHN. LILO. STITCH.



“The Accountant 2”

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

The month of May in the movie theaters means we see the first “big guns” of summer. We also see a couple of anticipated sequels and a few art films before we get to Tom Cruise, Lilo and Stitch and the rest of the avalanche of May films. You’ve got a little bit of both this month.

“THE ACCOUNTANT 2”

Ben Affleck delivers a much-anticipated sequel to his action/comedy movie of the same name (minus the 2) from 2016. Jon Bernthal reprises his role as Affleck’s brother. Action fans who were confused by the film’s title might have missed out, but this is your chance to catch up on both films. Great action, maybe better comedy. **Grade: A-**



“ON SWIFT HORSES”

I accidentally stumbled into an art-film about a woman and two brothers in Kansas during the end of the Korea war.



“On Swift Horses”

The film swings wildly (no pun intended) from sex to gambling to hidden homosexual trysts. It is a challenging film, for sure. Several people walked out of the screening I attended. **Grade: B-**



“THUNDERBOLTS”

The first big summer movie from Marvel is about a group of misfit super heroes who are tasked with saving the world. Florence Pugh again is the best thing in the movie, but the script takes an offbeat (and greatly appreciated) twist near the end when it seems to address the morass of the youth in our society and their propensity toward violence and self-harm. Unless I completely misread this movie, it was an interesting statement about this generation. **Grade: B+** (mostly for the last part of the film)



“THE SURFER”

Nic Cage can, at times, surprise us all



“Thunderbolts”



“Juliet and Romeo”

with a great performance in a great role. This is not one of those times. Cage plays a man who is down on his luck and trying to purchase the home he grew up in on the California coast. He wants his son to have the same experience that he had growing up. A beach full of bullies and a town seemingly under control of them ruin the story and, unfortunately, the film. **Grade: F**



“JULIET AND ROMEO”

This charming film takes yet another twist on the classic Shakespeare tale of forbidden love. The faces are fresh,



“The Surfer”



“Nonnas”

the story is original, and the musical soundtrack plays a strong part in the film’s appeal. This will probably head to video soon where it might find a larger audience than it did in the theaters. **Grade: B**



“NONNAS”

Vince Vaughn gives us one of the most charming films of the summer on Netflix about a man who loses his grandmother, the woman who fed him some of the best food he ever tasted. In honor of this great lady, he buys and rehabs a rundown building and turns it in to a restaurant.

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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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"Hurry up Tomorrow"



"Lilo and Stitch"



"Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning"



"The Last Rodeo"

To complete the homage, he hires grandmothers to cook and work in the restaurant. To make it even better, it is based on a real-life story and restaurant in New York City. **Grade: B+**



"HURRY UP TOMORROW"

A Murph and Andy listener asked me to review this movie, and it was the rare weekend where nothing else was opening. It was a crazy movie, full of talent but way short of greatness. The singer known as The Weeknd is at the end of his rope. Strung out on drugs and alcohol, he is literally stumbling through life when he meets a beautiful young woman, played by Jenna Ortega (Wednesday Addams on Netflix) who



takes him home one night. From that point, the movie completely falls apart. I walked out. **Grade: D-**

"LILO AND STITCH"

The summer's first huge hit (\$146 million on the opening weekend) is a live action adaptation of the extremely popular animated kids series about a creature from space that lands on Earth and creates chaos. It's definitely a movie for the kids and a little difficult to comprehend for those of us without young kids at home anymore. Let me just tell you that the wee ones came dressed for fun, and fun was had, indeed. **Grade: B**



"MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE — THE FINAL RECKONING"

The summer's second huge hit with

a \$63 million opening weekend is the latest from Tom Cruise and, allegedly, the last film in this lengthy series. Without the gory details, the entire planet is in jeopardy and there is only one person on our planet who can save it. Any guess who? Like most (if not all) "Mission Impossible" movies, it is long on action and short of a credible storyline. Admittedly, this has been a record-breaking and occasionally entertaining series, but I won't miss it.

Grade: A for action, C- for story



"THE LAST RODEO"

Neal McDonough plays a washed-up, long-retired, champion bull rider who, at 50 years old, must come out of retirement to help pay for his grandson's brain surgery. The movie is as corny

and cheesy as they come, but the actors do such a good job that you find yourself getting sucked into the action. I've not watched much bull riding, but it looks intense and dangerous. This is an Angel Studios film, so you get a good serving of religion and a satisfying finale. **Grade: B-**



I'll be back next month with more summer hits and a few misses as well. Until then, pass the popcorn. ■

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



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COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS DISCUSS WEATHER CLOSINGS, TRAVEL POLICY, OVERTIME, ANIMAL CONTROL

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

MAY 13 - SCHOOL HEALTH FAIRS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES REQUEST, OVERTIME

During the May 13 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Jotham Arber, Health Services Director, provided a departmental update including a plan to hold school health fairs to help offer vaccinations.

“We’re going to try doing something really cool this year. We’re going to offer school health fairs at each of our schools. I’m trying to get all of the details,” Arber said. “We’d like to take someone to be able to do vaccinations, physicals, dental and offer it as a health fair right before school. Whether that’s on the school premises or just in the town, we’ll figure that out with the school.”

More details on the school health fairs will be shared as plans are made.

Christy Jenkins and Chad Jensen, representing New Opportunities, requested

funds through the Guthrie County Opioid Settlement Funds. They explained the reasoning behind their request of \$25,000 to help get the mentoring system back up to speed after the pandemic. The supervisors chose to table the issue so that more information on appropriate usage of the funds can be reviewed.

Supervisor Mike Dickson asked that the May 8 payroll be considered separately from other items in the consent agenda.

“I just don’t agree with some that are still using time off and getting overtime,” he said.

“Is that an existing policy that you don’t agree with or is someone violating the policy?” Maggie Armstrong asked.

“It’s an existing policy I don’t agree with,” Dickson said.

The supervisors approved the payroll by a 4-1 vote, with Dickson opposed.

The supervisors discussed prioritizing items as part of the 2025 Strategy and Project Planning. Some items were listed as “low-hanging fruit,” and others were designated as items that would take more time

and effort.

As listed on the meeting agenda, and at the request of legal counsel Jeff Stone, the supervisors went into a closed session regarding “Litigation Related to Shive Hat-tery.”

MAY 20 - WEATHER CLOSINGS, TRAVEL POLICY, WORKER’S COMPENSATION

During the May 20 meeting, board chair Maggie Armstrong led a discussion of the county’s procedure for closing during severe weather.

