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HALLOWEEN COSTUME CREATIONS

**RESIDENTS SHARE HOW
THEY BECOME ANYTHING
THEY WANT ON THIS
IMAGINATIVE HOLIDAY**

PAGE 6

**GIFT SHOP AT LINDA'S
HAIR HUT & GIFTS IS
GROWING IN POPULARITY**

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**THE SWEET SMELLS OF
CARA CALTRIDER'S CASEY
CANDLE COMPANY**

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**PARMESAN GARLIC
FOCACCIA BREAD IS A
SLICE OF COMFORT**

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ON THE COVER: Trysten Johnston simulating car-surfing as Teen Wolf. Photo submitted



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NOT THE ELVIS COSTUME AGAIN

If you have not yet decided on a Halloween costume, you might want to hurry up. You can't wear that Elvis costume every year.

Yes, Halloween is near, and it's not just for kids. Sure, most all of us have great memories of trick-or-treating around the neighborhood with our siblings and friends, amassing a bag of candy we would struggle to carry. The best part was spreading all that candy out on the living room floor and trading with your trick-or-treating friends. Well, maybe that was the second-best part. The best part, of course, was eating all that candy.

Choosing a costume as a kid was not high pressure, as I simply wore whatever Mom had for me, which was usually a hand-me-down from my siblings. I re-

ally didn't care. As an adult, though, the pressure in choosing a Halloween costume intensified. I could no longer strap on a plastic mask and call it good.

Through the years, Jolene and I had some costume hits and some costume misses. The biggest miss was in our younger years when we dressed as mummies, wearing white long underwear tops and bottoms and covering each other with strips of white bed sheets. It seemed like a great idea — until we had to go to the bathroom.

Another year, we went with a group



Shane Goodman

and dressed as the Gilligan's Island crew. Jolene and I were Mr. and Mrs. Howell. And, yes, I carried the teddy bear.

Speaking of bears, a few years later, we tried Goldilocks and the three bears with another couple. It didn't work. We looked like a little girl and three giant mice.

Jolene and I also did stints as the farmer and the cow, the hunter and the deer, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, and Farrah Fawcett and Michael Jackson.

The best costumes we ever had, though, were when we dressed as the couple that was throwing the party. We pulled that one off twice, to the dismay of the hosts.

I encourage you to get into the Hal-

loween spirit this year. Attend a costume party or event, or just dress up and entertain the kids who are trick-or-treating.

And if you struggle to come up with a costume, well, I guess there is always Elvis.

Happy Halloween, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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COVER STORY

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CREATIONS

Residents explain how they get to become anything they want to be on this imaginative holiday.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Halloween is a special time of year when most anyone can put on a costume or mask and temporarily take on a different persona. It can be liberating to become someone or something completely apart from our usual roles, even if only for a short time.

Some opt for a frightening look. Some prefer costumes that are funny. Some like to dress as a favorite celebrity. Some costumes are difficult to categorize.

Nowadays, almost any costume that can be imagined can be purchased with a visit to a store or the click of a computer mouse. But, for some, the creation of a costume can be just as rewarding as the final product.

Regardless of the individual's preference — whether it is store-bought or homemade, and whether it is simple or elaborate — costumes can be a lot of fun. Here are a few examples of local people who enjoy getting into the seasonal fun.

NICHOLE UHLMAN, THE COSTUME QUEEN

Nichole Uhlman of Guthrie Center has been referred to by friends as “the costume queen,” and there is strong evidence to back up that title. Uhlman talked about her lifelong involvement in creating unique and memorable looks.

“Ever since I was little, I loved dressing up. I loved Halloween. My mom made some of our costumes,” Uhlman said. “Then, all through high school, I just loved the themes and dressing up for homecoming and trying to be creative.”

Uhlman now involves her husband, Jared, and her sons, Jace and Jax, in her costume fun. She explained a creative Halloween costume that came about during her first pregnancy.

“When I was pregnant with our first son, and my mom was there, she painted my belly. That was fun,” Uhlman said.



Nichole Uhlman created a rollercoaster costume.

“And now I’ve gotten more into making bigger costumes and going out with friends to the Owl’s Nest or The Port. So, it’s become a tradition, and people always ask what I’m going to do for the next year.”

Over the years, Uhlman has entered

costume contests locally and in larger cities, and she has won various awards.

“My jellyfish costume has been my favorite. I won first place at Owl’s Nest, and then a couple years ago, I took it to Des Moines with a couple of my girlfriends,



Nichole Uhlman as Marty McFly, ready to go back to the future.



Nichole Uhlman dressed up as a cat tower.



Before his birth, Nichole Uhlman’s son, Jax, was a jack-o-lantern.

and I won three different contests. I won \$1,300 in one night.”

Uhlman enjoys the challenge of creating unique costumes from scratch.

“That one I put a lot of work into. I actually used a sombrero as the base, and

then bubble wrap, and I hot glued it together,” she said. “It’s got 45 individual lights that all have to be turned on.”

Uhlman recalled being surprised at the attention her jellyfish costume attracted.

“The first bar that we went into, everyone started clapping. Then, I almost felt famous, because people just kept coming up to get pictures taken with me. It was the same at every bar we went into.”

Uhlman’s costume creativity extends far beyond Halloween.

“I have an older sweater dress, and one of our friends had a Christmas party, so I went to a dollar store and a thrift store and bought the ugliest ornaments I could find, and I put them all on that dress, just making it more creative,” Uhlman said.

Uhlman plans to continue having costume fun with her family and friends.

“It’s fun to be something that you normally aren’t and to create something that’s unique,” she said.

TRYSTEN JOHNSTON SAYS THE CHALLENGE IS TO OUTDO THE PREVIOUS YEAR’S COSTUMES

The Johnston family in Adair has found that Halloween fun doesn’t end just because a child attains a certain age. Tera Johnston explained that her son, Trysten, continues to enjoy transforming, via costume, each year.

“We have four kids, and when they were little, I always made their costumes. It was always a fun thing to do. And I think that exploded into a love of dressing up for Halloween,” Tera said. “Trysten is still a kid at heart, so he just loves that aspect of it. Every year, we figure out what he wants to be, and people love seeing him go door to door.”

Tera recalled the fun of last year’s costume, when Trysten became a movie character.

“A lot of people commented last year when he was dressed as Edward Scissorhands. I feel like the character is very much relatable for Trysten,” Tera said. “Edward seems to display some autistic characteristics, so it was almost the perfect character. We go full out for Halloween, but then sometimes I’ll find him with parts of a costume on at other times.”

Most years, Trysten’s costume is purchased rather than made.

“When the kids were little, I usually made their costumes. But he’s almost 6 feet tall now, so there’s a little more involved,” Tera said. “At this point, life has gotten a little busier, so we usually buy the costume, and the makeup I’ll do. Our daughter is really good at theatrical makeup, too. So, last year, for Edward Scissorhands, Trysten came here (to Revel salon) and we did his makeup, and then



As Bob Ross, Trysten Johnston paints a happy little tree.

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we did our photo shoot here with him pretending to cut hair. We usually make videos and do a whole photo shoot. Like, when he was Teen Wolf, we went to the park to shoot baskets, just like in the movie.”

Tera said finding costumes is relatively easy, but there is a different challenge.

“It’s getting harder to outdo the previous year,” she said. “We’ve already found this year’s, but that’s something we’re keeping on the downlow, because we do our big reveal on Halloween day.”

Tera said each year, Trysten studies the speaking pattern and mannerisms of whatever character he imitates, so he can fully get into the role.

“Last year, when he was Edward Scissorhands, little kids were coming up to him saying, ‘Hi, Edward,’ and then he’d answer back in character,” Tera said.

Tera appreciates that even though Trysten is older than most trick-or-treaters, people welcome his trick-or-treating in costume each year.

“It’s a chance to pretend to be something else,” she said. “It’s just the little things that bring such joy.”

When asked about his favorite costume, Trysten had an immediate answer.

“Randy Savage,” he said. “I like his boots.”



An Elvis sighting in Adair turned out to be one of Trysten Johnston’s costumes.



Trysten Johnston’s Randy Macho Man Savage is ready to “snap into a Slim Jim.”



Trysten Johnston trims the hedges as Edward Scissorhands.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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To my clients, neighbors, and friends—thank you for your support, your confidence, and your belief in what I do. I’m proud to be part of this community, and I look forward to continuing to serve Guthrie County with integrity and heart.



