

Guthrie Center TIMES

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SEPTEMBER 2025

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THE BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY 2025

**THE VOTES HAVE BEEN TALLIED!
LOOK INSIDE FOR FULL RESULTS.**

PAGE 6

**COOL TOOL
LEATHER WORKS
CRAFTS UNIQUE
LEATHER ATTIRE**

PAGE 28

**STITCHING FOR
MISSIONS CREATES
ITEMS, DONATES TO
CHARITABLE CAUSES**

PAGE 34

**CREAMY TOMATO
SOUP IS RICH WITH
SUN-RIPENED
FLAVOR**

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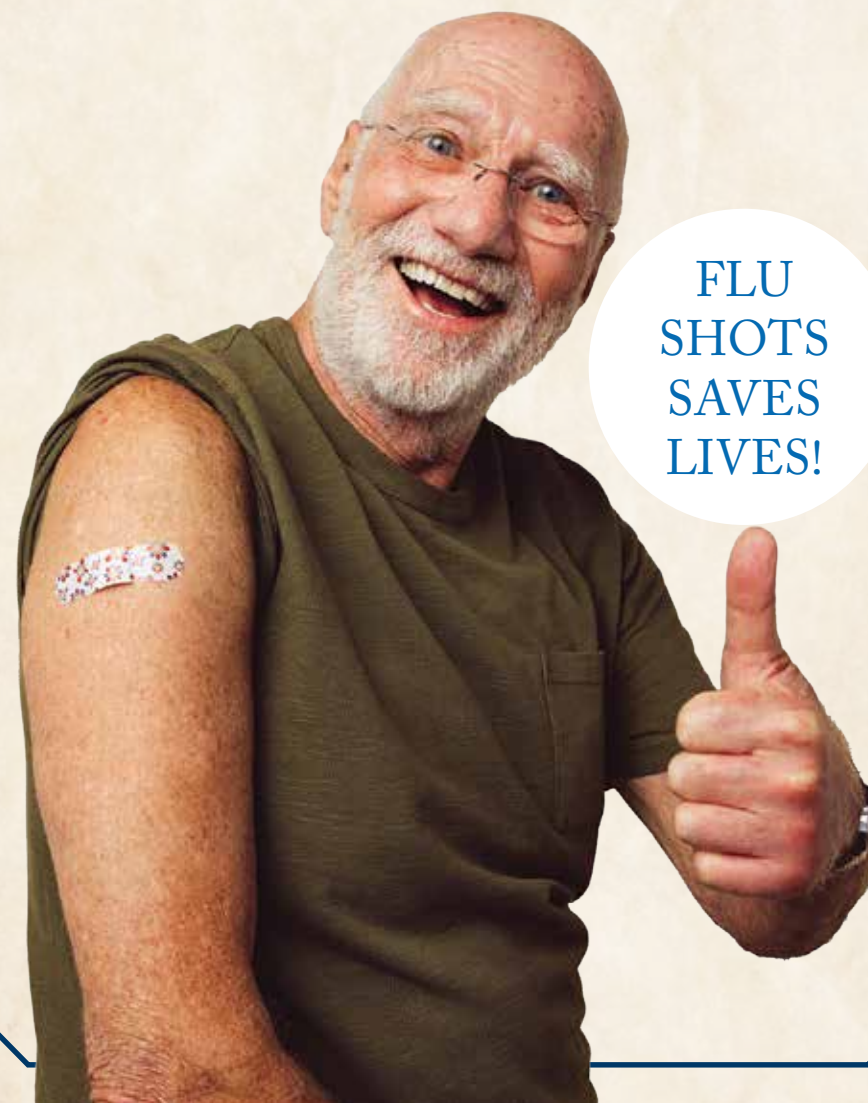
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ON THE COVER: Staff members at The New Homestead are proud to win in the Best of Guthrie County voting. Photo by Rich Wicks



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EDITOR & PUBLISHER:
Shane Goodman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:
Jolene Goodman

ADVERTISING SALES:
Kerry Jacobsen

CUSTOMER SERVICE:
Cheryl Castile

EDITORIAL DESIGN:
Beckham Miller

ADVERTISING DESIGN:
Jayde Vogeler, Nick Ruiz

BUSINESS OFFICE:
Brent Antisdell

DISTRIBUTION:
Mike Chiston

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS:
Rich Wicks
Jolene Goodman
Michael C. Woody
Karen Kelly
Mark Reno

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“You’re simply the best. Better than all the rest.”

If you were listening to the radio at all in 1989, you likely heard those words in the song “The Best” by Tina Turner. And, you are likely singing the song to yourself right now. You can thank me — or curse me — later.

But, what does it mean to be “the best”? Certainly, the answer is a matter of opinion. In fact, it is 100% opinion. Even so, being “the best,” by definition, means “excelling above all others in a particular area, offering the greatest advantage or satisfaction.” It often refers to “achieving the highest level of quality or performance compared to others.”

I can’t argue with that.

Many of you are familiar with the acronym SEO, which stands for “search engine optimization.” It is a service

some companies use to help their specific products or services show up higher in internet searches. Some say that’s cheating. In many ways, I tend to agree. A better approach than paying to make your product or service look better is to have a great product or service to begin with and then let it organically rank high in the search engines. In a way, that is what we have done with our Best of Guthrie County readers poll. You can’t buy your way into winning. You have to earn it.

We started the poll last year and had an incredible 471 votes cast from readers in 82 categories. This year, the num-



Shane Goodman

ber grew a whopping 36% to 642 votes. And, we don’t pre-load our poll with suggested answers. Each question requires a fill-in-the-blank answer. That makes the process more difficult on our end to tally, but we think it is the only fair and accurate way to conduct a poll such as this.

Also this year, we added an event to formally announce the winners. It was an invitation-only experience with only the top-three vote getters in each of our 82 categories invited. We held this formal Best of Guthrie County event at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds on Sept. 9 to a maximum-capacity crowd.

You will find them in this issue of Guthrie Center Times, the upcoming September issue of Panora Times, and the Lake Panorama Times published last week. We will provide links in

our twice-weekly Times Vedette email newsletter, too.

When you get a chance, I ask that you not only congratulate the winners of our 2025 Best of Guthrie County readers’ poll but also seek out their products or services and buy locally whenever you can. Then, you, too, will understand why they are “simply the best.”

Have a great month, and, as always, I thank you for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
Editor and Publisher
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THE BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY 2025

The votes have been tallied. Check out the full results.

BY RICH WICKS
Lake Panorama Times

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest, until your good is better and your better is best.” That quote is generally attributed to Saint Jerome, an early Christian priest and theologian, born in Croatia, who lived approximately 347-419 AD. Although Saint Jerome never had the chance to experience Guthrie County, his perspective matches well with our annual poll to determine the Guthrie County people, places, events and businesses that are voted as best by our readers.

In 2024, we launched our first “Best of Guthrie County” poll, and we were pleased to see a total of 471 votes in the 82 categories listed. The 2025 poll surpassed the initial poll, with 642 votes cast. That represents an increase of more than 36% in votes received, which indicates our readers are becoming more engaged in the poll.

In 2024, and again in 2025, some categories saw a difference of only a very few votes separating the winners from the runners up, so every vote matters. We thank all of you who voted.

There are again 82 categories, but from one year to the next, there may be a few categories added and/or dropped as we refine the poll to match what resonates with our readers. We welcome any feedback on categories to add, exclude or change.

Some categories garnered many votes, while others had relatively few. Categories such as “Camping Spot,” “Barge Service,” “Dance Studio,” and “Dog Boarding Facility” may only apply to a subset of the population, so votes may be lighter in those categories. But, once again, every vote matters.

A concept to keep in mind is that our poll is “a snapshot in time.” In other words, circumstances may change after votes are cast. An individual may move away, or a business may close. But our results show the opinion of the



Jerri Hawkins, Cass Fronapfel, and Karen Kelly strive to make the Guthrie Center Library the best it can be.

voters during the time the poll was open.

Also, the poll does not hold strictly to the borders of Guthrie County. Communities such as Linden, Stuart and Adair are included, even though all or most of the municipality may actually reside outside Guthrie County.

The results listed show the winners and the runners up. The runners up are listed alphabetically and do NOT represent placement of second or third.

Our results show some repeats from one year to the next, which is to be expected. Some of these repeat honorees include Springbrook State Park, Café on the Hill, and Casey Creamery.

In some categories, however, new names have shown up in our vote tallies. Some of the first-timers include M&L Ice Cream, Haver Lumber, and Sheriff Matt Harmann.

In conducting such a poll, it is natural to ask, “What makes something the best?” That is a complicated matter. For example, if asked to name the best burger you ever ate, your response would likely be based on a wide range of factors. How was the burger cooked? What ingredients were added? Where did you eat it? Who were you with? The votes in our “Best of Guthrie County 2025” poll are similarly subjective, so the results are to be seen as opinions, not facts. But, clearly, those listed below have been doing something right, and we applaud them for it.

- BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CAMPING SPOT**
- Springbrook State Park
 - Runners Up: Guthrie County Fair Campgrounds; Nations Bridge Park

- BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DINNER SPOT**
- The Captain’s Pick
 - Runners Up: Pioneers Pub & Grub; Prime Time
- BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ATTORNEY OR LAW FIRM**
- Bruner, Bruner, Reinhart & Morton LLP
 - Runners Up: Bump & Twillmann LLP; Varley Law Office
- BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY AUTO PARTS STORE**
- NAPA Auto Parts - Panora
 - Runners Up: NAPA Auto Parts - Guthrie Automotive; NAPA Auto Parts - Stuart
- BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY AUTO**

SERVICE CENTER

- **Panorama Tire**
- Runners Up: Leonard Automotive LLC; M&L Service

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BANK

- **Guthrie County State Bank**
- Runners Up: Farmers State Bank of Yale; Iowa Trust

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BAR

- **The Captain's Pick**
- Runners Up: Owl's Nest; Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BARGE SERVICE

- **Lake Panorama Barge Services**
- Runners Up: Deluxe Docks & Lifts; Van Houten Barge Service

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BARTENDER OR SERVER

- **Max Monthei**
- Runners Up: Amanda Carl; Maddi Lynch

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BOUTIQUE

- **Tribe Boutique LLC**
- Runners Up: B&B Marketplace; Pearls & Lace

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY BOWLING ALLEY

- **IncrediBowl**
- Runner Up: Stuart Bowl & Traditions Sports Bar

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CAR WASH

- **All Seasons Car Wash**
- Runners Up: Karl Chevrolet - Stuart; The Washing Machine

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CATERER

- **Café on the Hill**
- Runners Up: Cabbage Rose Restaurant; The Captain's Pick

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- **Panora Chamber of Commerce**
- Runners Up: Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce; Stuart Chamber of Commerce

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CHIROPRACTOR (PERSON)

- **Dr. Josh Calmer**
- Runners Up: Dr. Bailey Schreiber; Dr. Brandon Schreiber

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CHURCH

- **Panora United Methodist Church**
- Runners Up: Faith Bible Church; Hope Lutheran Church, Panora

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COACH

- **Cody Matthewson (ACGC)**
- Runners Up: Aly Dahlhauser (Panorama); Cameron Little (Panorama)



Café on the Hill is known for breakfast and catering.

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COFFEE SHOP

- **Crafty's Coffee & Gifts**
- Runners Up: B&B Marketplace; The Cup on 2nd

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

- **Panorama Days**
- Runners Up: Guthrie County Fair; Annual Yale 4th of July Celebration

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CPA (PERSON)

- **Lisa Calvert**
- Runners Up: Janet Dickson; Sarah Langgaard

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY CUSTOMER SERVICE (OVERALL)

- **Lake Panorama Realty**
- Runners Up: Panora Fiber; The Captain's Pick

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BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DANCE STUDIO

- Main Street Dance Studios
- Runner Up: Adair Dance Academy

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DAYCARE

- Little Panther Daycare & Preschool
- Runners Up: Exploration & Learning Station, Stuart; Little Charger Early Learning Center

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DENTIST (PERSON)

- Dr. Larry Spray
- Runners Up: Dr. Ames Cross; Dr. Dan Nelson

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DOCTOR (PERSON)

- Dr. Josh Strehle
- Runners Up: Dr. Eric Ash; Dr. Steven Bascom

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY DOG BOARDING FACILITY

- Mitzie Rue's Canine Corral
- Runner Up: Guthrie County Veterinary Services

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIAL

- Maggie Armstrong
- Runners Up: Matt Harmann; Steve Smith

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ELECTRICIAN (BUSINESS)

- Powell Electric
- Runners Up: Berger Electric; Miller Plumbing, Heating & Electric

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY EMPLOYER

- Guthrie County Hospital and Clinics
- Runners Up: Guthrie County; Panora Fiber

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY ESTHETICIAN (SKIN CARE PROFESSIONAL)

- Lexi Blakely, Sapphire Skin Co & Spa
- Runners Up: Courtney Claussen (Revel Salon & Boutique); Laynie Reeves (Sapphire Skin Co & Spa)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY EYE DOCTOR (PERSON)

- Dr. Cassie Martinson
- Runner Up: Dr. Kyle Stadler

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY FINANCIAL PLANNER

- Dave Grove (Edward Jones, Panora)
- Runners Up: Brandt Gebel (Guthrie County State Bank); Melissa Loest (Edward Jones, Guthrie Center)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY FLORIST

- Panorama Gardens
- Runners Up: B&B Marketplace; Stuart Flowers & Gifts

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BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY GOLF COURSE

- Lake Panorama National Golf Course
- Runners Up: Guthrie Center Golf Course; Lake Panorama West Golf Course

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY GROCERY STORE

- Hometown Foods (Guthrie Center)
- Runners Up: Hometown Foods (Panora); Hometown Foods (Stuart)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HAIR SALON

- The Color Nook
- Runners Up: HairJesser by Jessica Alsted; Main Street Hair Design

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HAPPY HOUR

- The Captain's Pick
- Runners Up: Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar; Twin Vines

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HARDWARE STORE

- Lake Lumber
- Runners Up: Haver Lumber Company; Tractor Supply Company

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HEALTH CLUB/GYM

- Reshape Fitness Studio
- Runners Up: Active Health Solutions; Guthrie County Hospital Fitness Center

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HOME BUILDER

- Donovan Construction LLC
- Runners Up: Dave Arganbright Home Construction; JRL Builders

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR

- Donovan Construction LLC
- Runners Up: Dave Arganbright Home Construction; Laughery Construction LLC

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HOME PAINTER

- Kunkle Painting
- Runners Up: Baker Painting; Riggan Painting

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY HVAC COMPANY

- Doug's Plumbing & Heating Inc.
- Runners Up: Controlled Environments; Miller Plumbing, Heating & Electric

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY INSURANCE AGENT (PERSON)

- Chris Arganbright
- Runners Up: Danielle Yonker; Robert Carr

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LANDSCAPING COMPANY

- Leiferman Outdoor Services
- Runners Up: Lakeside Landscapes; Wood Duck Landscapes

THANK YOU FOR NOMINATING US FOR 2025!

- Best Guthrie County Real Estate Company
- Best Guthrie County Realtor
- Best Guthrie County Customer Service



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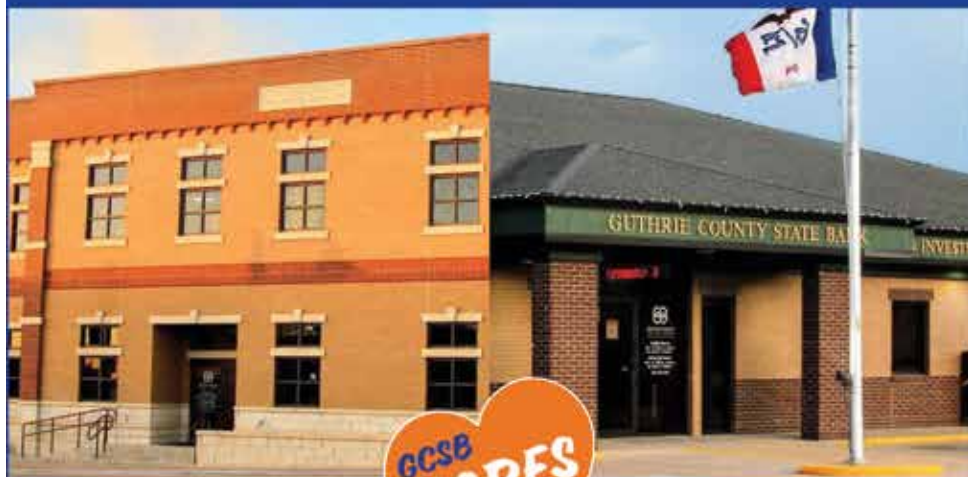
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- Keaton Rhoades Lawn Care
- Runners Up: JMJ Groundskeeping; Schwinger Lawn Service, Inc.