“From my understanding, this is how it’s been done in the past. It’s been up to the Board of Supervisors to determine if the courthouse, specifically, would close,” Armstrong said. “I would like to expand that and not just talk about the courthouse but treat all campuses the same.”

The supervisors discussed that some staff would be expected to continue working during severe weather. Armstrong asked that a list of “essential workers” or “essential jobs” be identified.

The supervisors discussed the county’s travel policy and some potential changes. Armstrong asked for opinions regarding in-state versus out-of-state travel. There was related discussion regarding lodging and meal allowances during work travel.

Becky Benton of State Street Insurance reported to the supervisors regarding the county’s Workers Compensation renewal. She reported on a savings for the county.

“This year, for about the third or fourth year, the rates have gone down, so that’s positive. The payroll figure that was submitted is lower than in 2024. So you put those two together... and the base premium is about \$6,000 lower,” Benton said.

At 10 a.m., as part of the meeting, the supervisors walked outside to view storm shelter options and view a demonstration.

MAY 27 - ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE, BUDGET AMENDMENT, FENCE DISPUTE

The supervisors discussed moving forward with creating an Animal Protection and Control ordinance for the county.



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GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL HEARS COMPLIANCE ISSUES COMPLAINT, AGREES TO ‘MORAL OBLIGATION LETTER’ FOR LITTLE CHARGER DAYCARE, CONSIDERS SECURITY CAMERAS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

MAY 12 - DAYCARE FUNDING, PERSONAL VEHICLE PARKING, CATTLE ZONING

On May 12, the Guthrie Center City Council met in regular session. The topic generating the most discussion was the status of funding for the Little Charger Daycare Center. Little Charger Board President Bethany McCool explained.

“We are currently at the point where our construction loan has matured. Construction has ended, so we need to transfer that to a loan of some sort,” she said.

Guthrie County State Bank President Mike Underwood explained that the bank would like to provide such a loan but had reached that decision partially based on an understanding that the city would back it.

“I had a conversation with Kris (Arrasmith) prior to us doing a loan, with the understanding that once the project was com-

pleted, if there was a shortfall, then the city would do a loan to the daycare,” Underwood said. “Then when we emailed Kris to put that in motion, we were told no, that wasn’t the understanding.”

“All of my notes said we would help them with like, a bridge loan,” Arrasmith said.

Little Charger Director Laura Robson explained that what the center now needs is an “end loan” rather than a “bridge loan.”

Underwood asked who had said the city could not provide the assistance as originally planned.

“The bond attorney and the auditor and also our financial advisor all said, ‘Not a great use of taxpayer dollars,’ ” Arrasmith said.

Mayor Mike Herbert asked if it is possible for the center to get a loan elsewhere. Underwood said it is not.

Councilmember Garold Thomas asked if it is acceptable for the city to have time to look further into what the city can legally and appropriately do to help with the center’s situation.

“If my choices are no tonight or delay it, I’ll take the delay,” Underwood said.

OTHER ITEMS

Discussion was held regarding the first reading of a proposed ordinance on parking of personal vehicles. Several council members voiced concerns with the wording, and the matter was tabled.

The council discussed a request from Jeff Ruhland for a zoning classification change to allow a small number of cattle on land near the REC. After discussion, the council asked that Arrasmith check with the city attorney for more information. No formal action was taken.

A public hearing was held regarding a budget amendment. No comments were received, and the amendment was approved.

Arrasmith informed the council regarding plans for citywide garage sales and citywide clean-up.

MAY 27 - ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS,

MORE ON DAYCARE FUNDING, FIREWORKS

During the May 27 meeting, resident Renea Winkelblack addressed the council regarding what she views as unequal treatment regarding ordinance violations. She noted that, in April, she informed the city’s compliance officer of several properties in violation of city ordinances, and no apparent action has occurred.

“Here we are, a month later, and the places that I complained about still are not taken care of,” Winkelblack said.

Winkelblack said she feels singled-out by Compliance Officer Wes Clark for compliance violations.

“There’s a lot of other people in this town that have the same stuff in their yard that I have in mine, but he’s coming after me and wanting to fine me all this money,” Winkelblack said.

Mayor Mike Herbert said he would discuss the matter with Clark.

The council heard an update from City



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Administrator Kris Arrasmith regarding the funding for the Little Charger daycare center. Arrasmith said she had been in contact with bond attorney, J Danos, and received advice on how the city could best handle the situation.

“He’s very well versed in these things. Long story short, the easiest and cleanest for a public entity is to do a ‘moral obligation,’ Arrasmith said. “He would write it up for us.”

Arrasmith explained what the suggested step would entail.

“Basically, what it says is, should they (Little Charger) get into trouble, the council would give full consideration to assisting them however they could financially. It’s not binding; it’s kind of a gentleman’s agreement,” Arrasmith said.

The council consensus was to move forward on the moral obligation letter.

The council discussed a request to allow livestock on a property zoned C-3 near the Rural Electric Cooperative on the eastern edge of Guthrie Center. Arrasmith said, if the council chooses to allow this, it would simply be an agreement and not an ordinance change. The council voted to allow the livestock as requested.

Arrasmith informed the council that state law now allows non-commercial fireworks to be used from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on July 3, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4, and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. on New Year’s Eve. She explained that cities can have ordinances that are less restrictive than this, but not more restrictive.

JUNE 9 - SECURITY CAMERAS, MORAL OBLIGATION OF LOAN AGREEMENT, CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES AND CLEANUP, COVERED FENCE

Streets department head Darrin Sloss asked the council to consider approving installation of a camera at the “city shop” to deter theft or vandalism. He said some recent incidents have occurred, and a camera could record license plates or other information to help apprehend those committing crimes at the shop. The council approved the request.

Mayor Mike Herbert informed the council that Sheriff Matt Harmann and Chief Deputy Todd Thorn asked Herbert to discuss with the council the possibility of the city purchasing and installing cameras in certain areas of the city, which the Sheriff’s Department could view, to help deter or apprehend criminals.

“They recently had a hit-and-run just north of the courthouse, and if they had a camera, they might have an idea who was around and in town at that time. Panora has eight cameras in their town, and they said they use them extensively,” Herbert said.

The council discussed the idea and asked about the approximate cost. Herbert said the type of camera requested would cost approximately \$1,300 each. Herbert said he will ask Harmann to attend an upcoming city council meeting for further discussion.