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KATE BROWN'S COMMUNITY THEATRE EXPERIENCE HELPS WITH HER COSTUME DESIGNS

Kate Brown of Guthrie Center enjoys expressing her creativity through costumes, and Halloween is only a portion of that.

"Probably my first experience in really dressing up, and not even in a Halloween setting per se, was 'Rocky Horror Picture Show,'" Brown said. "I'm a huge fan of that movie, and I've collected a lot of costumes related to it. A lot of people dress up for 'Rocky Horror' as one of the characters. It's fun; it's campy. People shout things at the screen. It's a way good time."

Brown is also active in community theatre. She showed several examples of clothing and accessories that she has found, altered or created to help with a costume in a play. One item was a pair of 3-D glasses that she thrifted for 75 cents, then removed the lenses to create "eye-glasses" for use in a theatre production.

"I thoroughly enjoy doing this. I thrift a lot of my costume stuff. When we did 'Rocky: The Musical,' I was Linda McKenna, the news reporter, so I had to collect some 1970s-type clothes," Brown said. "To me, it's like the thrill of the hunt when I go thrifting to see what I can get."

Brown also repurposes clothing that has outlived its original use. She showed a rack of neckties.



Makeup and simple props complete Kate Brown's look.

"These actually were Dad's ties; nothing is uglier than your dad's 1970s ties," she said. "We used a lot of these for the 'Rocky: The Musical' production."

Another favorite prop is a set of braided yarn "hair" (Willie Nelson style) that Brown wanted. When she couldn't readily find such an item, she quickly realized she could make it herself.

"This was something I made for myself, just using my own creativity. Basically, I



Kate Brown's zombie costume is ready to scare.

took a headband, and I started wrapping yarn around it, and I braided it," Brown said. "It maybe took not even a whole week, just while I was sitting watching TV."

Because of her history in live theatre, Brown's closet holds many costume pieces from previous productions. When a new need arises, she often finds a piece she can reuse.

"As far as Halloween, I've just always loved it. Each year, I try to pick a charac-



This 'flapper' costume is another one of Kate Brown's creations.

ter that people might not see every day," Brown said. "There were many years I didn't dress up for Halloween, but my kids are all adults now, so I've got time to do stuff like this for myself now."

Nowadays, Brown likes to put on a costume to wear when she greets trick-or-treaters at her door.

"I'm not a good seamstress; never have been. I can barely sew a button on," she said. "So, for me, I try to find pieces that



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are already mostly made.” Brown encourages anyone interested in putting together costumes to simply take the plunge and try. She said there are many different approaches, and each person can find what works.

Asked if she has a favorite costume experience, Brown had a clear answer.

“I would say probably my favorite was dressing up as Dr. Frank-N-Furter, from ‘Rocky Horror.’ So many people wanted to take my picture, and I could see how much that resonated with people,” she said. “He’s a very recognizable character, and, as soon as they saw me, people would just squeal.”

PAMELA SHELEY, WANDA THE GOOD WITCH

Pamela Sheley, a lifelong resident of Guthrie Center, passed away in November of 2024. Her family recalled her love of Halloween and the character that she dressed as for decades.

Many years ago, Sheley began dressing as Wanda the Good Witch every Halloween. And, although the particular pieces of the costume changed some over the years, the character remained the same.

Sheley’s daughter, Paula Tews, shared the story.

“She just always loved Halloween. At home, she loved getting trick-or-treaters, and she would decorate to the hilt. And

even back when I was in school, she would host a Halloween party for my classmates and me. She was the assistant activity director at The New Homestead for several years, and they always had a big trick-or-treat night, and she would dress up as Wanda the Good Witch,” Tews said. “She was always adamant about being ‘the good witch.’”

Once Sheley tried out her alter-ego of Wanda, she never tired of it.

“She loved the color purple. She had the hat and broomstick. The purple and black satin hat was a guarantee for at least 20 years,” Tews said. “I had worked in daycare for almost 36 years, and, every year, she would dress up and read Halloween books to the kids and bring crafts for them to do.”

Tews’ daughter, Jordan, recalled that, as intended, Wanda the Good Witch was seen in a positive light by children.

“Kids would ask for her by name, saying, ‘When is Wanda the Witch coming?’ Kids were never scared of her,” Jordan said. “Her Wanda the Witch laugh was iconic.”

Tews recalled that although Sheley loved being in costume, she did not always allow adequate time to prepare.

“My mom was the type that she’d work until five minutes before trick-or-treat time, and then she’d be throwing that costume on at the last minute,” Tews said.



Pamela Sheley as “Wanda the Good Witch” with friend Kellie Lewis and Kellie’s kids, Calvin, Alice and baby Della.

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Pamela Sheley and her granddaughter, Jordan.

In recent years, Sheley's health became a challenge, but she continued to enjoy Halloween.

"In 2023, she was in the hospital, so we brought her costume up there, and a few people came up and trick-or-treated with her," Tews said.

By the fall of 2024, Sheley's health had deteriorated further.

"Last year, she was in the Des Moines hospital, and they said she could go home

on Halloween, and that's what she wanted," Tews said.

"She came home and was on hospice for only about a week before she passed," Jordan said. "But, the first night she was home was trick-or-treat night, and that made her so happy to get to see everybody one last time and put her hat on."

Sheley passed away on Nov. 3, 2024.

"When we cleaned out her house, there were totes and totes full of costumes and

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Pamela Sheley as "Wanda the Good Witch" with the Lewis family.

things," Tews said.

The family realized they wanted to do something meaningful at the gravesite to denote Sheley's love of Halloween.

"We took her purple witch hat out there and staked it down," Tews said. "And, we'll carry on her tradition of making Halloween special for the kids." ■



Pamela Sheley's gravesite includes her iconic hat.



Pamela Sheley and her great-grandson, Hudson Seck.

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“The Conjuring: Last Rites”



“Him”



“A Big Bold Beautiful Journey”



“Spinal Tap II: The End Continues”

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

“THE CONJURING: LAST RITES”

As I was walking into the theater to see, of all things, “The Conjuring: Last Rites,” a faith-based group was setting up in the lobby for an event — most likely not an exorcism! “The Conjuring” series has been head and shoulders above most horror series, and this movie is no exception. Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga play a real life couple who are known worldwide as the ones to call if you are struggling with ghosts and other nastiness. Here, they are asked to help a family that unknowingly has a haunted full-size mirror in their attic. This movie has more blood than I expected — about a half of a basement full, if you want to know the truth. In the end, it is an effective and



scary horror film. **Grade: B+**

“HIM”

“Him” tells the story of the son of an NFL legend who is a superior athlete himself. When the NFL comes calling for him, he is faced with serious questions and situations. Tyriq Withers stars as this young talent and gives a strong performance in a challenging role. The movie starts as a sports film but spins on its head into a horror film. I would hate to guess the budget on this film for fake blood, as it had to be astronomical. As the blood flows freely, the violence races to catch up. By the end of the movie, I was exhausted, disgusted and, quite frankly, ready to walk out. I did make it to the last 15 minutes before I stood up and took an early exit. I only wish I had done so sooner. **Grade: F**



“A BIG BOLD BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY”

“A Big Bold Beautiful Journey” stars two of the most beautiful and talented people working in movies today, Margot Robbie and Colin Farrell. They play single people who really do agree to take a big journey, and it is a wild one. This movie is a bit of a comedy, a bit of a tragedy and pretty much everything in between. The cute and clever title failed the film, as people couldn’t figure it out. Sue and I both liked the movie, me maybe a bit more. I was charmed by the quirkiness, and I spent nearly two hours grinning at the creative work behind this wonderful film. **Grade: A-**



“The Long Walk”

“THE LONG WALK”

Based on Stephen King’s first novel, “The Long Walk” is a terrorizing tale set in future America where authorities oversee a large group of young men on a long walk. Each young man represents his state, and the one who finishes first gets gobs of money and prizes. There are guards to keep them walking, and if they start to slow down, they are shot to death in the street. It is gruesome at times, but the young actors do a tremendous job, and the story holds your attention well. Only Stephen King could come up with this kind of tale, and I’m glad he did. **Grade: B-**



“SPINAL TAP II: THE END CONTINUES”

With the original “Spinal Tap,” you didn’t know what you were seeing but you knew it was funny in a crazy kind of way. Directed by Rob Reiner as if this group actually existed, it was challenging to figure out. In “Spinal Tap II: The End Continues,” Reiner takes us on another trip with these burned-out rock and rollers only 40 years later! It is still funny to watch these guys slip into the characters and let loose. There are, as expected, some shocking and hilarious cameos. I was worried that Reiner couldn’t pull this off, but he does, and it is great fun. **Grade: B+**



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 APPROVE PLAN FOR P28 ROAD IMPROVEMENT

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

SEPT. 16 – FARMERS MARKETS, CAMPING, NACO

Conservation Director Brad Halterman provided a departmental update during the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 16. Halterman told of the farmers market events that were held at the Guthrie County Historical Village (GCHV) in Panora every other Saturday.