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LIBRARY

- Panora Library
- Runners Up: Casey Public Library; Mary J Barnett Memorial Library

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY LOCAL BAND OR MUSICIAN

- Dale Menning & the Stardusters
- Runners Up: Jake Kemble; Kile Jackson

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY MASSAGE THERAPIST (PERSON)

- Jade Irlmeier
- Runners Up: Erica Matthies; Rylie Claussen

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY MEXICAN RESTAURANT

- Los Altos, Panora
- Runners Up: Los Altos (Stuart); Orchard Family Restaurant (Guthrie Center)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY NURSERY OR GARDEN CENTER

- Panorama Gardens
- Runner Up: Tractor Supply Company

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PARENT/CHILD DATE SPOT

- Casey Creamery
- Runners Up: Guthrie Center Aquatic Complex; Pedal-In

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PARK

- Springbrook State Park
- Runners Up: Michael Mills Memorial Park (Panora); Mitchell Park (Guthrie Center)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PASTOR (PERSON)

- Pastor Jeremy Poland
- Runners Up: Father Ray Higgins; Pastor Jolene James

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PEST CONTROL COMPANY

- Cyclone Pest Management
- Runner Up: Paul's Pest Control

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PHARMACY

- Dowd Drug
- Runners Up: Medicap (Panora); Wright Pharmacy

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHER

- Betty Cooper
- Runners Up: Mark Reno; Serenity & Bliss Photography

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY FIRST DATE SPOT

- The Captain's Pick
- Runners Up: Prime Time; The Port on Lake Panora (now closed)

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLACE FOR A FIELD TRIP

- Springbrook State Park
- Runners Up: Early Morning Harvest; Guthrie County Historical Village & Museum

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLACE FOR GUESTS TO STAY

- Lakeside Inn (now closed)
- Runners Up: Lake Panoram National Resort; Midway Motel

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLACE FOR PIZZA

- The Lake Panoram Pizzeria
- Runners Up: Casey's General Store; The Stuart Scoop

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLACE TO BUY MEAT

- Guthrie County Quality Meats
- Runners Up: Dahl's Custom Meat Locker; Downing's Farm to Fork

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLACE TO HOLD AN EVENT

- The Captain's Pick
- Runners Up: Guthrie County Fairgrounds Event Center; Twin Vines

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- Mitchell Park Aquatic Complex
- Runners Up: Guthrie County Historical Village & Museum; Springbrook State Park

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- Lake Panoram Dog Park
- Runners Up: Casey City Park; Guthrie County Veterinary Services

BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY PLUMBER (BUSINESS)

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BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY REAL ESTATE COMPANY

- Lake Panoram Realty
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BEST GUTHRIE COUNTY REALTOR (PERSON)

- Kane Powell
- Runners Up: Laura Kemble; Vicki Cran-nell

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- Runners Up: Old Soul Millennial; Tribe Boutique LLC

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- Runners Up: Aly Dahlhauser (Panorama); Bob Bolton (ACGC)

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- **William Frels**
- Runners Up: Abby Frels; Seth Worthington

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

NAKED. FREAKY. RELAY. ROSES. PRINCE.



"The Bad Guys 2"



"The Naked Gun"



"Freakier Friday"



"Weapons"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

"THE BAD GUYS 2"

The original "Bad Guys" movie was great fun about a group of animals that robs banks and creates other hijinks. It was funny, smart and different than most kid films. Unfortunately, the sequel is nothing more than a retread of the first film — less the funny, smart and different parts. It appears to be a simple money-grab by the studio. Too bad. **Grade: C**



"THE NAKED GUN"

Liam Neeson taking over the role that Leslie Nielsen made famous back in 1988 sounded risky. Why would they mess with a film that many consider a classic? Will it work? I am happy to report that it not only works, but it works quite well. Plenty of big laughs and crass, off-color jokes. I laughed hard and often at a movie I feared would fail miserably. I was wrong. This is a funny movie. **Grade: B+**



"FREAKIER FRIDAY"

So far, I've reviewed six remakes or sequels and one original film. Here's No. 7. It must be summer. Whoever thought it would be a good idea to get Jamie Lee Curtis and Lyndsey Lohan back together to recreate the crazy hi-jinks of "Freaky Friday" was wrong. Way wrong. The story is dumb, and the jokes are lame. Why these two actresses agreed to this remake is a mystery to me. **Grade: D**



"WEAPONS"

Finally, an original idea and one of the best horror films I've seen in a handful of years. Like most films of the genre, the less I tell you, the more you will enjoy it. I can tell you that it has literally torn up the box office since it opened. "Weapons" is still in theaters, and that is exactly where this movie needs to be seen. And soon. **Grade: A**



"SKETCH"

This is another horror film that had the

misfortune of following in the footsteps of "Weapons," and it suffered because of it. The film was also weakened due to a lack of focus and special effects. It is the story of a child's drawings that are dropped in a "special" lake and somehow come to life. It is too scary for younger kids and not compelling enough for the older ones. Trying to be special to both groups was this movie's downfall. **Grade: B**



"NOBODY 2"

"Nobody 2" brings us back to the tale of a one-man wrecking ball who takes on bad guys and does so with a smile and smart-aleck remarks. Bob Odenkirk reprises his role from the first film, and the action scenes are equally solid. Unfortunately, the story is silly as he takes his family (including wife Connie Nielsen and father Christopher Lloyd) on a vacation to a Branson-like theme park where fights start almost at check in. The action is OK, but there is little to no story line to keep you involved. **Grade: C+**



"HIGHEST 2 LOWEST"

Any time Denzel Washington teams up with director Spike Lee, my level of excitement rises. "Highest 2 Lowest" gives us the story of a record company executive (Washington) whose son has been kidnapped and held for ransom. It is, as you might expect, a tense thriller with a satisfying twist ending. Washington is great, and Spike Lee is at the top of his game. "Highest 2 Lowest" is also director Lee's love letter to the City of New York. **Grade: A**



"EAST OF WALL"

This low-budget, independent film looks at a family living on a horse ranch in South Dakota. Times are tough, and money is short, but the work ethic and the love of their jobs are high. The South Dakota scenery is stunning, and the horse work is excellently filmed. **Grade: B**



"HONEY DON'T"

Ethan Coen wrote and directed this super-dark movie about a series of deaths in



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"Sketch"



"Nobody 2"



"Highest 2 Lowest"



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"Honey Don't"



"Relay"



"The Roses"



"Caught Stealing"

a small town. Coen doesn't skimp on sex or violence and also gives us some of the Coen brothers' quirky humor. It is edgy for sure but not at the level of " Fargo " or their other hits. Still it has its moments.

Grade: C+



"RELAY"

"Relay" is a brilliant film about a woman with company secrets that she intends to turn over to authorities. She is being tracked by "bad guys" but is being assisted through secure "relay phone messaging" that will keep her anonymous and safe. This movie is fantastic from start to finish and as tense as you might expect. Riz Ahmed and Lily James star in this thriller that will



have you guessing all the way to the end.

Grade: A

"THE ROSES"

Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman step into the shoes of Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner from 1989's "War of the Roses." He is an architect, and she is a master chef. Their relationship is strained, to say the least. The movie is a bitter and mean version of the original, and though it does have some humor, it seemed more uncomfortable than necessary. **Grade: C+**



"CAUGHT STEALING"

Austin Butler is a talented actor and knows his way around a fight scene. What happens when the movie is nothing more than one long fight scene and seems to get

more preposterous as it goes along? The answer is, you quit caring. If Butler punches one person, he punches 100 (maybe 200). In the real world, these people don't exist, and this movie wore out its welcome early and often. **Grade: D**



"PRINCE: SIGN O' THE TIMES"

To be able to see this concert film from Prince and the Revolution in an IMAX theater is a real treat. Obviously, the movie was not shot in IMAX, but the soundtrack holds up brilliantly. The movie also showcases not only the musical skills of Prince but also drummer Sheila E, who blows it away. If you get a chance, see this while it is still playing in Waukegan at the IMAX. **Grade: B+**



"Prince: Sign O' The Times"

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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GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS HEAR ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE SERVICES

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

AUG. 19 - SEVERE WEATHER POLICY, PROPOSED WAR MEMORIAL EXPANSION

During the Aug. 19 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, discussion was held on the county's proposed severe weather policy.

"There's been discussion around essential and nonessential worker compensation. We reached out to all department heads to request a list of essential workers or essential positions who would respond in the event of a severe weather emergency, so we can identify who is expected to report in that event," Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said.

Armstrong shared information on efforts to streamline the pay plan for times when the courthouse may be closed due to severe weather.

"If the courthouse closes, all county offices close. So that means those non-essential workers would get an eight-hour workday of pay," Armstrong said.

The supervisors then discussed how to address the essential workers who would be expected to work during the severe weather event. The consensus was that those essential workers would be paid regular time, unless the event required overtime work, in which case those workers would be paid overtime.

Armstrong also suggested how to handle situations in which a non-essential worker was unable or unwilling to report to work during severe weather when the courthouse was still open.

"If there's somebody who feels uncomfortable, can't get out, doesn't want to drive, they would need to use time from a bucket, whether that's vacation or comp time or personal time,

if they're going to choose not to come to work," she said.

Supervisors Steve Smith and JD Kuster said if this becomes the policy, it will need to be clearly communicated to essential workers to avoid surprises.

No formal action was taken on the issue at this time.