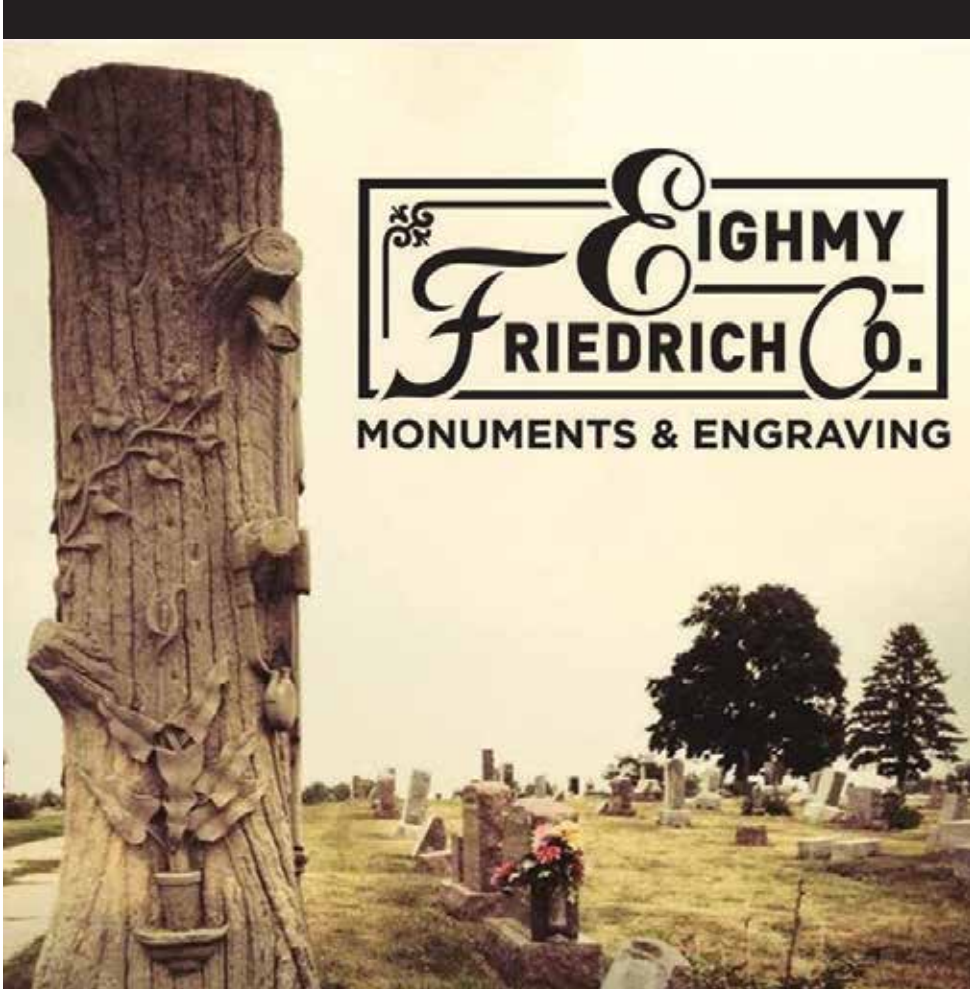
As previously discussed, the council approved Resolution 2025-10 “Moral Obligation of Loan Agreement with Little Charger ELC.”

Sloss asked the council to consider approving the purchase of a mini excavator and trailer with the cost to be split equally between the city and the Utility Board. City Administrator Kris Arrasmith said the purchase would “pay for itself” quickly since the city would no longer need to rent such machinery for projects. The council approved the city’s share of \$13,750 for the excavator and \$3,080 for the trailer.

Arrasmith reported that sign-ups for city-wide garage sales and citywide cleanup are coming in. She reported 20 signups for garage sales and 47 for cleanup.

The council discussed a homeowner’s request to allow a covered fence at 506 North Second St. The purpose would be to prevent the homeowner’s dogs from barking at passersby. Council members noted that the city ordinance prohibits covering a fence. There was no motion to approve the request, so no action was taken.

The next regular meeting of the city council is set for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 23. The public is welcome. ■



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EDUCATION

ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS DISCUSS CONSOLIDATION, POTENTIAL LOSS OF \$400,000 IN REVENUE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the May 21 meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, lengthy discussion was held about the status regarding potential consolidation of the two districts. Board members discussed that, if consolidation were to happen now, the districts would lose out on approximately \$400,000 in whole grade sharing revenue.

Guthrie Center Board Member Brian Sheeder shared his opinion.

"I know we're concentrating on the operational sharing dollars, and that is a consideration, but our future moving forward, being tied to our inability to act because we're two separate districts, will come at a greater cost, in my personal opinion," Sheeder said.

Adair-Casey Board Member Randy Carney said when Gov. Reynolds' term ends, the new governor may have different priorities, and that could impact this issue. No board action was taken at this time.

High School Principal Brian Sauser reported that all 51 seniors met the requirements for graduation. He added that Awards Night and Senior Breakfast and Commencement events all went smoothly.

Students Angel Martinez and Becca Litterer addressed the board and shared details of their recent DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) trip to Orlando, Florida, April 25-29. They talked about the educational sessions they attended, as well as fun times at Disney World, Universal Studios and Clearwater Beach.

Austin Sonntag (Snyder and Associates Engineering) said they received contracts and bonds from McKinnis Roofing and Sheet Metal, which is the lowest bidder for the Adair-Casey roofing project to be done this summer.

"Everything looks good on our end," Sonntag said.

Sonnag was asked about the project's expected completion date and potential penalties if the completion date isn't met. He said the expected completion date is Aug. 18, and liquidated damages of \$500 per day are in the contract.

The Adair-Casey School Board approved the contract and bonds for the elementary

school roofing project.

Sauser provided an update on the re-vamped class schedule plan for the high school beginning in the fall. On Tuesdays through Fridays, high school students will have four 90-minute blocks of classes. The classes a student attends on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be different than those the student attends on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"In a nutshell, it's odd and even days, 90-minute blocks on four out of the five days per week with Mondays being a day when all eight blocks meet," Sauser said.

Sauser noted that the new schedule will result in more instructional time than the current system. He also shared the feedback he has received from teachers.

"I haven't had any negative reactions," Sauser said. "I haven't had anybody that was close-minded."

Sauser summarized the benefits he sees in the new class schedule.

"Instruction all year long. Kids have a little more time to get work done. The biggest feedback I've gotten is the elimination of the 'skinny block' was very well received. Every class is worth one credit. This will be a lot cleaner," Sauser said.

The Guthrie Center School Board approved the schedule as presented.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen talked about social media concerns students have encountered, and he made suggestions for parents.