“It was a big success,” he said. “We had the last one last Saturday.” Halterman said overall, the GCHV saw good attendance this summer and remains open until mid-October. “It was a pretty busy summer down there,” Halterman said. “Our annual Haunted Village is Sunday, Oct. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. It’s a pretty huge event. A lot of volunteers make that happen.” Halterman reported on usage of

Guthrie County’s camping areas and trails. “We’ve had a pretty steady camping season,” he said. “The holiday weekends were really busy. We’ve seen a lot of activity on the Raccoon River Valley Trail throughout the summer.” Board Chair Maggie Armstrong talked about her participation in the National Association of Counties (“NACo”). “I had an introductory call to the Rural Action Caucus,” Armstrong said. “They meet quarterly. We had a great conversation about what we see here and how we’re not the only ones dealing with the same issues. It’s more of an idea exchange.” As part of the consent agenda items, the supervisors approved two payroll change notices for new staff. Amanda Claussen was hired as a part-time dispatcher at a rate of \$21 per hour. Noah Sargent was hired as a fulltime roadside technician at \$28.37 per hour.

SEPT. 23 – LAND SALE DISCUSSION, P28 ROAD PROJECT During the Sept. 23 meeting, citizen Ron Woods addressed the supervisors to ask if he could purchase 9.1 acres of land near the former county home building, which Woods owns. The land Woods asked about is Parcel 0000917402. Woods explained his interest in the land. “The silting going into the pond from that 9.1 acres is considerable. What I’d like to do is buy that land and turn it into either a pasture or hay field, to eliminate some of that silting,” Woods said. “And my oldest son is considering building a house there, on the 9.1 acres overlooking the pond. So, it seems like a perfect fit; it squares off the property.” Supervisor Maggie Armstrong said the land is currently under lease until 2029. Woods said he would consider a lease transfer, if that were feasible.

Armstrong said the first step would be for the county to speak with the current leaseholder. Then, if appropriate, the county would like to see an offer from Woods. No formal action was taken at this time. County Engineer Josh Sebern provided a departmental update and shared information on the upcoming P28 Road project between Panora and Stuart. He described the various options regarding road width and the related costs. The road is currently 22 feet wide and could be widened to 26 feet overall, or in certain areas, to help address safety concerns. Sebern described a “hybrid” option of keeping the road surface at 22 feet on straight areas but widening it to 26 feet on curves, which would allow for rumble strips outside of the 22-foot striped road for additional safety. Supervisor Steve Smith asked Sebern’s preference. “I definitely like the widening, at least

Congratulations, Danielle Yonker!

We’re excited to celebrate Danielle for being recognized as the Runner-Up Insurance Agent in Guthrie County! What a tremendous achievement, and so well deserved. Over the past 4 years, Danielle has worked diligently to become one of the most trusted and respected agents in the area, and we couldn’t be more proud to have her on our team.

Danielle grew up in West Des Moines and graduated from Valley High School. For the last 22 years, she’s called Adair and Guthrie County home, where she enjoys life on her family’s 90 acres of farmland.

She’s spent the last 4 years serving as an insurance agent—2 of those right here in our Guthrie Center office. She takes great pride in understanding all aspects of insurance, from personal and business to farm coverage, and is dedicated to building strong, lasting relationships with every client.

Before entering the insurance field, Danielle spent over 20 years in the dental industry as an Expanded Functions Dental Assistant.

Outside of work, she’s a proud mom of twin girls, a wife, a grandma, and the owner of a German Shorthair. She loves spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Please join us in congratulating Danielle on this well-earned recognition!



308 State Street, Guthrie Center
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on the curves,” Sebern said. “They’re nice things to have for maintenance. They’re nice for agriculture. They’re nice for safety.”

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved a payroll change notice for Dana Tews, for a change to the position of jail control room operator at a wage of \$20 hourly.

SEPT. 30 - P28 ROAD PROJECT APPROVED, SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

During the Sept. 30 meeting, County Engineer Josh Sebern shared his recommendations for the P28 Road project between Panora and Stuart.

Sebern suggested widening the road from Monteith to Stuart to the 26-foot paved width, which would add 2 feet of paved shoulder on each side of the road. He explained that the lanes would remain at their current width, but the paved shoulder would allow for rumble strips at the outside stripe, resulting in increased safety. He noted that P28 is the second-busiest road in Guthrie County.

“My thought is widening Stuart to Monteith, and that being the primary focus,” Sebern said. “From Monteith north, we handle that through maintenance and through other funds.”

Sebern explained that if the supervi-

sors agree with this plan, the project will likely go out for bids in January or February of 2026 with an expected start date in or around August 2026.

The supervisors unanimously approved Sebern’s recommendation.

Sheriff Matt Harmann provided a departmental update.

“Since January, we’ve kept overtime to a bare minimum. There’s been not much at all,” Harmann said. “Calls for service looks like it will be up slightly from last year.”

Regarding calls for service, Harmann said the department totaled approximately 3,500 in 2024 but is ahead of that pace so far in 2025.

“Right now, we’re around 2,700, so it’s looking like it’ll be slightly higher,” Harmann said. He reported no significant new trends noted in the calls for service.

Harmann said the jail is continuing to see consistent occupancy.

“Things are going smooth in the jail,” Harmann said.

Harmann reported on the jail’s usage through the first six months of this year. He said 264 prisoners were admitted with 147 being Guthrie County residents and 117 out of county.

Supervisor Brian Johnson asked about the Sheriff’s department’s dogs. Harmann said the department has two ca-

nines, and he hopes that each can continue to serve for another four years or so.

OCT. 7 - RESISTANCE TO THE SUMMIT CARBON SOLUTION TRANSPORT LLC MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATION

During the Oct. 7 meeting, County Attorney Dana Minter addressed the supervisors regarding agenda item 4a: “Resistance to the Summit Carbon Solution Transport LLC Motion for Consolidation.”

Minter explained the reason for discussing the issue at this time is because of recent legal action by Summit Carbon Solutions.

“They filed a petition to amend their original petition within the Phase 1 docket,” she said.

Minter summarized that Summit is asking to consolidate the legal processes with the various counties involved.

“They’re requesting that everyone now be lumped together,” Minter said.

Minter and Supervisors Chair Maggie Armstrong concurred that each county has a unique perspective, so consolidation is not appropriate, in their view.

After discussion, the supervisors voted 4-1 to ask Minter to send a letter of resistance. Brian Johnson voted nay.

County Human Resources department head Jamie Lindsay discussed with the

supervisors regarding the effective date of health insurance for county employees. She explained that currently, coverage begins on the first day of the month following a hire date. She explained the challenges this creates for employees hired later in a given month, since their paychecks may essentially have double deductions for health insurance premiums due to the timing of premiums.

However, Lindsay also explained that if coverage were to be effective one month later, this could create situations in which employees would have no coverage for a month. She also shared that if department heads are instructed to only hire employees within a certain “window” each month, that creates a challenge as departments aim to fill vacancies.

“If we’re going to make a change to the policy, we have to communicate that 60 days prior to the change,” Lindsay said.

No formal action was taken at this time.

The supervisors voted to call a special election for Diamondhead Lake and Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone for Tuesday, Dec. 9.