Facilities Director Brandon Thompson shared information about the proposed War Memorial expansion and sidewalk repair project outside the courthouse. The supervisors approved the plans as presented.

The supervisors appointed Beth Watson to serve as Guthrie County's representative on the Region XII Housing Authority Board of Directors.

AUG. 26 - COUNTY PLAN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, RECENT HEALTH FAIRS

Health Service Director Jotham Ar-

ber provided an update on the status of the county plan for first responders (also known as EMR or emergency medical responders), as a way to improve response and response timing for medical emergencies. He said since Panora and Stuart have ambulance services, the EMR plan is focusing especially on areas where ambulance response time may take longer. Arber said training for EMRs is set to begin.

"On Sept. 3, we're going to hold our first EMR class through DMACC here in the county. I currently have six folks signed up," Arber said. "I have one from Bagley, and I have three from Bayard. I have one from Guthrie Center, and I have one from the Panora area."

Arber explained that EMRs are to provide basic life support services to stabilize a person in a medical emergency until a higher-level provider can

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take over. He said new EMRs would go through an orientation period.

"We'll do a 90-day orientation with all responders that are coming on board with us before we let them out into the world," Arber said.

Arber said EMRs need to clearly know what they can do — and, just as importantly, what they cannot do — while interacting on the scene of a medical emergency.

"They're not going to transport anyone," Arber said. "They're going to arrive on the scene to do what they need to do with the backpacks."

Arber also reported on the success of recent health fairs at local schools.

"We've done health fairs in Stuart, Panorama and Audubon, and we're going to do one in Guthrie Center Sept. 4," Arber said. "In total, we have had 252 folks come through the doors between Panorama and Stuart. We've done 19 haircuts. We've given out 79 backpacks. We've done 45 dental screenings, and we provided 310 meals."

County Recorder Tristen Richard shared an update on operations in the recorder's office. She discussed the various revenue sources for the department and where the funds go.

The supervisors approved the health service agreement between the coun-

ty and the sheriff's department (jail) as described by Arber. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong said she is eager to see the expected cost savings under the agreement.

SEPT. 2 - OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong shared information she recently learned regarding possible uses for funds from the opioid settlement.

"Last week, I had a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting," Armstrong said. "It was really interesting because somebody from Iowa HHS was talking about the Iowa Opioid Settlement dollars. When those dollars are handed down from the federal government, a portion goes to the State of Iowa and a portion goes to the counties. So, the state was actually asking the advisory council to give guidance on ways the state can help fund services around the state. It was a really good discussion."

The supervisors discussed ideas of possible fund uses, such as out-of-home treatment for addiction. No board action was taken at this time.

Armstrong also praised the efforts of the Guthrie County Fair Board. She said the fair had strong attendance

and ran smoothly.

"Hats off to the fair board. They do a really good job," Armstrong said.

SEPT. 9 - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, COVID VACCINES

The supervisors heard from Brett Michael, Mental Health Advocate, who serves an area including Guthrie County and six other counties. Board Chair Maggie Armstrong shared why she felt it would be helpful for the supervisors to hear from Michael.

Michael explained how he is assigned to work with individuals who are deemed by the court to be in need of involuntary mental health services.

"I get appointed to basically work with people through the process," Michael said. "Overall, part of it is making sure people know what their rights are through the process. It can be a really confusing time for people. Some people are perfectly able to advocate for themselves."

Supervisor Mike Dickson asked about the need for the advocate position, saying that county staff are already able to provide such services.

"We're setting things up within the county ourselves," Dickson said.

Armstrong said the county's advocate cost is reimbursed by the State

of Iowa, and she added that Michael's position has been operating at the same hourly rate of \$19.30 per hour for more than a decade. She asked the supervisors to consider a cost-of-living increase in that rate. No formal action was taken at this time. Michael said his time spent dealing with Guthrie County has ranged from seven to 32 hours per month.

Health Services Director Jotham Arber addressed the supervisors, reporting on status of Public Health and Environmental Health services.

"COVID vaccines are a big thing right now," Arber said.

Arber shared a plan that is in the initial stages.

"I am working with the schools to try to get a 28E agreement drafted that would allow them to all share mental health services," Arber said. "I talked to all the superintendents and all the school counselors, and I think there's a great appetite to work together to get more mental health services into our schools."

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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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL HEARS ARBITRARY ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINT ABOUT NUISANCE ORDINANCE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

AUG. 25 MEETING

At the Aug. 25 regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, citizens Dennis Ludwig Jr. and Renea Winkleblack expressed concern of arbitrary enforcement of the city's "nuisance" ordinance regarding items and vehicles on their yard.

"I've always used the term that you're harassing me. That is not the case. I've been incorrect on that. This is an arbitrary matter," Ludwig said.

Ludwig said he has consulted legal counsel and has pictures of other properties within the city that are also in violation of the ordinance but have not been addressed. He said some of those properties belong to city council members.

Ludwig said he's been working on addressing the violations on the property, and council members said it appears that 90% is completed. Ludwig said he would put a tarp over the trailer loaded with equipment. Councilmember Ian Steensen said the city will check to see that all applicable issues have been addressed to come into compliance with the ordinance.

Compliance Officer Wes Clark stated there are currently 16 other properties the city has notified of violations of the nuisance ordinance.

Arrasmith said the city will need to purchase four new heaters for the pool at a cost of about \$25,000. She also said the city's lawn mowers have been used as much this year as in the previous three years combined due to the summer's warm and wet conditions.

SEPT. 9 MEETING

During the meeting of the council on

Sept. 9, Mayor Mike Herbert reported on the city's determination regarding the Ludwig/Winkleblack nuisance violation status. He said the city consulted with the city attorney for guidance. Renea Winkleblack and Dennis Ludwig Jr. have previously stated that others in the city have similar items on properties on a trailer and/or under a tarp, and those properties are not being dealt with as violations of the city ordinance.

"Keeping things in the trailer and the back of the truck, it's our legal counsel that that is not OK," Herbert said.

"It won't be a change; it'll just be further action," Ludwig said.

The council voted 2-1 to inform the property owner of a 14-day window to bring the property into compliance with the ordinance. Garold Thomas and Ian Steensen voted in favor; Fidel Hernandez voted against.

Streets Department Director Darin Sloss was asked when the city park's public restrooms will be closed for the year. He said likely around Oct. 1. Sloss also reported on fence repairs needed at the Little League ballfield. He said the repair would cost \$3,000. The council voted 3-0 to approve the repair.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith reported that staffing at New Opportunities has been cut back somewhat because of decreased federal funding. She said New Opportunities continues to operate, but hours may be decreased. She said that anyone coming to donate items can leave them with city staff if the New Opportunities office is closed at a particular time.

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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GCH TO SEEK BIDS FOR CONFERENCE CENTER

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the Aug. 28 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, CEO Chris Stipe explained that groundbreaking for the hospital's proposed major construction/ expansion plan will likely be delayed until the spring of 2026. He explained the delay is due to waiting for official approval from the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

"Because we're pushing the larger project start date to March, we could go ahead and build the conference center. The reason we would do that is to avoid having trailers (during the larger project). We were going to have the primary care clinic in a trailer," Stipe said.

Stipe said the conference center could be built over the fall/winter, and that space could then be used instead of trailers during the larger project.

"Instead of moving the clinic into a trailer, we would move the clinic into the conference center, and it would be a temporary clinic while we were doing phase one of the construction," Stipe said.

The trustees voted in favor of a resolution to seek bids, not to exceed \$2 million, for the conference center. The board retains the option of rejecting any or all bids.

Stipe also said the hospital plans to schedule "town hall" meetings to share information with the public regarding the hospital's construction project.

"If there's a lot of interest, maybe we'll do more," he said.

Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson provided a monthly report on finances. He reported on the expected impact of the newly enacted "Big Beautiful Bill" on the Guthrie County Hospital. Johnson said there are two scenarios based on how the measures in the bill are implemented. Johnson said the expected impact is that the hospital would lose out on either \$3 million or half a million dollars over a five-year span.

Stipe explained the timing of the bill's impact on the hospital.

"Both of these scenarios are five-year scenarios that start in 2028 and end in 2033, so you've got a five-year impact," he said.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery said the hospital will be hosting a 5K run/walk event on Oct. 4 along with a health fair.