"Talk to your kids about what is right and what is wrong, and all those simple things. I follow my kids on most social media so I can kind of keep track of what's going on," he said.

Rasmussen discussed the new cell phone policy, based on recent legislation approved by Gov. Reynolds. He said the board will discuss it further next month.

As part of the consent items, the Adair-Casey School Board approved the hiring of Shirley Chesnut and Vickie Richter as summer custodial staff. The Guthrie Center School Board approved resignations including Barb South (guidance counselor), Michelle Spack (elementary secretary), Jacob Lacey (assistant cross country coach), Kylie South (paraeducator), and Wendy Beeler (paraeducator). ■

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GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL PREPS FOR GOV. REYNOLDS VISIT

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the May 22 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, CEO Chris Stipe talked about the upcoming May 28 visit from Gov. Kim Reynolds.

“We do have quite an event planned here Wednesday. Invitation only,” Stipe said. “The governor will be signing a couple of bills that impact healthcare positively, and she wanted to do that at one of the hospitals, and we were lucky to be asked to participate.”

Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson provided a monthly report. He said that nearing the end of the fiscal year, the hospital’s financial statements look good.

“If historical trends and current indicators are correct, we should be finishing the year strong,” he said. “May is also going well.”

CEO Chris Stipe pointed out that the current fiscal year status is much better than a year ago.

“From an income statement perspective, you look at where we were last year. We had a \$1.5 million loss,” Stipe said. “So, it’s pretty

good.”

Chief Nursing Officer Sandy Atkinson told of training that the nursing staff will begin to take called MOAB, which stands for Management of Aggressive Behavior. She said it will help staff safely deal with patients who may become a threat.

Foundation Chair Dennis Flanery discussed the upcoming fundraiser golf tournament.

“We’re taking registrations for that right now. This will be our 25th anniversary, so we’re doing some extra special stuff this year,” he said. “It will fill up; the golf course is only allowing 40 teams.”

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for June 26 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



Chris Stipe



Sandy Atkinson

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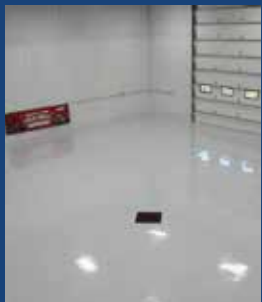
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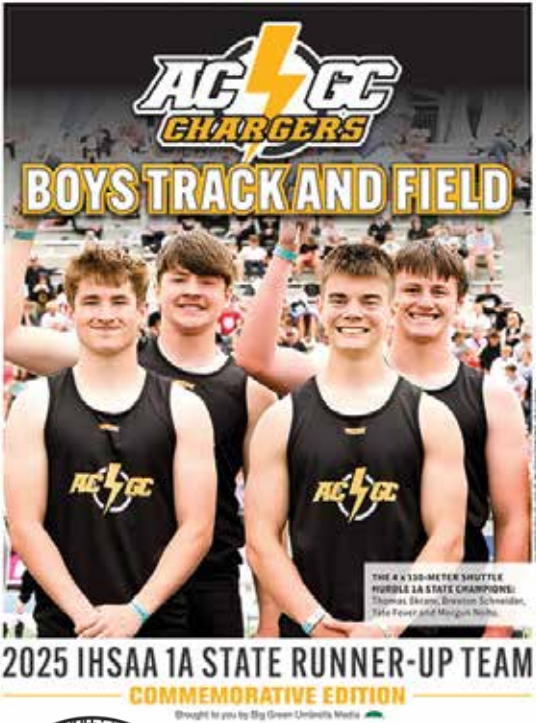
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Brexton Schneider hurdling at the 2025 IHSAA track and field state championships.



Dean Vela sprinting during the 4 x 400-meter relay at the 2025 IHSAA track and field state championships.



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ACGC's Cadence Petersen competed in the 400-meter hurdles at the Iowa boys and girls state track and field meet on Friday, May 23.



Tate Fever makes a superhero-like pose while competing at the 2025 IHSAA track and field state championships.



ACGC's Joe Crawford competed in the sprint medley, 4x100 and 200-meter relays at the Iowa boys and girls state track and field championships from May 22-24.



ACGC's Nora Langgaard competed in the distance medley at the state meet in Des Moines from May 22-24.



ACGC's Ava Campbell placed fifth in the 1,500-meter run and sixth in the 3,000-meter run at the IAHSAA boys and girls state track and field championships.

PHOTOS BY MARK REED AND SHANNON PAVES SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

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THE WASHING MACHINE SHINES

Owner Eric Morris, who also operates car washes in Adair, Anita and Stuart, says he has learned much about the seasonality of the business.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Soap and water are the basic elements of most cleaning, and, at first glance, Eric Morris' business is not much more complex than that. He owns and operates The Washing Machine carwash in Guthrie Center, as well as carwashes in other local communities.

"Carwashes just come down to very simple things: soap, pressure, the soft water for the spot-free rinse. Other than that, there's really not a lot to them," Morris said. "This one was 'The Washing Machine' when we bought it and has been since it opened. So, we didn't change the name; everybody already knows what it is. We have owned this one since 2019."

Morris recalled that he had not intended to buy a carwash in Guthrie Center, but when the opportunity arose, it felt right.

"We just got into it by accident," Morris said. "My friend owned it. His dad had unfortunately passed, and they were selling it, and it just came up organically in conversation."

Morris also owns car washes in Adair, Anita and Stuart. He has learned about the seasonality of the business.

"When my friend owned this place, he said, 'You survive the summer; you thrive in the winter,'" Morris said. "That's true,



Eric Morris' business is ready to make your vehicle shine.

but lately our winters have had very cold snaps for a couple of weeks at a time. When the high for the day is less than double digits, we just close."

Morris explained why winter is his busiest season.

"In the winter, when the brine is on the cars, people want to get that off. That

helps us," Morris said. "Spring and fall are good, but the dry months — July and August — we don't do much."

However, Morris explained that the dry

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The Washing Machine is located on Highway 44 west across from Café on the Hill.

summer weather brings an additional concern for car owners. Morris said that, although people quickly notice when a car begins to look dirty or dusty, the undercarriage isn't so easy to see. He added how vehicles that frequently travel on gravel roads will quickly accumulate lots of dust and debris underneath the vehicle, and the undercarriage wash is perfectly designed to deal with that unseen issue.

Although soap and water are the foundation of any carwash, Morris admits there is more to his operations. Much of his work involves keeping the equipment in working order.