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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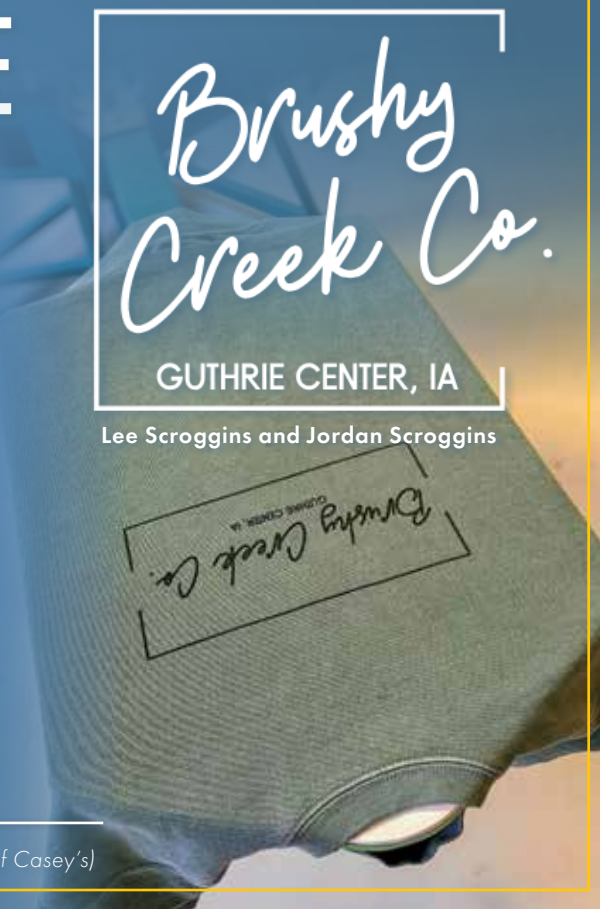
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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL GIVES 14-DAY EXTENSION FOR SHED INSTALLATION

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council on Sept. 22, councilmembers discussed the ongoing Ludwig/Winkleblack nuisance abatement status. Dennis Ludwig said a shed will be erected on the property to house the items of concern. At the request of Ludwig and Winkleblack, the council approved a 14-day extension (until Oct. 6) for the property to be in compliance with city ordinance.

Rod Rumelhart (Hometown Insurance) described the status of the city's insurance coverage. He said the city has had few claims, which helps keep costs down. He noted the city owns roughly \$24 million in property, which costs around \$55,000 per year to insure (or \$2.24 per \$1,000 in valuation).

"This has been a good year so far," Rumelhart said.

Rumelhart shared several savings the city has or will likely receive, including a \$4,500 savings he negotiated with the insurer and an expected dividend of ap-

proximately \$13,000. The councilmembers unanimously approved the insurance renewal.

The council approved appointing Brandon Monaghan to the MJB Library Board and to accept the resignation of Marcia Priestley from the library board.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith shared information on savings the city will likely see due to little usage of the city's Workers Comp coverage.

"We also will get some type of a credit back on our Worker's Comp insurance. We will get a little over \$5,000," Arrasmith said. "Kudos to our employees for being safe."

The councilmembers had a brief discussion about setting a date for trick-or-treating. Because of the likelihood of a high school football playoff game on Oct. 31, the city had considered setting trick-or-treat on Oct. 30 but then realized the school has parent-teacher conferences on that date.

No formal action was taken at this time.

The council meets regularly at City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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EDUCATION

ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS DISCUSS HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the Sept. 17 joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, the main discussion centered around the new high school class schedule and how it will impact graduation requirements.

ACGC High School's former class schedule included five class session "blocks" per school day with classes lasting one semester. The new schedule at the high school has an eight-period day with classes running yearlong and an "even/odd" every-other-day rotation.

Interim High School Principal Cody Matthewson reported on the implementation of the new schedule at the high school.

"The first few weeks have gone great," Matthewson said. "Kids are in the swing of things with the odd-and-even days. The only really negative feedback that I've gotten is every other Wednesday is an early-

out, so they're constantly losing time with those kids. We've looked at an opportunity for the next quarter to flip our odd/even days so it kind of evens out."

Matthewson added that the five-block schedule had been in use for the past 27 years, so it's expected that students and staff will have an adjustment period to the new system.

"From a student standpoint, nobody's come to me and said, 'I love it,' and nobody's come to me and said, 'I hate it,'" Matthewson said.

Board member Kris Langgaard said one unexpected result of the new schedule is that students entering ninth grade may suddenly find a significant change in the amount of homework.

"The transition is a lot," he said.

Because of the new eight-period high school schedule, the maximum number of credits a student could accumulate in four years of high school would be 64. Rasmussen said the boards need to determine how many credits are needed for gradua-

tion under the new class schedule.

Data was shared showing credit requirements for other area school using an eight-period schedule. Atlantic, Harlan, Ogden, Madrid and I-35 schools all require a minimum of 48 credits for graduation. West Central Valley requires 51, Audubon requires 52, Panorama and Van Meter require 56.

The boards each approved the first reading of Policy 505.5 (Graduation Requirements), with 55 credits required for graduation. Board members noted that the number could still be changed prior to final approval.

Elementary Principal Tandem Eischeid reported on Guthrie Center Elementary. He said things have been running fairly smoothly, and he reported on an event that uncovered an opportunity for improvement.

"Last Monday, we had a preschooler pull our fire alarm, so we had an impromptu fire drill, and we did well with that," Eischeid said. "But, I found out that no one

was coming. The fire department is not connected to our fire alarm. So, I've been in talks with Josh to get that changed."

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen provided a report and voiced thoughts and prayers for the family of Savannah Matthias, the Panorama Schools student and Guthrie Center resident who recently died in a traffic accident.

The Adair-Casey board approved the purchase of a used 12-passenger van. Rasmussen suggested it may be beneficial for the Guthrie Center district to also consider purchasing a 12-passenger van, since it could be driven by coaches transporting students to and from athletic contests or other activities, which would save costs versus using a full-size bus.

The Guthrie Center board approved the 2025 FFA National Convention trip.

Upcoming dates noted included the two-hour early dismissal (for the Homecoming parade) on Oct. 3, the Nov. 4 school board elections, and the Nov. 19-21 IASB School Board Convention. ■

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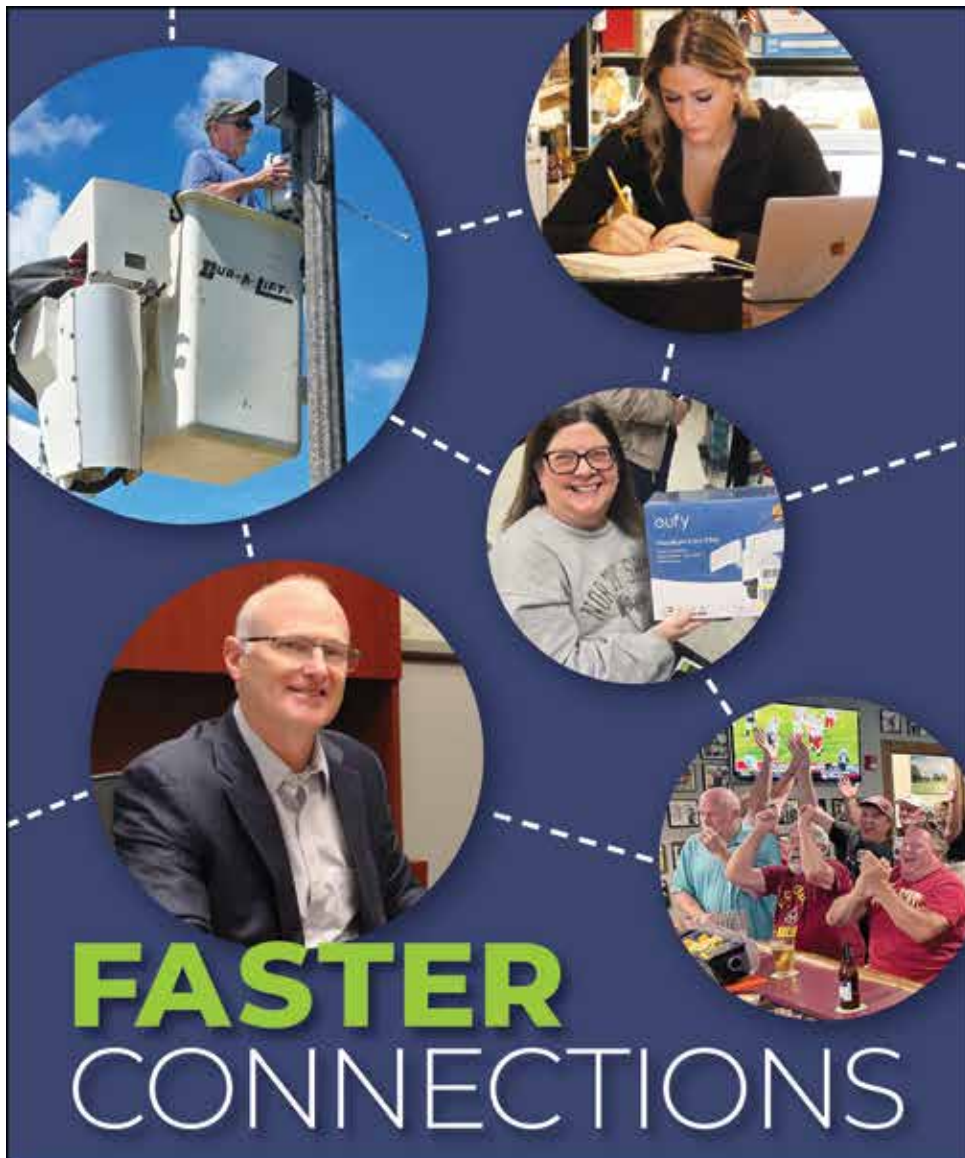
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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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HEALTH

GCH CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE SHARED WITH TRUSTEES

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the Sept. 25 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, Matt Leaders and Cory Bettis, representatives from Graham Construction, presented the tentative timeline for the hospital's planned improvement project.