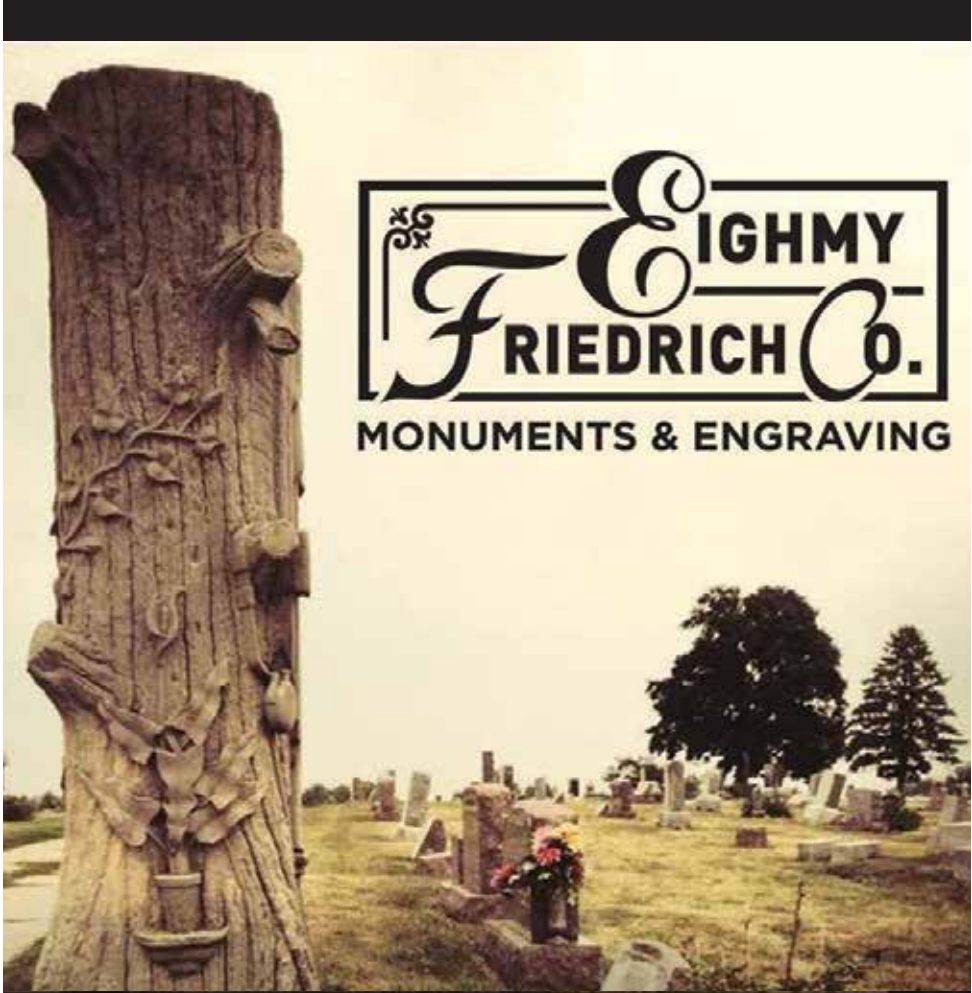
Because of holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas), the dates on the board's November and December meetings were changed. The November meeting was set for Monday, Dec. 1, and the December meeting was set for Monday, Dec. 29.

The board went into special closed session to discuss two matters.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

PHOTOS BY MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



ACGC's Meranda Gruber goes for the serve during a scrimmage against Coon Rapids-Bayard on Aug. 15.



ACGC's No. 4 Joe Crawford evades tacklers against Panorama on Aug. 28.



Camdyn Richter bumps the ball in ACGC's scrimmage against Coon Rapids-Bayard on Aug. 15.



ACGC's No. 24 Ilana Baumert gets low to keep the ball alive at the quad on Sept. 4.



ACGC football looks to start its season 3-0 for the third straight year on Friday, Sept. 12 against Nodaway Valley.



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ACGC's No. 4 Joe Crawford scampers into the end zone against Panorama in the Chargers 40-0 win on Aug. 28.



ACGC's No. 18 Nora Langgaard rises up for the block during a home game.



ACGC's Stella Largent gets under the ball during a scrimmage against Coon Rapids-Bayard on Aug. 15.



ACGC's No. 5 Ryder Cline chases down the Panorama QB on Aug. 28..



ACGC's No. 11 Kinnick Froehlich intercepts a pass against Panorama on Aug. 28. ■

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EDUCATION

ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS CONSIDER FACILITY CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the Aug. 20 meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, Superintendent Josh Rasmussen discussed the option to have Denovo Construction Solutions perform a facility assessment for each school district. He said Denovo could also be the contractor for any projects the districts may choose to do, or Denovo could simply provide the assessment of which projects are most in need. Rasmussen added that he himself will not have much spare time for facility planning in the coming months.

"If we want to get anything done by next summer, we probably need to start," Rasmussen said. "I don't have a lot of extra time right now, but I think Denovo could do some of that work for us, if we ask them."

The Adair-Casey School Board voted to approve a facility conditions assessment by Denovo. The Guthrie Center School Board tabled the issue for possible consideration in the coming months.

Rasmussen said the Adair-Casey Junior High roofing project is completed, other than an upcoming "walk-through" that will satisfy warranty requirements. A large pile of "roof rock" will be offered on a "first

come, first served, freewill donation" basis for anyone interested in taking the rock by Sept. 15.

Principal Ed Den Beste said the preliminary activities and meetings related to the upcoming school year have gone well.

"Good start to the year and looking forward to getting the kids back in," he said.

Staff and the boards discussed and approved the second reading of the "Student use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy." Rasmussen explained that a new law requires all school to comply with the expectation, although exact procedures will be developed at each school. Rasmussen and Principals Tandem Eischeid and Den Beste said they have had relatively few problems related to this issue.

The Adair-Casey board and the Guthrie Center board each unanimously approved the Student Handbook as proposed.

Rasmussen talked about career education, explaining it is a requirement and something Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center Schools want to pursue. He said it will be integrated into all grade levels in some manner.

The October meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards is set for Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the ACGC High School Media Center in Guthrie Center. The public is welcome. ■

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ASK TIMES



Submit your questions at
www.guthriecentertimes.com or
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Q: WHEN DO THE FARMERS MARKETS IN GUTHRIE CENTER END?

A: The Guthrie Center Farmers Markets have been held every other Saturday this summer in downtown Guthrie Center from 9-11 a.m. The last market of the year in Guthrie Center takes place on Sept. 20. In the meantime, get the Fall Festival on your calendar for Oct. 11.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHO WON THE GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT?

A: Yes, we do. The cribbage tournament was held as part of the Guthrie County Fair activities on Aug. 29 at the Event Center. The tournament was sponsored by the Milo Rees family, who paid for the players' admission to the fair. A total of 58 people participated. Winners were:

- 1st - Dean Griffith
- 2nd - Merlin Phippin
- 3rd - Clint Malbon

- 4th - Dave Richter
- 5th - John Rees
- 6th - Ski Ciesielski
- 7th - Lyle Laughery
- 8th - Roy Clark
- 9th - Robert Klever
- 10th - Graham Clark

Hands of 24 were held by Carol Laughery, Lyle Laughery, Dean Griffith, Charlotte Holle, Steve Ortner and Rex Schoonover. There were 17 games with a skunk.

Q: I AM GOING TO BE DIGGING UP SOME PLANTS IN MY YARD. DO I NEED TO CALL THE UTILITIES AND HAVE MARKER FLAGS INSTALLED? AND HOW MUCH NOTICE DO I NEED TO GIVE THEM?

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CRAFTED TO LAST

Cool Tool Leather Works creates leather creations and sells at renaissance fairs throughout the Midwest.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Some years ago, Les Craig of Casey decided to tinker around trying to create items from leather for his own use. As he gained experience and skill, he realized this could become more than a hobby. Eventually, Craig took the plunge, and he now makes his living crafting leather attire.

"This is what I do now, after 30-some years as a house painter," Craig said.

As Craig began making and selling his leather creations, he found that renaissance fairs were the ideal market. He now attends renaissance fairs throughout the Midwest.

"My wife and I make leather goods for renaissance festivals and fairs. We run anywhere from Wisconsin to Arkansas to Nebraska to Indiana. We haven't made it into Ohio yet, but we're thinking about it," Craig said. "Starting in September, I've got five weekends in a row, so I'm in a rush right now to get everything together and made."

Craig also participates in local events when he can, such as the Greenfield renaissance fair that was held earlier this summer.

Craig named his company Cool Tool Leather Works. He recalled how he first realized there was a demand for his products.

"I started dabbling in it about five years ago, then we went to Sleepy Hollow two years ago and we found that there was a niche for us. Nobody else does quite what Cool Tool does," Craig said. "Cool Tool is an artisan shop. Everything we sell is done by us. We don't buy anything other than the hardware."

To meet the demand, Craig's wife, Cindy, has joined him in creating items to sell.

"My wife works three days a week at



Les Craig shows a piece of leather armor.

Casey's and then four days a week doing this. She makes pouches and cloaks and a few other accessories," Craig said. "I make armor and spaulders and wrist guards and stuff."

Craig admitted he never considered himself artistic, at least not in the traditional sense.

"I'm not an artist. I'm a leather artist, and I can tool, but when it comes to drawing, give it up. My stick peo-

ple even look bad," Craig said. "So, we make a stencil, and then I'll cut everything in and tool it out."