"A lot of people just wash their car but don't see anything beyond the spraying water and soap. They don't see all the moving parts, and how many things can go wrong, and how much it costs to fix all the moving parts," Morris said. "Technology is making big differences. If you looked at my carwashes in Adair and Anita, they are much older machines. I can work on them a lot easier, but the newer technology makes things a little smoother and a little more efficient."

Morris lives in Panora with his wife, Jenna, and son, Keaton. He says he has

no plans to expand his business in the near future. Keeping four carwashes going provides plenty to keep him busy. He shared the story about an incident that closed The Washing Machine for 42 days earlier this spring.

"The snowstorm in March, that's what took out our coinbox. It had a vent on the back for letting out the heat, and that got full of snow, and it was outdated anyway," Morris said. "Now it has a new electronic control system. This new one has cellular backup, so even if our internet goes down, we can still run credit cards and still do everything."

Morris encourages customers to read and follow posted instructions at the carwash, including to fold in mirrors (if possible), remove extended trailer hitches, remove loose items from truck beds, and note the height and width limits. The Washing Machine can accommodate vehicles up to 90 inches in height (7.5 feet).

Although Morris encourages drivers to come through The Washing Machine often, he admits sometimes a vehicle needs the manual attention that only a handwash can provide.

"It's still good to handwash a car at least once a year," Morris said. ■

EVENT



The Casey Fun Day parade made its way down Casey's main street during a previous year's celebration.

CASEY FUN DAYS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

The schedule of event for Casey Fun Days (Friday, July 18 and Saturday, July 19) has been announced. Full details and any updates/changes will be posted on the Casey Service Club's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064639183671). Most events will be held in the area of McPherson Street near the Casey Public Library, City Hall and downtown businesses. Some events will be held at Casey City Park (Rutt Park, 300 E. Second St.).

Friday events kick off with a kids' parade at 6 p.m., followed by a foam party and bags tournament. A beer tent and

band (The Bird Hunters) will play at Tin Lizzie's from 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Saturday downtown events include the 5K and 1-mile runs at 7 a.m., with a pancake breakfast from 7-10 a.m. A bake sale will begin at 8:30 a.m. The bug parade begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by Methodist Church lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also at 11 a.m. is a corn-shelling demonstration. The Historical Society building will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., there will be a car and tractor show. At 3 p.m., the Science Heroes Show will be held. Tin Lizzie's will host a beer tent and live band (Burnin' Sensations) from 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Saturday events at Rutt Park include inflatables from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., decorate your own piggy bank from noon to 2 p.m., lunch by the ACGC Class of 2026, and bingo at 1 p.m. ■



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EVENT

CHUCKWAGON DAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Ashley Smith, president of the Adair Chamber of Commerce, shared details on the upcoming Chuckwagon Days celebration in Adair, set for Friday, June 20, through Sunday, June 22.

The celebration offers something for everyone, including food and drink, parades, contests, games, live music, 5K and one-mile races, vendors, a tractor show, kids' activities and bingo. Details on the schedule can be found on the Facebook page of the Adair Chamber of Commerce at www.facebook.com/adairchamber.

"This year is the 70th annual celebration of Chuckwagon Days. With that, we decided to run with a 1970s theme to make things fun," Smith said. "What's new this year includes a foam party, arcade trailer, pickleball tournament, BBQ battle, alcohol tent, live music both nights, shortening the parade route and many vendors at the Community Cen-

ter."

Smith pointed out that the ongoing downtown construction project has led to a centralizing of this year's Chuckwagon Days events.

"The biggest difference for this year is the vast majority of activities will be held at the park, with the exclusion of fire department meals and rides, Methodist church meal, parade and pickleball tournament," Smith said. "With the construction on our Main Street, we are trying to keep the festivities in one place."

Smith added a suggestion regarding parking.

"Visitors can park at the DOT station (300 Hillcrest, near the water tower) or near the fire department (505 Fifth St.)," she said. "We will have two shuttle golf carts helping people get to and from the park. We do ask people to keep all motorized vehicles out of the park." ■



Ashley Smith

2025 July Summer Library Programs

Date/Time	Program	Location
July 2 2-3pm	Pinball Machine	Mary J Barnett Library
July 7 10-11am	Drones	Stuart Public Library
July 9 2-3pm	Robotics/Coding	Mary J Barnett Library
July 10 4-5pm	Pinball Machine	Jamaica Public Library
July 16 4-5pm	Pinball Machine	Casey Public Library
July 17 2-3pm	Pinball Machine	Panora Public Library
July 21 10-11am	Pinball Machine	Stuart Public Library
July 24 4-5pm	Robotics/Coding	Jamaica Public Library
July 30 10-11am	Pinball Machine	Menlo Public Library

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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

CASEY'S MAYOR LINDBERG TO STEP DOWN

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

A June 4 Facebook post from Mayor Nick Lindberg of Casey announced that he will be stepping down as mayor and moving out of Casey. The post explained the reason and timing of the change.

“At the conclusion of the July 7 regular city council meeting, I will be stepping down as the mayor of Casey, Iowa,” Lindberg stated. “While I had hoped to finish out this final term, the opportunity to purchase a beautiful home in a nearby community was too good to pass up. Consequently, I will soon no longer be able to meet this position’s residency requirements.”

Lindberg stated he will be moving to Exira.

Lindberg went on to say he has enjoyed serving the city for the past nine and one-half years (as councilmember and later as mayor), and he expressed appreciation to all citizens as well as to the council and city staff.

According to Lindberg, upon his resigna-

tion, Mayor Pro Tem Le-land Acker will likely serve as mayor until the city council appoints a mayor. The mayor’s position is to be on the ballot in the election this November.

Lindberg first ran for Casey City Council immediately following his 2015 high school graduation from Adair-Casey High School. He served a four-year term on the council before being elected mayor in 2019.

Lindberg stated that the greatest challenges he faced during his terms were the tragic passing of city clerk Michelle Sargent and the COVID pandemic. He voiced pride in helping bring to reality Casey’s new city hall and community center.

“I am very proud of the progress Casey has made these past nine and a half years. Downtown revitalization is the crown jewel of these efforts, though full credit ultimately goes to the entrepreneurs who took the leap to invest in Casey,” Lindberg said. ■



Nick Lindberg

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MERRILL’S TRAINS COLLECTION BRINGS JOY TO KIDS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

About 20 years ago, Kieth Merrill of rural Guthrie Center had an old hog barn that needed to be repaired or torn down. Because Merrill is a lifelong woodworker, he took on the task of repairing the building. That led to a hobby that continues to this day.