"We're looking to start construction in early March," Leaders said, adding that the construction period is tentatively expected to be from March 2026 to August 2028. He also said the tentative start date of March 2 is somewhat weather-dependent.

Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson provided a monthly report on finances.

It was noted that seasonal flu shots for staff have begun to be scheduled and administered.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery

said the 5K walk/run and health fair are set for Oct. 4. He added that the hospital auxiliary plans to hold a potato bar fundraiser on Nov. 20.

The trustees voted to approve opening a bank account for the improvement project and to set a date for a hearing on a proposal to issue bonds or notes and borrow funds related to the project. CEO Chris Stipe noted that the hospital still could decide to shelve the project if unforeseen challenges arise.

"This is not a point of no return yet," he said.

The trustees set the hearing for Oct. 23 (the date of the next regular board meeting).

The board went into a special closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Oct. 23 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

Thank you

The family of Clifford Leib was honored and humbled by the outpouring of love, support and generosity when he passed. We have given memorials in his name to the AC/GC Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, First Presbyterian Church, Hospice of the Midwest and Omar B. Shearer American Legion.

We would like to thank everyone that helped our family on this journey and all who have reached out to us since his passing. Those include Guthrie County Public Health Nursing Service, Guthrie Family Medicine Center, Happier at Home of Central Iowa, Hospice of the Midwest, The New Homestead, our private caregivers - Kathy Chalfant, Becky Maxon, Sarah Garcia and Randa Wall, neighbors, friends and family.

The wonderful neighbors on Oak Street helped us so much and their visits brightened his days. Special thanks to Diane & George Hemmen, who we consider family, for always being there for all of us and many times with a delicious cinnamon roll or two.

Our blessings are many with the family we were given, the community we were raised in and the love our dad and grandpa gave us for so many years. Thank you all for remembering and honoring the legacy of a tall, hard-working, intelligent, ornery man that was most comfortable in his Key Imperial overalls and cap.

"Four of the luckiest women" and their families
 Mary Fogleman, Ann Polito, Beth Leib and Sara Hughes



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MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

MJB Library is excited to announce some special programs this fall, made possible by a grant from the Guthrie County Community Foundation, the



The Mary J. Barnett Library is located at 400 Grand St., Guthrie Center.

Grow Green Grant and matching funds from the Friends of the Guthrie Center Library.

The Guthrie County Community Foundation and the Grow Green Grant, along with the Friends of the Library, sponsored last summer's Absolute Science Indoor Bubble Program. Looking ahead, we have another program scheduled for Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. featuring Lori Lynn Ahrends and the Overall Buddies Program. Additionally, these grants are helping fund summer reading programs for 2026 and support a yearly subscription to increase our collection of youth Playaway books.

Creation Corner takes place

on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 2 p.m. As always, preregistration for these events is preferred.

At 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, the Guthrie Center Fire Department will speak with our young patrons about Fire Prevention Month.

Those participating in either of the book clubs are reminded that the books for the book clubs are available for checkout at the library. This month, the Reads Well with Others evening book club will reflect on "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Keep your calendar open for the annual Li-BOO-ary Bash on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5-7:15 p.m. There will be family fun and treats for our young trick-or-treaters. ■



The October display features toys handcrafted by local woodworker Kieth Merrill. Kieth has been making toys for years and often donates them for fundraising purposes at the Guthrie County Fair. The display features old cars, a horse-drawn carriage, a chopper, a bulldozer and construction equipment. Stop in and take a look while it is on display at the library.



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2nd Row L to R: EMT Timothy Claussen, FF/EMS Director Danny Claussen, Asst. Chief Calin Peterson, Pres./FF Brad Garside and FF Alex Gustafson

Not Pictured: RN/Paramedic Tammy Bireline, FF/ Paramedic Luke Dahl, FF/EMT Chase Drees, EMT Lana Garside, Fire Captain Kyle Hansen, FF Jason Joliet, EMT Kaytlin Joliet, FF/Paramedic Matthew Richter, FF Dale Vogel, FF/EMT Caleb W



CASEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Miles Kading, Chief Travis Corder, Brian Rumple, Treasurer Rick Richter, Captain Eli Stanley, President & Captain Marcus Fagan, Asst. Chief & Secretary Michael Clarke, and Jeff Larson.

Members not pictured: Jim Oberholtz, Trevor Jorgensen, Luke Dahl, and Ben Kingery.



GUTHRIE CENTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Top Row L to R: Justin Downing, Kolby Burns, Brandon Schreiber, Erica Finster, Cory Campbell, chief, Chuck Cleveland

Front L to R: Brady Langgaard, Dylan Robson, Dave Embleton, Tom Langgaard, Matt Sprague, Brandon Peterson, CJ Melton, Derek Betts, Randy Sheeder, Cody Sheeder, Zane Boblett, Gary McCool, Cameron Hester

Not Pictured: Colby Grove, Mike Kenyon, Tyler Kinman, Pierre Slick, Craig Twigg

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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

PHOTOS BY MARK RENZI | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



The Charger defense swarms a Nodaway Valley player in ACGC's 54-0 win on Sept. 12.



Preston Kent placed first at the ACGC cross country meet on Thursday, Sept. 25. PHOTO BY KIMBERLY KENT



ACGC's No. 9 Savannah Akers attempts the kill in ACGC's win over Pleasantville.



No. 4 Joe Crawford leads ACGC with 55 carries for 680 rushing yards and 10 TDs.



ACGC's No. 24 Ilana Baumert gets low to keep the ball alive against Des Moines Christian on Sept. 9.



ACGC's Jameson Pfrang during the Charger Invitational on Sept. 25.



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ACGC's No. 14 Camdyn Richter helps the ball over the net against Pleasantville on Sept. 23.



Cadence Petersen placed second at the ACGC cross country meet on Thursday, Sept. 25.



ACGC's Brooklyn Schafer competes at the Charger Invitational on Sept. 25.



ACGC's No. 7 Stella Largent is sixth in all of 2A with 296 kills this season.



ACGC celebrates after its 33-15 win over Madrid on Sept. 26.



ACGC's No. 67 Brennan Tunink sacks the Nodaway Valley QB on Sept. 12.

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LINDA'S HAIR HUT & GIFTS

Although the hair salon is the bulk of Linda Caltrider's business, the gift shop items have grown in popularity.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Linda Caltrider, owner of Linda's Hair Hut & Gifts in Casey, has a simple business plan: treat customers well and listen to what they want. That plan has worked well for decades, so don't expect major changes anytime soon.

Caltrider explained how she came to own a hair salon in Casey.

"When I graduated from high school, I was either going to be a dental assistant or a hairdresser, and I decided that this is me," she said. "I graduated at Creston from their Hair Tech in September of 1985. Then I got my first job in Anita, at the Rusty Razor, and worked there for about eight months."

Unexpectedly, an opportunity arose to run her own business, and Caltrider jumped at the chance.

"There was an elderly lady who had been in the business in Casey for 50 years and she was retiring, and she said I should come to Casey," Caltrider said. "So in July of 1986, I rented a little building from her for three months, then bought a small building of my own. I was there for 36 years, then bought this building three years ago so I could have a gift shop. I bought it from my brother, and my husband and I remodeled it."

Caltrider's business is located at 607 McPherson St. in Casey.

"It used to be a post office, and years before that it had been a doctor's office," she said.

As soon as the building was remodeled, Caltrider began making use of the addition space by offering an eclectic array of gift shop items.

"What really got the gift shop started was, I had a friend encourage me to start making gift baskets. I used to make them just as gifts, so I started making more," Caltrider said.

Although the hair salon is the bulk of her business, the gift shop items have grown in popularity. Currently, Caltrider estimates that about one-fourth of her business is the



Hair products and much more are in stock at Linda's Hair Hut & Gifts.