Craig recalled what was the most difficult part, as a beginner, in learning to create leather gear.

"Learning to control the swivel knife; sometimes it doesn't work so well," he said.

Craig said that he could continue showing his gear at renaissance fairs



Cool Tool's logo in leather.



Spaulders are beautiful yet tough.



Les Craig shows a piece in progress.

throughout the year if he chose to travel further during the winter months. But, for now at least, he travels less during the winter, which gives a chance to build up his inventory.

Looking to the future, the couple plans to continue making what they enjoy and will adjust as the market demands. Cool Tool items can be seen on the company's Facebook page.

"For now, we plan to just keep on





Les Craig shows a headpiece made by Cindy.

keeping on,” Craig said.
 One thing Craig does not plan to change is the focus on quality.
 “Cool Tool is totally into our craftsmanship and our quality. That’s what we emphasize the most. We get a lot of compliments. It’s nice to hear from people who have been all across the Midwest, and they tell us that our stuff is among the top,” he said. “My stuff is going to last. If you take care of it, you’ll be handing it down to grandchildren. Leather will hang around for you as long as you take care of it.” ■



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GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

MUCH FUN WAS HAD AT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR PARADE



The Guthrie County Fair Parade was held Saturday morning, starting at 10 a.m. The theme was "Dive Into The Fun At The Guthrie County Fair 2025." Photographer Mark Reno captured images of the participants. ■

MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

**SEE MORE
PHOTOS**

COMMUNITY

ROSE ACRE FARMS DONATES \$50,000 TO GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL FOR NEW HELIPAD CONSTRUCTION

Special to the Times Vedette

Guthrie County Hospital announced a \$50,000 donation from Rose Acre Farms to support the upgrade of its existing helipad, an asset in providing timely emergency medical care to the region.

"We are deeply grateful to Rose Acre Farms for this substantial contribution," Guthrie County Hospital CEO Chris Stipe said. "This donation will go a long way in ensuring our

hospital is equipped for the most efficient and effective emergency response possible."

The new helipad project is part of Guthrie County Hospital's ongoing efforts to improve access to life-saving care. The upgrade will include updated lighting, enhanced structural components and improved access pathways for emergency personnel and equipment.

The hospital hopes to break ground on the new helipad before winter of this year. ■

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GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

HAINES CROWNED GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN



Brooklyn Haines was crowned as this year's Guthrie County Fair Queen at the coronation ceremony on Sunday evening. Shyann Young, the past queen, presented Haines with the formal honor on the stage of the Little Amphitheater at 6 p.m. ■

GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR

SCENES FROM A DAY AT THE 2025 GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIR



Another Guthrie County Fair is in the books, but the memories will last for a lifetime. From the midway to the grandstand and the bingo hall to the show barns, fair attendees and participants will remember these experiences for years to come. Pictured is Leah Kastner and her calf. ■

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HOBBIES

STITCHING FOR MISSIONS

A group at the Casey United Methodist Church meets every Tuesday morning to create homemade items they donate to various charitable causes.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Most people work throughout their adult years, earning a living and raising a family. Then, in later years, many may find the need for something to fill all those hours. A group at the Casey United Methodist Church recently found a way to fill some of the time in a benevolent and sociable manner.

The group, known as Stitching for Missions, meets regularly every Tuesday morning at the church to create homemade items they then donate to various charitable causes near and far.

Joan Acker, one of the group members, explained how the project began. “Some people can’t be idle,” Acker said. “We started brainstorming, and our circle bought a loom for making mats. So that started it, in the spring of 2025, and then someone said we should be sewing, too.”

The loom is used for turning plastic shopping bags into sleeping mats for the homeless, providing a barrier from the cold, wet ground. Donated plastic bags are cut to the appropriate size to fit the



Sharon Larson, Bev Rhoads, Peg Snyder, Joan Acker, Myrna Whetstone, Jo Ann Morris and Faye Edgington.

loom and are then woven into the body of the mat. The group’s first mat is currently in production. A potato masher has been repurposed as a tightener for the loom, pulling the bags snugly into place before the next row is added.

“It will take between 600 and 700 plastic bags to make a mat, and it will be 3 feet by 6 feet,” Acker said.

The completed mats will be donated for use in the Des Moines metro area. While some volunteers work on the

mat, others are sewing flannel diapers, school bags, receiving blankets or quilts.

“On Nov. 1, we’ll take all our things for the ingathering down to Greenfield, so then we’ll be able to start all over, after they send out new lists of the items they

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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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Peg Snyder and Sharon Larson create a mat on the loom.



Faye Edgington and Myrna Whetstone trim bags for use on the loom.

would like," Acker said.

Donations of plastic shopping bags and/or sewing materials are greatly appreciated.

"Right now, the main thing we need is flannel," Acker said.

As a reward for their hard work each Tuesday morning, the group generally gathers for lunch at Pioneers Pub & Grub afterwards. Husbands also join,

when available.

Since the group formed in the spring of this year, there isn't a clear answer as to whether they will continue meeting weekly through the winter. But, all agreed that if weather is particularly bad on any Tuesday, they prefer to stay home.

The Stitching for Missions group welcomes anyone to come join them, and

there is no requirement to be a member of the church.

Looking to the future, the members say they are happy to keep busy helping others and will adjust their projects to meet the needs of the groups to which they donate.

"We'll keep going along, as long as we have material and energy, I guess," Acker said. ■



School bags and diapers made by the group.

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**CLIFFORD
EARL LEIB**
1933-2025

Clifford Earl Leib was born on March 2, 1933, in his family's rural Guthrie County home to Ottis E. & Ruth I. (Moreland) Leib. His family had moved to the home on March 1, as his mother had inherited it after her father passed and March 1 was the day farm renters moved during that time period. That home place was recognized as a Century Farm in 1976 and is now called the River Ranch. Those original 80 acres remain in the Leib family today, a fact that made Clifford very proud. Clifford attended Seeley #7 through the eighth grade and then went to high school in town, graduating from Guthrie Center High School in 1950.

Clifford was a farm boy through and through. He often commented that his favorite toy growing up was dirt, especially the fine dirt in the driveway. One story he shared was

when a hired man was cutting hay with horses in a field near their home, the team stopped and wouldn't go any further no matter what the hired man did. He then realized the reason — Clifford was playing in the hay field and was in front of the mower.

Clifford worked alongside his dad and brother while growing up. One summer, he wanted to grow watermelons, and while the others were resting after the noonday meal, he spent his time tending them with a manure and water mixture. His efforts were successful, and his family enjoyed watermelon far past the season, after storing them in the granary to protect them from freezing. While the outside didn't keep, the hearts were good well into the winter.

Education was important in the Leib family. Clifford's mother had been a teacher before marrying, and his dad worked with him to make sure he learned his multiplication tables during country school. After high school, Clifford attended The Commercial Extension School of Commerce in Omaha, graduating in 1951. He studied accounting, and for some spending money, he worked in the Mutual of Omaha cafeteria where he got good supper meals. On the weekends, he also worked on a construction site. Afterwards, he returned home and began farming with his dad and brother again, starting a large herd of sheep, which

his dad took care of when he went into the United States Army in May 1953.

He first went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, then Fort Belvoir in Virginia where he went to Engineers School. After finishing near the top of his class, he went to Germany where he drove a truck for his unit that built bridges. He made lifelong friendships in the Army. He also traveled to Denmark to meet the extended Langgaard family, who were neighbors back home. He was honorably discharged in 1955.

While in the Army, he started exchanging letters with Dorothy Kuper with the encouragement of two of their friends. They met in person before he went to Germany and continued to correspond. On Feb. 10, 1957, they were engaged and married on the very warm evening of Sunday, Aug. 11, 1957, in Ackley. After the wedding, they made their home on a farm north of Guthrie Center, referred to as the Hess Place.

Their family grew while living there with the births of Mary Ellen, Ann Marie and Beth June. In December 1962, they moved up the road to the house that became their home for the next 46 years. In 1967, Sara Jo, arrived completing their family. Clifford and Dorothy bought their final home on Oak Street in August 2007, moving to town in 2008.

Clifford loved his family of women. Many

evenings, he came into the home for supper exclaiming, "Here I am, you lucky women!" He had a great sense of humor and was just plain ornery. He liked to joke and tease with his family, giving his girls a taste of what it would be like to have a brother. He made a special noise to get the girls moving up the stairs at bedtime that would still make them get a move on today. And putting his face into the screen of a kitchen window as he came in for supper would get the girls to shriek.