“The old hog barn was falling down, so I repaired it,” Merrill said. “Then, I had a train in my basement that I moved up here, and everything just kind of snow-balled along from there.”

Before long, Merrill had added other trains. Occasionally, neighbors or family would bring a train if they found one that was special in some way.

Besides the trains and track, Merrill had to design and build a layout so that each train could run on its own track. Using scrap lumber, Merrill has constructed a series of suspended platforms for the tracks. The result is impressive, as each track completes a loop without interfering with any other track. When asked how many trains are in the building, Merrill isn’t sure.

“I’ve lost count. It’s about 25 or so,” he said. “The tracks all have numbers on them, so when my grandchildren come, they can tell me which ones to turn on.”

Although Merrill does not have a favorite train in the collection, he showed one on a figure-8 track and explained that has been a favorite of his grandkids, since the train nearly catches its own caboose on each lap.

Merrill pointed out one train that is set up apart from the others and has a holiday theme.

“That’s my wife’s,” he said. “She likes the Christmas scene.”



Kieth Merrill enjoys his time working on the collection.

Merrill explained that all of his trains are three-rail “O gauge,” and some have special features such as lights or train sounds as they run. Merrill installed elec-

trical wiring and control switches so he can turn individual trains on or off as needed. Inside the train loops, some toys from Merrill’s youth are displayed.

“I also have some Erector sets in there; I used to collect those,” he said. Other interesting items are displayed around the walls of the building, includ-

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7/5 - 9-9-9 Challenge Cubs/Cardinals
7/19 - Sand Volleyball Tournament



Kieth Merrill's display has grown, but he's not complaining.



A Christmas train scene brings holiday joy all year long.



Kieth Merrill has created toy helicopters and a model sawmill.



Handmade toys attest to Kieth Merrill's woodworking skills.

ing seed corn sacks from the first half of the 20th century. There are also several display cases holding butterflies of many species.

"Those were my father's. He collected those when he was probably in his teens and 20s," Merrill said of the butterflies. "There's a lot of old stuff in here."

Shelves on the walls display a variety of wooden toys made by Merrill. The toys include trucks, helicopters, airplanes and construction machinery.

"Well, I have a lot of scrap lumber, and, if a child comes, when they leave they can take a toy with them. I use patterns that I get out of a magazine."

Another notable toy is a model of a car-powered sawmill.

"My brother-in-law and I had a saw-

mill, so I made this model of our sawmill," Merrill said.

Merrill explained that he has adapted his hobby to the space available.

"I have a shop in the barn where I do my woodworking," Merrill said. "This building doesn't have heat or cooling, so I insulated it really well. So, I can work in here during the winter most of the time."

With around 25 trains and track, plus the other items displayed, Merrill's hog barn/train barn is fairly full already, but he intends to keep adding items as able. When asked about the most challenging part of his hobby, Merrill smiled.

"It's not challenging because, to me, it's fun," Merrill said. "My life does not depend on getting any of this stuff done, but it's something I can keep busy at." ■



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OBITUARIES

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WILLIAM 'BILL' J. CARPENTER

1954-2025

William "Bill" J. Carpenter passed away peacefully at home on May 15, 2025, after

a courageous battle with cancer. Born on Christmas Day in 1954, Bill was known to his many friends as "Carp" or "Willie."

Bill was raised on the family farm north of Boone in the unincorporated community of Ridgeport and remained in the Ridgeport/Boone area his entire life. A 1973 graduate of Boone High School, Bill stayed close with his classmates and played a key role in organizing reunions — proudly attending his 50th in 2024.

He earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from DMACC but soon followed his entrepreneurial spirit to start Carpenter Construction, Inc. in 1982, selling and building

grain bins. In 1987, he became a dealer with Lester Building Systems, launching his successful career in pole building construction. Bill was well-known and highly respected in the industry — across a four-county radius, you will find grain bins and buildings bearing the Carpenter Construction name.

On March 22, 1986, Bill married Lila Leininger. Together they raised Lila's two children, Michael and Kristen, whom Bill loved and treated as his own. The family shared many memories camping, fishing, attending MLB and NFL games, and vacationing at Disney World and New York City. He passed down a strong work ethic to his kids — one of his favorite sayings

was, "I love to see kids work!"

Bill loved the outdoors — hunting, fishing, mushroom hunting and spending time at the cabin he owned north of his home. He was a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees, Green Bay Packers and Iowa State Cyclones. He played on the Adobe men's slow-pitch softball team and bowled in the local farmers' league. Bill also enjoyed hosting friends and family for pontoon rides at Don Williams Lake. One of his favorite songs was "Live Like You Were Dying" by Tim McGraw — and that's exactly how he lived: with joy, generosity and enthusiasm. He never met a stranger. Bill was also a fan of laughter,

comedy movies, attending concerts and being a huge jokester, playing pranks on many friends and family members, who often found ways to get him back.

After being widowed in 2001, Bill found love again and married Lori Litrell aboard a cruise ship in February 2014. Together, they enjoyed many cruises and adventures, traveling with friends and spending time with family.

Bill was preceded in death by his first wife, Lila Carpenter; parents, John and Ruth Carpenter; in-laws, Lowell and Jessie Leininger; and his beloved cousin, Julie Molesky of Anaheim, California.

He is survived by his wife, Lori Carpenter; step-children Michael Crouthamel (Tina),

Kristen Crouthamel (Josh), and daughter-in-law Amy Crouthamel; grandchildren Kenley and Lila Crouthamel; Lori's children and grandchildren; sister Marsha Crouthamel (Scott); his dear cousin and lifelong friend Bart Kennedy; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

A funeral service for Bill was held on Friday, June 6 at First Baptist Church in Boone. A celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers or plants, memorials may be directed to the Boone County Hospital Foundation, Lila Carpenter Scholarship Fund — established by Bill in memory of his late wife. ■



JAMES EDWARD CLINE

1951-2025

James Edward Cline,

73, was born to Gerald and Lula (Sloss) Cline at Guthrie County Hospital in Guthrie Center on Dec. 21, 1951. He passed away peacefully at his home in Boone on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Ed was raised on the family farm at Cline Corner south of Guthrie Center. He was the fourth of six children to Gerald and Lula. Ed was often caught up in mischief, especially with his brothers, but he also developed a strong work ethic early in his life that contributed to his successful career as he grew older. Ed graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1970. He married Darla Duff

of Scranton on Aug. 23, 1975. To this union were two children, Ryan and Crystle. The couple later divorced.