Art, knickknacks, décor and more can be found in Linda's gift area, including team logo items.



gift shop. Beauty services offered include haircuts, styling, perms, hair coloring, high-lights and waxing.

Describing the variety of items for sale is a challenge; it is much easier to simply stop in and see. There are JR Watkins items (spices, seasonings, lotions, etc.), memorial

stones, home décor, kitchen items, health and beauty items, garden stones/yard art, local honey, greeting cards, and much more. Caltrider also keeps an inventory of her homemade and seasonally themed gift baskets. Some items are offered on consignment.

"I have a lady who makes tea towels. I have a guy who paints pictures," Caltrider said. "I also have consignment clothing. I have hair products for sale as well. Sometimes people come in and ask for a certain thing, and then I'll see if I can get it in here." The shop is open Tuesdays, Thursdays,



Linda Caltrider welcomes everyone to stop in.

Fridays and Saturdays, and Caltrider puts in long hours on those days.

"I'm here usually from 8 in the morning until 6 or 7 o'clock at night," she said. Appointments can be made by calling Caltrider's business phone at 641-746-3375.

Having been in the business for decades, Caltrider has gotten to know her clients quite well.

"I've had a lot of customers where I gave them their first haircut, and then they've graduated and gone off to college, and then they come back to Casey for a haircut. There are generations that have come through," she said. "I like being here and being around family and friends."

Caltrider has two sons and a daughter-in-law (Nicolas, Dylan and Nicolas' wife, Megan), as well as many other relatives and extended family members in the local area. She enjoys being active in the Casey community.

"I'm on the flower committee for Casey and the service club," Caltrider said. "I like to help out wherever and whenever I can."

For Caltrider, the most satisfying part of her career is knowing that she meets a need and makes a connection with her cus-



Seasonal gift baskets are a popular item at Linda's Hair Hut & Gifts.

tomers.

"The most memorable parts are the conversations with my clients. The tears, the laughter, there's been a lot. I appreciate being so close with my customers and being able to make them happy," she said. "I enjoy it, and I plan to be here until I can't be." ■



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THE SWEET SMELLS OF CASEY CANDLE COMPANY

Cara Caltrider devotes approximately 30 hours per week to her candles and other creations.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

In her spare time, a young local hobbyist/entrepreneur is enjoying the sweet smell of success as customers enjoy the pleasant aromas of the products she creates. Cara Caltrider's venture is known as Casey Candle Company. She explained how she started.

"I started it in 2023. When I was in high school, I had the dream of starting my own company. I created my first candle in my parents' kitchen, and I had to do a lot of research about how to make candles. Then, during college, I kind of took a break, but I got back into it later," Caltrider said. "When I first started, I slowly kept branching out. It's been a lot of trial and error. Now, I make candles, countertop sprays, room sprays, wax melts, dough bowls and car diffusers."

Although she has a fulltime job, Caltrider still devotes approximately 30 hours per week to her candles and other creations.

Caltrider enjoys offering her items at vendor markets in the area but has also found shelf space in two local stores.



Leaya Klemish and Cara Caltrider at a vendor fair.

"I do a lot of vendor events in area towns on the weekends," she said. "I also sell my products at Hometown Basics in Casey and The Egg Crate in Elkhorn."

Caltrider recalled how she has needed to learn on the fly as she created her products, and her family and friends have been happy to help.

"My favorite story is from when I was first starting out. I got an order from a local business, and it was in the winter, so my dad, who is a farmer, offered to help

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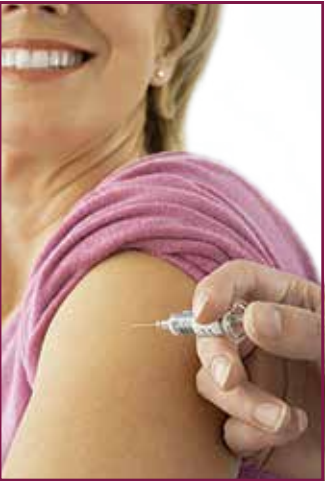
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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES 

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Seasonal scented products are popular.

me, since he had some free time. You typically wouldn't find a farmer learning how to pour candles, but he did fine," Caltrider said. "It's great because my family has been so willing to step in whenever I need help."

Caltrider recalled learning that attention to detail matters.

"The hardest part of it is getting the measurements correct, for fragrance and stuff. When I first started out, I struggled with that," Caltrider said. "I try to keep up the inventory, but I sell out of things a lot, so it's tough to keep up with it. So, I'm usually making candles every day."

Caltrider also learned that candles and summer heat do not mix.

"In the summer, I do a lot of outdoor events, and then, in the winter, it's indoor events," she said. "One time in the summer, I was going to a vendor event and hadn't thought about it, and they melted, so I had to fix them. Now I haul them in coolers when it's hot."

One unusual but popular item Caltrider makes is dough bowls, which are decorative wooden bowls designed to hold melted wax and/or serve as a candle holder.

"The dough bowls have been the most popular, just because nobody else around here sells them," she said.

Caltrider continually strives to add new scents or change the scents out seasonally.

"I have a flannel scent and a cinnamon bun scent that are very popular," Caltrider said. She noted that the flannel and leather canyon woods are the most popular scents with men. Other options include vanilla caramel spice, lavender, pumpkin pie and Columbian coffee.

Caltrider recently began making some candles with a base of beef tallow. She explained that this type of candle-making is more time-consuming.

"It gets rendered from beef fat. It's a lot harder. I have to put the tallow in a pot



This cow dough bowl is designed to hold melted wax.

and simmer it on low for a couple hours, then drain it and put it in the fridge overnight. Then scrape it off and remelt it," she said.

Caltrider recently began getting beef tallow for her candle making from local farm BC Angus.

As her hobby and production have grown, Caltrider has sought more outlets for selling her items. She has a website and also uses Facebook and Instagram to market her Casey Candle company creations.

Caltrider has a long-term goal for her venture but understands it can't be hurried.

"I'd eventually like to have a store, just so I could do events and fun things like that. So, that would be the ideal goal, but who knows when that will happen," she said. ■

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JUDITH ANN CLIFTON MURPHY

1944-2025

Judith Ann (Clifton) Murphy, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, gi gi, sister and friend, peacefully passed away at the age of 81 on Sept. 5, 2025, after a brief but courageous battle with aggressive liver

cancer. Surrounded by her loving family at her home in Menlo, Judy's legacy of love, kindness and service to others will forever be cherished.

Born June 11, 1944, in Jefferson to Todd "Red" and Darlene (Batcheller) Clifton, Judy was raised in Stuart and graduated from Stuart High School in 1962. On Nov. 10, 1963, she married Gene Murphy, and together they built a family. Judy and Gene were blessed with three children: Jodie, Marty and Tricia. The family spent 14 years on a farm located between Stuart and Menlo on County Line Road before moving to a ranch north of Menlo in 1979, better known as "Fort Menlo" to family members.

Judy's passion for beauty and service to others led her to the Americanna Academy of Beauty of Des Moines,

where she graduated in 1963 and went on to work at Ceila Reynold's beauty shop in Menlo. She eventually opened her own beauty shop, Judy's Country Curl, in her home. During her time as a beautician, she created lasting friendships with many loyal customers who quickly became her close friends. In addition to her work in beauty, Judy also spent years working in the office at the Stuart Sale Barn, where she greeted everyone with a smile and handled tickets and transactions. Many commented on her beautiful penmanship. She made so many fun memories and friendships with coworkers, business owners, local farmers and their wives. She enjoyed contributing her time to the Menlo Parks and Recreation,

organizing Easter Egg Hunts and Christmas activities for local children, leaving an enduring legacy of joy in her community. Judy's spirited nature earned her one of the most recent notable achievements, winning the World Title for Husband Calling during the Menlo Sesquicentennial celebration in 2019, with her own version of yelling "GeeeeeeeNE!!!" During that same celebration, Gene and Judy enjoyed dancing, as that was a favorite pastime.

An avid gardener, Judy took great pride in her flower beds and loved to share her plants with family and friends. Her love for canning was unmatched, and her shelves were always stocked with jars of pickles, jams, salsa, peaches, pears, applesauce, horseradish and more. These delicious gifts were shared far and wide with family, friends and neighbors. Judy poured her love and care into

each jar, a testament to her nurturing spirit.