Clifford continued to farm and started raising hogs and cattle along with the row crops and the sheep. Known for wearing Key Imperial striped bib overalls, he worked hard and put in long days, as farmers do, putting his family's needs ahead of his own. He sold DeKalb seed corn for 25 years beginning in 1962. It was an exciting day when the truck would deliver the many bags stored in the corn crib with planter plates decorating the walls. And then again when other farmers came to pick up their orders. Always a tall man, watching him easily swing his leg over the fence to feed the cattle north of their home with his strong voice calling, "Come, Boss" is a favorite memory of the girls.

The young family became members of the First United Presbyterian Church in Guthrie Center in 1959. Clifford was a devoted member and served as an elder throughout the years.

Many family friendships were made at church and continue to be strong today. Both Clifford and Dorothy were awarded a "Faithful Through the Years" award by the Presbytery of Des Moines in 2016. In June 2025, he was honored as the oldest member at the church's 150th anniversary service.

A farmer never really retires, and that was true for Clifford. Even after renting out his farmland more than 25 years ago, he continued to help wherever he was needed. He especially enjoyed being part of the harvest crew. After moving to town, he still spent his days going to the country.

In the 1990s, his Army buddies started an annual reunion, which Clifford enjoyed immensely. They traveled to Missouri, Kentucky and Colorado to reminisce and make new memories. The group even traveled to Iowa so that Clifford and Dorothy could share their home with them. After the calves sold in January during their retirement, they also traveled to Arizona for more than 30 years to spend time with Mary and Steve's family. Being present for special events of their family, especially their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brought smiles to their faces.

Throughout his life, Clifford was devoted to his family including his extended family. While he quietly went about the business of getting things done, he still made time for them and made sure that all of his daughters

were able to attend college. He loved a good story or joke, and there was nothing better than hearing his deep laughter echo through the house. He had friendships with people of all ages and won the respect of many. While his success in life wasn't flashy, those who really knew him know that he was one of the most successful people they will ever have had the pleasure to know.

As the years passed, health issues made it harder to do the things he loved, yet he carried on. Planting a garden and flowers at the townhouse helped fill his heart and love for the land. In recent years, a ride in the country to see his farms and to see what others were doing always lifted his spirits. He loved sharing that time with his family and telling stories along the way.

Clifford passed away peacefully on Aug. 12, 2025, at The New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

Clifford is survived by four of his "better" daughters: Mary (Steve) Fogleman, Douglas, Arizona; Ann (Lewis) Polito, Hartford; Beth Leib (Lori Requist), Urbandale; and Sara (David) Hughes, New Virginia. Also surviving are six grandchildren: Jennifer (Isaac) Chavez, Stockton, California; Trevor Polito, Hartford; Brandon Polito, Hartford; Rebekah Fogleman, El Paso, Texas; Joshua Hughes (Jack Ave), Des Moines; and Jacob Hughes, New Virginia; and four



OBITUARIES

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great-grandchildren: Neva Rose, Kaylee Elise, Olivia Joy, and Nathaniel John Chavez, Stockton, California, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; parents, Ottis and Ruth (Moreland) Leib; siblings, Roger (Rosemary) Leib, Beverly (Max) Uhlman, Joy (William) Scarbrough; and nephew-in-law, Alvin Sheeder; in-laws John and Marie Kuper; Mildred (Lawrence) DeWalt, Kenneth (Annie) Kuper, and Ruth (Bud) Murphy; niece, Debra (DeWalt) Peyton; nephews-in-law, Alois Vitasek and Craig Jensen.

Family members were present for a visitation held on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 701 State St., Guthrie Center. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the church with a luncheon following.

Memorials will be distributed at the discretion of the family. ■



DENNIS RAY WAILES
1947-2025

Dennis Ray Wailes, age 77, of rural Scranton, passed away on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Israel Family Hospice House in Ames surrounded by his family.

Dennis was born on Sept. 7, 1947, on a farm north of Bayard, and he was the son of George and Margaret (Dargon) Wailes. His father passed away when he was a young boy, and his family moved into Bayard where he graduated from Bayard High School in

1965. Dennis was drafted into the United States Army in 1966 and served two years during the Vietnam Conflict. Upon his return from Vietnam, he lived in Des Moines where he met the love of his life, Leannah Simpson. They were married on Nov. 21, 1969, at the First United Methodist Church in Des Moines.

The couple lived in Des Moines for a short time before moving to DeSoto where he worked for Booneville Gravel as a heavy equipment operator. They later moved to Mechanicsville where he worked for Orkin Pest Control out of Cedar Rapids. In 1976, they moved to their current home south of Scranton and Dennis began employment with West Central Cooperative, retiring in 2003. He also had a home business, sharpening chainsaw blades. "Double Aught" continued to drive truck for the coop and always looked forward to helping his son-in-law and sister during harvest.

Dennis enjoyed traveling, collecting

project vehicles, chatting with his family and friends on the telephone, watching Fox news, tracking his family members on Find My iPhone, and, most of all, spending time with his family — especially his grandchildren.

Dennis is survived by his wife Leannah of 55 years; his children and their families: son Jason Wailes (Marlene) of Council Bluffs, son Brett Wailes (Andrea) of Scranton, daughter Heather Schoenherr (Dan) of Glidden, daughter Jennifer Wailes (Kris Foster) of Pleasantville, and bonus son Steve Kennel (Christine) of Youngstown, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; two great-granddaughters;

two sisters: Beverly Lorenzen (Mike) of Dallas Center and Kathryn Hunter (Richard) of Scranton; his in-laws: Dorothy Biondi (Dan) of Sheldahl, Linda Moore (Andy) of Moravia, Dale Simpson (Joan) of Poway, California, George Simpson (Miriam) of Ventura, and Janice West of Wesley; many nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

Dennis was preceded in death by his father George Wailes; his mother Margaret McDonald; his step-father Scott McDonald; his in-laws: Louis and Ruth Simpson; a brother Harold Dean Wailes; two sisters: Shirley Imler (Dean) and Clara

Johnson (Marvin); and brothers-in-law: Donald Simpson and Richard Fox.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, at the Church of Christ in Bayard followed by inurnment at the Willow Township Cemetery near Bayard with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Bayard American Legion.

Funeral arrangements was under the direction of the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Scranton and online condolences may be left for the family at www.dahnandwoodhouse.com. ■

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, July 30, 1975

DEAD RINGER. Champion horseshoe pitcher Guy Spitler polishes his form in readiness for State Fair horseshoe tournaments. The Adair farmer prefers wearing overalls, but says horseshoe pitchers are getting away from them. So he's switched to an outfit of pants, knit shirt and soft shoes for tournament play.

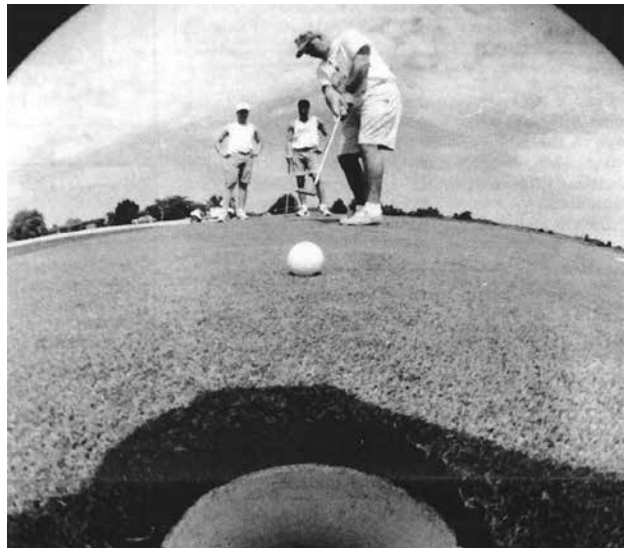
40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Sept. 4, 1985

BOMBER SENIORS, COACHES. Adair-Casey will field another young team this season. The Bombers have just two seniors on their roster, Matt Shroyer, left, and David Carlson. New head coach is Tim Cooper, second from right, who was at Manilla last year. He is assisted by Bill Roederer.