After high school, Ed became a lineman with Iowa Electric. He spent more than 40 years in the electrical utility field and retired from Alliant Energy in 2013. He enjoyed his work and took great pride in it. After retiring from Alliant Energy, Ed then took up a new career in farming, which was his passion. In 2014, Ed moved back to Guthrie Center to his family farm and spent his time fixing up the farm and raising cattle and crops. He loved being on the farm and sharing it

with family and friends. He enjoyed fishing with his family and grandkids at the farm pond and could spend hours riding around on his ATV overlooking his farm.

Ed never met a stranger and was always well known for his stories and his jokes. He would light up any room that he walked into with his smile and sense of humor. He loved catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. He took great pride in his children and grandchildren. Ed was an avid wrestling fan and enjoyed trips with his son and friends to many NCAA wrestling tournaments over the

country. He also enjoyed woodworking and had many high-quality projects that he would gift to family and friends.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald Cline and Lula Cline; his sister, Charlotte Benton; and brother-in-law, Ronald Benton.

Ed is survived by his wife, Jane, of Boone; son, Ryan Cline (Kassie) of Casey; daughter, Crystle Thompson (Chris) of Ames; four grandchildren, Ryder, Kaleb, Chloe and Karys; his siblings, Kenneth Cline of Des Moines, Jeanette Sheeder (Bill) of Guthrie Center, Keith Cline (Dona) of Des Moines, and

Marvin Cline (Ilene) of Huntington Beach, California; as well as many other family and friends.

Ed will be greatly missed, but his memory will live on with his family and friends.

Message from the family:

Your expressions of sympathy are greatly appreciated. The family invited others to celebrate Ed's life with them at the Guthrie Center Activity Center on Friday, June 6 from 4-7 p.m. A ceremony celebrating Ed's life was held from 4-4:30 p.m. followed by an informal gathering to visit with family and friends. ■



OBITUARIES

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



DOLORES M. BECK
1933-2025

Dolores Marie Beck, oldest of the children of Earl Howard and Harriet Louella (Cameron) Beck, was born Aug. 7, 1933, in Guthrie Center. She passed away Saturday, May 31, 2025, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

Dolores attended the Guthrie Center schools, graduating in 1951. She went on to attend the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls for two years, earning a degree in elementary education. She began her teaching career in Scranton and taught fifth grade there for six years.

Following her resignation from Scranton schools, she began her teaching years at Guthrie Center Elementary School. While teaching at Guthrie Center, she continued her education at Drake University, earning her bachelor's degree. She taught fifth grade in

Guthrie Center for 42 years. She had a great memory for recalling the names of her former students.

During her teaching years and after retirement, Dolores was the Guthrie Center High School girls' basketball chaperone and scorekeeper for both girls' and boys' teams for 56 years. It was a position she greatly enjoyed. She looked forward to the starters of the girls' team and the coach riding with her to games in her customized van, and the girls and coaches appreciated the van's comfort over the school bus.

In addition to keeping busy with basketball games, Dolores joined a women's bowling league in 1959. She was a very competitive bowler and often had her name posted as a high scorer in the women's league.

After retirement from teaching, Dolores was involved in a retired teachers' organization, the Guthrie Center Women's Club, where she served as the president for multiple years, and the Guthrie County Hospital Auxiliary. She was one of the first voluntary van drivers for the hospital, always willing to assist.

Dolores was preceded in death by her longtime friend, Dean Thaler. They made many trips to Colorado to go skiing over Dolores' winter break from school. She and Dean also had a common interest in Shorthorn cattle. One year, Dolores showed one of their animals at the Iowa State Fair.

Dolores was so fortunate to be able to travel during the summers. She was able to boast that she had been to all 50 states and Canada, with most of the travel done by car or van, and she was behind the wheel — she never tired of driving.

Over the years, Dolores had several interests. She accumulated an extensive collection of more than 150 paper weights, which were all special to her. Her interest in Western artwork and Native American culture could be seen displayed throughout her home. She also had a collection of John Wayne memorabilia and paintings. And her interest in the Iowa Hawkeyes' sports teams was significant — she tried never to miss a game.

Dolores was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Harriet; her sisters, Darlene Lacey and

her husband, George, and Jody Hanna; her brother, Jim Beck; and her niece, Joselyn Lacey.

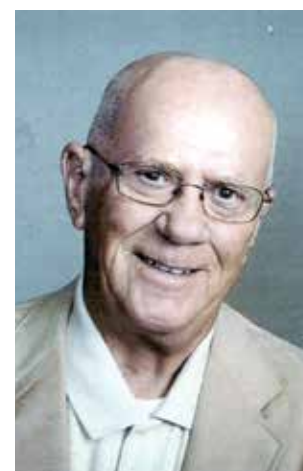
Left to survive her are nieces and nephews, Jason (Robin) Lacey, John (Beth) Hanna, Jr., Lori (John) Lowe, Chad (Jennifer) Hanna, Christina (Art) Dinkin, Quincy (Jennifer) Beck and Nathan (Stephanie) Beck. Brother-in-law, John Hanna, Sr., and sister-in-law, Nancy Beck, also survive.

Dolores' surviving great nieces and nephews include Griffin and Kaelyn Hanna, Olivia and Luke Hanna, Jordan Johnson, Jacob (Tristan) Lacey, Jackson and Jamison Lacey, Dane Turner-Hein, Josh Lacey, Hayden, Cassidy and Kenzie Dinkin, Maxwell Beck, and Tyson and Trey Beck.

Per "Doree's" request to her family, "Loads of love to you all!"

Funeral services were at 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center, with visitation one hour prior to the services. Burial was in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorials will be designated to the Guthrie Center Elementary School at a later date. ■



CHARLES JOSEPH 'JOE' BOHLENDER
1937-2025

Charles Joseph "Joe" Bohlender, 88, of Olathe, Kansas, passed away at the Village of Olathe in Olathe. He was born April 3, 1937, in Guthrie Center, the son of Harold Ormal and Thelma Louise (Lundstrom) Bohlender.

Joe proudly served in the United States Air Force for more than 20 years, retiring in 1976. He earned the rank of Tech Sergeant and served during the Vietnam War. After retirement, Joe worked for PRC Kentron, Inc., a contractor with the USAF.

On Sept. 8, 1963, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Joe was united in marriage to Karen Lee

Oyler. They shared more than 61 years of marriage. To this union, they shared two sons, Bryon and Charles Joseph "Joey" Bohlender, Jr.

Joe was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Holton, Kansas.