Above all, Judy's greatest joy in life was her family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was an unwavering source of love, encouragement and pride for them all. She was especially grateful for her daily phone calls from her grandson, Hayden, checking in after school.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Todd and Darlene Clifton; mother-in-law, Margret (Jessop) Murphy; father-in-law, Rex Murphy; brother-in-law, Jack Deskin; sister-in-law, Joy (Murphy) Bassett; brother-in-law, Don Bassett; sister-in-law, Marilyn (O'Mara) Murphy; and brother-in-law, Bob Edgington.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Gene Murphy; her children, Jodie (Roger) Riche of Junction City, Kansas, Marty Murphy of Dawson, and Tricia (Dustin) Foster of Stuart; her grandchildren, Micheal (Rena) Riche,

Kristina Riche (Didi Dautovic), Loudon Foster, Ashlynn Foster and Hayden Foster; her great-grandchildren, Hunter, Lilee, Daveion, Mikel, Riley and Kyson; her sisters, Sheryl Deskin of Des Moines, Marilyn (Jack) Matthews of Stuart, and Georgia (Denny) Coon of Haines City, Florida; her sisters-in-law, Dixie Murphy of St. Charles and Faye (Murphy) Edgington of Casey; her brothers-in-law, Keith Murphy of St. Charles and Leo Murphy of Prescott Valley, Arizona, as well as cousins, nieces and nephews.

For those lucky enough to know Judy, they know she was one of a kind with a generous heart and a good laugh. Judy's love for hair curlers, kindness, generosity, free-spoken candid comments, and dedication to her family and community will be deeply missed by all who knew her. A celebration of life service was held at the Menlo Community Building on Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. ■



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OBITUARY

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EDWARD BENEDICT WRIGHT

1951-2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Edward Benedict Wright, beloved father, grandfather and esteemed member of his community, who left us on Sept. 30, 2025, at the age of 74. Edward was born on July 26, 1951, in Jefferson, where he would go on to make a profound impact on all who knew him.

Edward's journey through life was one marked by dedication,

resilience and an unwavering commitment to excellence. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1970 to 1979, where he participated in the Nuclear Power Program and became a skilled Reactor Power Plant Operations and Maintenance professional. He served on several esteemed vessels, including the USS Providence, USS Hammerhead and USS Nimitz, where he developed lasting friendships and learned valuable lessons that shaped his character.

After his military service, Edward pursued higher education with fervor. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in business administration from Grand View University and achieved the designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) in 2004 from the University of Windsor. This educational foundation propelled him into a successful career in finance where he made significant contributions as the founder and executive vice president of Broker Dealer Financial Services Corporation from 1992

to 2020, and later as the owner of Investors Services Advisors Corporation from 2020 until his passing.

Edward's passion for finance was matched only by his commitment to his community. He was actively involved in numerous organizations, including the Des Moines Civic Music Association, the West Des Moines Rotary Club, the Educational Investment Club of Des Moines, and the Lions Club. He was a proud member of the Iowa Society of Financial Analysts and made a meaningful impact as a leader within the Libertarian Party of Iowa, serving as the longest-serving chair in the party's history. His dedication to educating others was evident through his work teaching investments at NAIC/Better Investing, where he inspired countless individuals to take charge of their financial futures.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Edward was a man of many interests and talents. An avid reader, he had

a deep love for history and literature, often immersing himself in the works of authors like Tom Clancy. Music was another cherished aspect of his life; whether listening to his favorite rock, country, or blues songs, or playing them on his guitar, Edward found joy and solace in melodies that resonated with his soul.

Edward was known for his kindness, wisdom and generosity. His friends and family would often describe him as a walking encyclopedia, always willing to share his knowledge and lend a compassionate ear. He embodied the qualities of a true leader — rooted in

integrity and committed to doing what was right.

He is survived by his beloved daughter, Heather Wright, and his son, Ethan Wright. Edward is survived by his cherished grandchildren, Shannon Bennett, Gavin Fredregill and Devan Fredregill, as well as his adored great-grandchildren, Teagin Bennett, Henry Bennett, Jackson Bennett and Wyatt Bennett. His legacy of love and guidance will continue to inspire them for generations to come.

A funeral service to celebrate Edward's life was held on Oct. 6, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Twigg Funeral Home. Family and friends were invited to gather to

honor Edward's remarkable journey and share in the memories of a truly extraordinary man.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the organizations Edward was passionate about to continue his legacy of service and compassion.

Edward Benedict Wright will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on through the lives he touched and the values he instilled in those who loved him. Rest in peace, Ed.

In keeping with Edward's generous spirit, the family requests donations may be made to the Libertarian Party of Iowa or the charities he supported. ■

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Oct. 8, 1975

AND IT COMES OUT HERE. Guthrie Center firemen Kenny Myers and Rev. Jerry Palmer demonstrate to second graders how the pump on the front of a fire engine works and how the nozzle resembles a large garden hose nozzle.

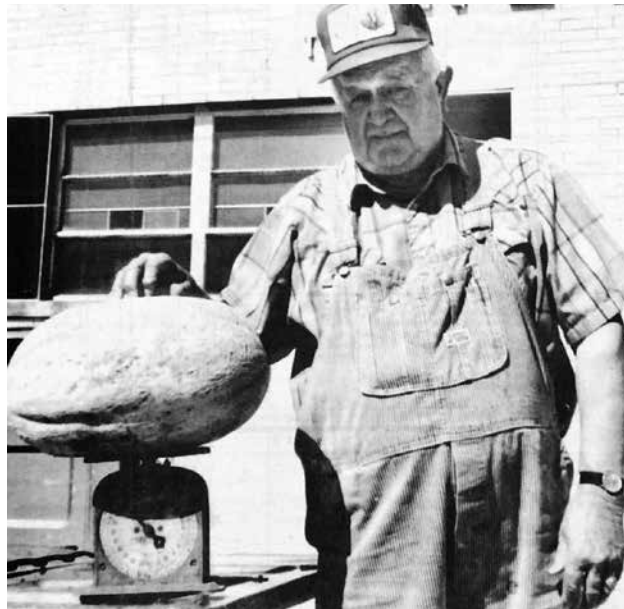
40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Oct. 30, 1985

NEW WAVE TIGERS. A homecoming pep rally crowd Thursday night was treated to a live performance by Tiger rock stars Tim Siemens, left, Darren Sleister, Lance Ridgely and Shane Christensen.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Oct. 4, 1995

BIG ONE. Looking and weighing more like a watermelon, a cantaloupe raised by Rolland Betts of Guthrie Center tipped the scales at 21 pounds. Betts said the seeds for the monster came from Kansas and were given to him by a friend.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Oct. 12, 2005

READY TO SERVE. The Guthrie Center Fire-Rescue Department are, front row: Randy Sheeder, Cory Campbell, Tom Langgaard, Steve Crannell, John Rutledge, Doug Kent, Gary McCool and Dave Embleton. Back row: Jim Griffith, Mike Peterson, Chuck Cleveland, Duane McClellan, Jalen Spack, Justin Downing, Lonnie Carrick, Gordon Badger. Not pictured are Jason Carroll, Gary Rees, Doug Calley, Randy McCann, Monte Jorgensen, Bob Secoy, Mike Kenyon and Bob Paterson.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Oct. 1, 2015

THE FIRE DECIDES. Sheri Heiland exhibits her pottery at the Guthrie County Arts Council's Fall Festival held Thursday at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center. Heiland crafts pitchers, vases, glasses and more. She pit-fires some pieces outdoors. Using a combination of salt, sawdust, seaweed, copper carbonate and fire, she creates one-of-a-kind pieces with flashes of red and orange caused by the fire's reaction to the other ingredients. "You can never really get two pieces that are the same," she said. "The fire decides the pattern."

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Oct. 15, 2020

4-H CLUB PARTICIPATES IN WINTER POSTAL MATCH. The Guthrie County SESS 4-H Range Finders club participated in a statewide Winter Postal Match competition. Members receiving medals were Sally Jo Geckler for first place in Senior Air Rifle, Ruby Hummel for first place in Senior Archery Freestyle and first place in Senior Archery Traditional, Lauren Kennedy for second place in Senior Archery Freestyle, and Max Owen for first place in Intermediate Archery Freestyle. ■



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email shane@gctimesnews.com.

Q: I SEE THAT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS HIRING ANOTHER DEPUTY. WHO LEFT, AND WHY?

A: According to Guthrie County Sheriff Matt Harmann, nobody left. Harmann told us the sheriff's department eliminated a deputy jail transport position and is using some of that money toward an additional deputy. The spending was approved in the county budget session and authorized in a resolution that the county supervisors voted on several months ago.

Q: I NOTICED YOU ARE PUBLISHING COMMUNITY MAPS NOW. HOW DO I GET ONE FOR GUTHRIE CENTER?