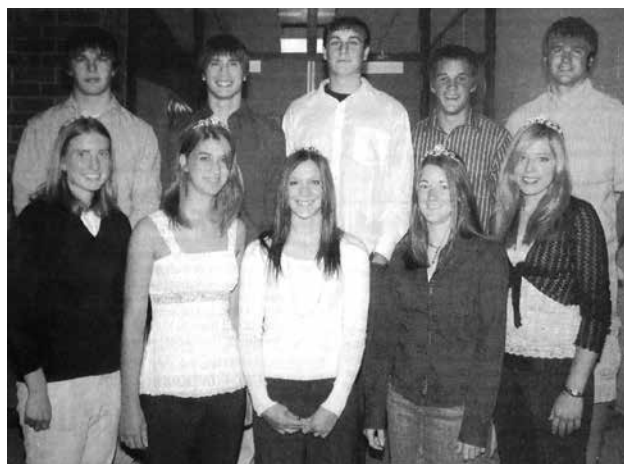
30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Sept. 13, 1995

CAN'T MISS. From this fisheye lens view of a cup at the Guthrie Center Golf Club, it appears Dave Litterer can't miss this putt. Watching are playing partners Nick Muller, left, and Randy Mohning.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Sept. 21, 2005

HOMECOMING AT GCHS. It's homecoming week at Guthrie Center High School, and the royal court has been selected. Queen candidates are, from left, Jodi Calvert, Kaelyn Patrick, Jentry Kopaska, Jessica Slater and Shannon Rees. King candidates are, from left, Austin Willms, Tyler Vaughan, Nate Crannell, Adam Faucher and Kyle Cheney. A 2:30 p.m. parade is scheduled Friday with a pep rally afterward at the courthouse square. Coronation will be at halftime of the Tigers' football game with West Harrison.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Sept. 30, 2015

ER-DAY. Participating in ER-Day Tuesday during Homecoming Week at Guthrie Center were (from left) Lauryn Embleton, firefighter, Cora Hoyt, cheerleader, Alexa Herbert, biker, Rachel Rumelhart, wrestler, Leigan Laughery, plumber, Peyton Froehlich, character, Morgan Meacham, character. Monday was Pajama Day, Wednesday American Day, Thursday, Class Color, Friday, Black and Gold Day.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Sept. 17, 2020

Homecoming Queen Rylee Sloss, right, and Homecoming King Lucas Marsh, left, celebrate their coronation during halftime at the Charger/Woodward-Granger Football game Friday, Sept. 11, 2020, at ACGC High School in Guthrie Center. ■



FLANERY FAMILY GOES THE DISTANCE FOR CYCLONE FOOTBALL

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Once again, it is football season, where fans pack the stadium to cheer on their favorite team. But fans seldom travel as far as the Flanery family did when they flew to Dublin, Ireland, to watch the Iowa State Cyclones play the Kansas State Wildcats on Aug. 23. Both teams entered the game ranked among the top 25 in the country, so a great battle was expected.

And that is exactly what Ireland and the Flanery family saw, as the Cyclones battled rain and a slippery field to outlast the Wildcats for a 24-21 victory.

Dennis Flanery of Guthrie Center explained the reasoning behind the trip.

“My wife and I, our daughter and her husband had previously been to Ireland,” Flanery said. “It was the first time for my

two sons. The ISU game was the initial reason for the visit. We had no travel issues; it was a smooth trip.”

In scheduling a trip of that distance, the family wisely chose to take in more than just a football game.

“The six of us traveled around Ireland the week before the game. It was Diane and I; our daughter, Erin, and her husband, Nate; my two sons, Ryan and Sean,” Flanery said. “My sister, Maria, and her husband, Jeff, met us in Dublin and attended the game with us.”

Flanery said the people and beauty of Ireland were memorable.

“The beautiful countryside and coastlines. The traditional Irish pubs and music. The great weather and friendly people,” Flanery said. “We hired a driver one day around the Ring of Kerry. She provided us a lot of information about the area and day-to-day life in



The Flanery family at the Ring of Kerry/Skellig Islands.

Ireland.”

Several other items came to mind when Flanery thought back to highlights of the

trip.

“All the Cyclone fans, great fresh fish, the Guinness, and the Cyclone victory,” he said. ■

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BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Through the month of September, Mary J. Barnett Library is celebrating neighbors and community in honor of National Good Neighbor Day on Sept. 28. National Good Neighbor Day was signed into law in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter, yet it isn't widely observed.

Since the MJB Library is a hub of our community, we like the idea of getting to know our neighbors better. Neighbors are vital to our library's mission. The library exists to promote life-long learning and community services to our neighbors.

Neighbors are also vital to the existence of the library in

that they contribute a great deal to our programs and services. While we appreciate the monetary donations to the library and to the Friends of the Guthrie Center Library, we also appreciate many types of gifts from our neighbors.

As Jon M. Huntsman points out, "Wealth isn't always measured in dollar signs. We each have time, talent and creativity, all of which can be powerful forces for positive change. Share your blessings in whatever form they come and to whatever level you have been blessed."

While working at the MJB Library, it has been my extreme pleasure to get to know my neighbors better and to learn of their gifts and tal-

ents. Each month, library patrons are treated to a beautiful quilt created by one of the amazing artisans in our community who have the vision to turn a pile of fabric into a work of art.

Our display case houses a variety of things including collections curated by dedicated collectors, family heirlooms passed down through generations, or items created as the result of developing a hobby.

We are always looking for quilters who want to share their creations on our quilt hanger or someone who has something to display in our display case for a month.

Many of our programs are an outgrowth of interests or skills that someone would



In case you missed the amazing 4-H projects at the Guthrie County Fair, members of the Seely Bobcats have displayed their outstanding projects at the Mary J. Barnett Library display case for the month of September. Please stop by to take a look at the creative work of our younger neighbors.

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like to teach others. If you have a hobby or skill that you would like to share, or some interesting experience that you would like to turn into a program, reach out to us.

We know our neighbors are rich in talent and creativity, and we at the MJB Library, as well as our community, appreciate those who are generous enough to invest their time. We are grateful for people who generously take time to make our library such a wonderful place.

The MJB Library Board are volunteers who invest time to make decisions about the policy and the running of the library. We are so appreciative of the energy they invest each month. The Friends of the Guthrie Center Library are neighbors who work tirelessly to raise money for the needs of the library beyond what is budgeted. Their efforts are appreciated and enjoyed by all who use the library. Friends is open to anyone who would like to join.

We appreciate people like

Becky Carico, who donates her time and green thumb to tend to all the gorgeous plants inside and outside of the library. We value Judi Zimmerline, who shares her creativity to lead our card making classes and some youth craft days. Think you have nothing to share with the community at our library? We bet you're wrong!

We would love to have guest readers who want to read to our preschoolers during story hour. Let us know if you know how to make something that you can teach others. Join the Friends of the Library for opportunities to enhance our library. We can always use volunteers who are willing to dust and straighten book shelves. Let us know if you have time and talents you want to share.

In addition to our regular programs and activities, we are adding some events to observe National Good Neighbor Day. Join us for Family and Neighbor Puzzle and Board Game events on Satur-

day, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We have Good Neighbor Bingo cards with activities to do with your family. Pick up a card at the library, complete the good neighbor suggestions to earn a BINGO, and turn in your card to the library by the end of September to be eligible for a prize drawing.

We invite our youth to sign up for Creation Corner on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. We have exciting things planned, so be sure to preregister.

Get one of the coloring sheets at the library desk. Color it and give it to a neighbor, someone at the care center or hospital, or return it to the library to decorate our walls. Do something neighborly and tag the MJB Library on Facebook to inspire other patrons. We have a display with ideas on the window behind our front desk at the library. We challenge you to build a stronger community, one neighbor at a time. ■



This stunning, eye-catching quilt was created by Alicia Ciesielski and is on loan to display at the MJB Library through the month of September. Alicia created this quilt by using fabric that was designed by one of her friends.

SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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CREAMY TOMATO SOUP IS RICH WITH SUN-RIPENED FLAVOR

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Guthrie Center Times

There is something special about cooking with ingredients grown from your own backyard. Recently, I was watching our grandson at my daughter and son-in-law's house. He and I ventured outside to check on their garden and discovered a bumper crop of tomatoes. Since the weather was cool, I decided that a batch of tomato soup for dinner would serve the harvest well. Our grandson, just 8 months old, is already a curious observer in the kitchen. He keeps me company from his high chair, happily armed with a dozen measuring cups to toss and a few snacks to keep him content. This creamy

tomato soup, made with an abundance of fresh-picked tomatoes and a blend of herbs, is rich with sun-ripened flavor. Paired with a golden, melty grilled cheese on homemade sourdough, it was the perfect fall dinner — simple, cozy and made even sweeter by sharing it together with my grandson. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

CREAMY TOMATO SOUP

Total time: 45 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3-4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive or avocado oil
- 2 pounds fresh tomatoes (about 6 large), blanched, skins off and chopped
- 2 cups chicken broth (low sodium preferred)
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 -3/4 cup heavy (whipping) cream
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Salt and pepper, basil, oregano — more of everything than you think



- Pinch of rosemary
- Fresh basil or parsley (optional, for garnish)

Directions

Heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and sauté for about

5 minutes until soft. Add garlic and cook all for 2 more minutes. Add tomatoes and cook for 10 minutes. Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes, uncovered. Stir occasionally. Blend until smooth by using an immersion blender and scooping the mixture into a traditional blender. Return soup to the pan. Add whipping cream and honey and stir. Season with salt, pepper, basil, oregano and other herbs of choice. Simmer for 5 more minutes. Serve immediately. Garnish with fresh basil or parsley. This pairs well with a grilled cheese sandwich on sourdough bread. Enjoy! ■



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LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is Irish Point on South 12th Street in Guthrie Center. Pam Kunkle 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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