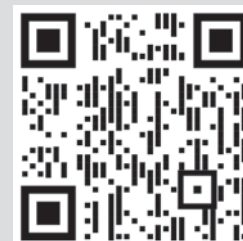
He is preceded in death by his parents; a son, Charles Joseph, "Joey" Bohlender, Jr.; and a sister, Betty Billick.

Survivors include his wife, Karen, of the home; a son, Bryon Bohlender of Glenwood Springs, Colorado; a daughter-in-law, Linda Tochtrop of Linwood, Kansas; a sister, Linda Wolfe (Mike) of Norwalk; two brothers, James Bohlender (Lynda) of Guthrie Center and Jack Bohlender (Susan) of Norwalk; eight grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Memorial Services were held 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church in Holton, Kansas. Graveside Inurnment with Military Honors followed at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas. Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS, 66436. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com. ■



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**JANE RAE
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CLARKE**

She is survived by her devoted husband, William Clarke of Panora; her son, Sean Clarke and Liana of Naples, Florida; her son, Brian Clarke and his wife, Angela, of Long Grove, Illinois; and six grandchildren — Christian, Alexander, Isabella, Ricky, Bobbi and Angelyse. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vermyl and Wilda Shick. ■

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, June 4, 1975

BIBLE SCHOOL FUN. Three kindergartners take part in Bible School activities this week at the Methodist Church. Bible School at area churches continues through this week. Left to right, the young painters are Jill Arrasmith, Kellie Albright and Gene Patterson.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, June 26, 1985

RECORD PACE. Jennifer Krakau gulps for air after a record setting swim in the girls 9-10 butterfly against Lake City Tuesday. She also set a backstroke record.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, June 14, 1995

CASEY ROYALTY. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carstens were elected King and Queen to preside over the Antique Days in Casey Saturday.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, June 1, 2005

THREE GENERATIONS. Not by design, but the Guthrie Center American Legion Color Guard had three generations of veterans side-by-side during the Avenue of Flags Memorial Day service at Union Cemetery. From left, Gary Shoesmith, Rex Schoonover and Gifford Covault.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, June 17, 2015

LONGEST DRIVE. Phyllis (Stetzel) and Paul Devault traveled the farthest — about 750 miles from Grandview, Texas — to attend the Monteith reunion June 14.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, June 11, 2020

EVENING COLORS. A setting sun illuminates a spectrum of color last Friday evening in Guthrie County. The area should experience rather pleasant weather for the next several days, with highs in the upper 80s and overnight lows in the mid-60s. ■



MARY J. BARNETT LIBRARY NEWS

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MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

The 2025 Summer Reading Program, Level Up at Your Library, began on Monday, June 2. Our kick-off event was a magic class. Later in the week, kids participated in the LEGO Mania activity of building the tallest tower with LEGOs. The month of June is filled with exciting opportunities to participate in the SRP. If you haven't registered already, go online and sign up to earn chances to win prizes by reading and participating in activities.

The MJB Library and Friends of Guthrie Center Library were awarded a \$1,000 grant from Communities 4 Children to help fund the MJB Library Summer Reading Program. Funds were used to pay for books that go support the theme, Level Up at your Library. Prizes and incentives for

readers who complete the reading challenges were purchased with these funds as well as the fees for summer reading performers who entertained and educated our young patrons.

A reminder to book club members, stop by the library to get a copy of this



The PBS STEAM trailer was here June 4-10. Our preschool patrons played for hours with the cardboard bricks.

month's book. Between the Covers is discussing "Long Island" by Colm Toibin in July. Reads Well with Others will be reading "What Alice Forgot" by Liane Moriarty on June 24. ■



Ainsley shows off her colorful tower following LEGO Mania day.



Hadley and her mom work to maximize the speed of the marble on their marble maze.

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Thank you for attending our "Building Our Community – Housing and Market Opportunities" event on April 25th at Twin Vines Vineyard, where we focused on the prosperity of our community. Attendees gained valuable insights from presentations by:



KATIE WHEELER
Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation, on the Home Financing Program.



KARLA JANNING
Region XII, updates on housing projects and initiatives.



BRANDT GEBEL
GCSB Investment Center, on current market trends and investment strategies.

We believe that collaborative conversations are essential for building a stronger future for Guthrie County.

If you are interested in attending future events please contact:

Matt Peary at m.pearey@gcsbank.com for business related events.

Tawnia Ganzer at t.ganzer@gcsbank.com for ag related events.

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Kane built a tower that was "so big!" Kids of all ages had a great time at the LEGO Mania day.



When the sun came out, kids of all ages flocked to the water table.



Edward concentrates on this maze following preschool story hour.



Jamie and TJ had a blast with the STEAM puzzles.



The magnetic gears were a hit with kids of all ages.



KayDee is ready to test her magnetic marble run. The marble run was also part of the STEAM trailer.

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RECIPE

BROCCOLI AND FRIENDS SALAD

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Guthrie Center Times

Step aside, “Trees and Raisins.” It’s 2025, and there is a new salad in town. The Broccoli and Friends Salad is bursting with flavor and packed with nutrients, making it a fresh favorite you will want to hang on to.

Salads and slaws have come a long way in the past 75 years. I’ll admit, I wasn’t a fan growing up, but now they are the dishes I look forward to most at potlucks. Add some cubed chicken or a piece of salmon, and you have got a light, satisfying meal.

These days, salads are more versatile than ever, thanks to healthier, more creative dressing options ranging from various oils and vinegars to honey, mustard, maple syrup, Greek yogurt, fat-free sour cream and soy sauce. To lighten this recipe, try swapping the mayo for Greek yogurt and cutting the sugar to half a cup. You will still get all the flavor with fewer calories.

Whip up a batch this weekend. You will be glad you did. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

BROCCOLI AND FRIENDS SALAD

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”
Servings: 4-6

Ingredients:

- 2 medium heads broccoli
- 2 apples
- lemon juice
- 1 carrot
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup pecans
- 1 package (2 1/2 ounces) real bacon pieces

Dressing:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds

Directions



- Coarsely chop broccoli and place in large bowl.
- Coarsely chop apples and brush with lemon juice to prevent browning; add to bowl.
- Shred carrot and add to bowl with blueberries, cranberries, sunflower seeds, pecans and bacon.
- To make dressing: Mix mayonnaise, milk, apple cider vinegar, sugar and poppy seeds. Pour over broccoli salad and mix well. ■

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LAST MONTH'S PHOTO

The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is the water tower in Adair. Renee Jensen 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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