A: We now publish nine of these maps including Guthrie Center and Casey. All the maps can be viewed at <https://maps.big-greenumbrellamedia.com>. You can choose to view the map as a PDF download or as an interactive map that shows offers from each of the advertisers as well. This version works especially well on mobile phones. And, of course, you can pick up printed copies at dozens of area merchants or at our office at 104 Industrial Road in Guthrie Center.



Q: HOW MANY STOPLIGHTS ARE LOCATED IN GUTHRIE COUNTY?

A: Guthrie County has a blinking red light at the train tracks in Stuart and a few on top of stop signs around the county, but there are no actual traffic (red, yellow, green) lights. If you are curious, Butler County, located in northeast Iowa, is said to be the only Iowa county with no stoplights of any sort — or four-lane roads, a hospital,

a movie theater or a fast food chain.

Q: DO YOU STORE ITEMS OTHER THAN BOATS AND RVS AT YOUR FACILITY IN GUTHRIE CENTER? I HAVE A LAWN MOWER AND A MOTORCYCLE I WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF MY GARAGE.

A: Yes, we can store just about anything, as long as it is legal. Our basic rates can be seen at <https://storage.big-greenumbrellamedia.com>, but reach out and we will be glad to work out a custom deal for you with smaller items.



Q: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS?

A: That program is called the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and applications will be taken starting Nov. 1. This program has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs.

LIHEAP customers need to furnish some form of identification, a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, and proof of all household members' gross income for the past 30 calendar days, the most recent 12 months, or for the past calendar year. Apply in person by calling to set an appointment at 641-747-3845. Applications can also be submitted online at: liheap-apply.iowa.hhs.gov. For more details, visit www.newopp.org.



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EVENT

CASEY STEAKS HIT THE SPOT

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Jeff Larson grills fresh onions to go on the steaks.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

On Saturday, Sept. 26, an enticing scent of grilling brought many to the Casey Community Building as members of the

Casey Fire Department held their steak fry and raffle fundraiser. Available meals included steak or grilled hot dogs with sides. Most of the members of the fire crew, along with friends and family, helped make the event run smoothly. ■



Many raffle prizes waited to be won.



Top prize in the raffle was a 65-inch TV.



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ACGC HOMECOMING PARADE AND PEP RALLY

The ACGC homecoming parade and pep rally were held as part of ACGC's homecoming activities on October 3.



PHOTOS BY MARK REED | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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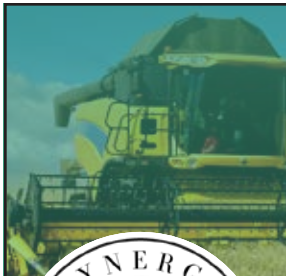
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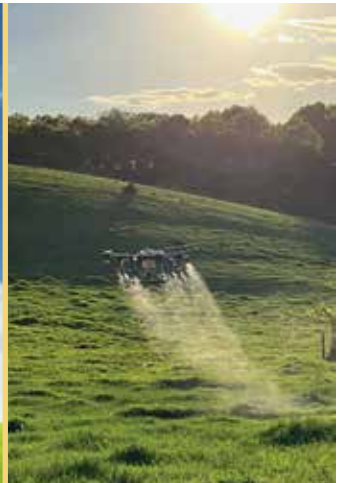
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ACGC HOMECOMING

POWDERPUFF FOOTBALL

The annual Powderpuff games were held as
part of ACGC's homecoming week activities.



PHOTOS BY MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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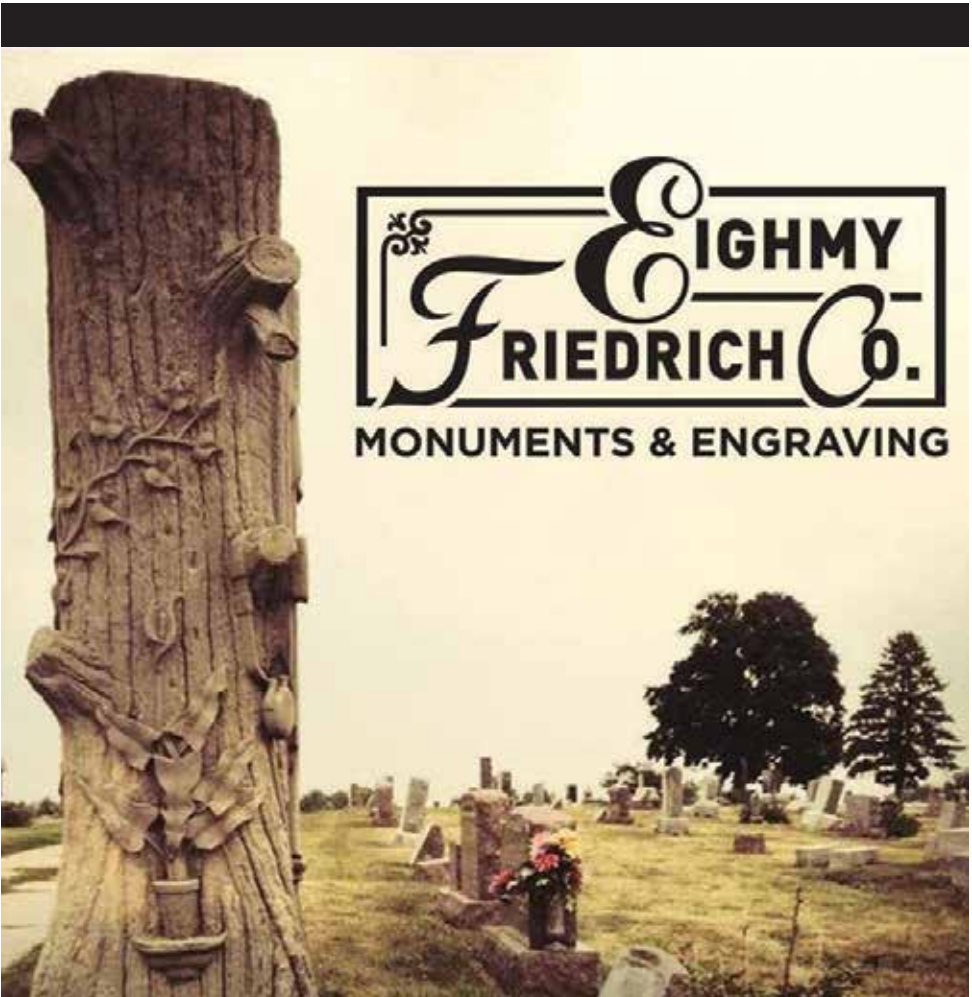


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ACGC HOMECOMING

IRONMAN GAMES

The annual Ironman games were held as part of ACGC's homecoming week activities.



PHOTOS BY MARK REID | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



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MAY 19 | 5:30 p.m. Twin Vines Winery,
2821 Hwy 44, Panama

AUG. 18 | 5:30 p.m. To be determined

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ACGC HOMECOMING

TWINS CARTER RICHTER
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KING AND QUEEN



The ACGC homecoming king and queen were crowned during halftime of the ACGC football game against Central Decatur on October 3. The student body elected twins Carter Richter and Camdyn Richter as king and queen. ■

Fall Commercial
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Guthrie County

Training	Date	Begin Time	Cost
Forest, Aquatic, and Right-of-Way Pest Control 2, 5, 6	October 22	9:00am – 11:30am	Pre - \$45 After Oct 22 - \$60
Ornamental & Turf Pest Control 30, 3T, 3OT	November 12	9:00am – 11:30am	Pre - \$45 After Nov 12 - \$60
Fumigation 7C	November 18	9:00am – 11:30am	Pre - \$45 After Nov 18 - \$60
Ag Pest Control 1A, 1B, 1C	November 19	9:00am – 11:45am	Pre - \$45 After Nov 19 - \$60
Pest Control Operators 7A, 7B, 7D, 8	December 10	9:00am – 11:30am	Pre - \$70 After Dec 10 - \$85
Aerial Application 11 (1A, 1B, 1C also covered if applicator is certified in 11)	Contact Office to Schedule		\$45
Greenhouse Pest Control 3G	Contact Office to Schedule		\$45

All training will be held at the Guthrie County ISU Extension Office at 212 State Street, Guthrie Center, IA 50115

- Space is Limited so please register for the above date/trainings at least one day prior, you can pre-register by calling 641-747-2276
- To schedule a reshew of a training, please contact the Guthrie County Extension Office at 641-747-2276 or xguthrie@iastate.edu

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RECIPE

PARMESAN GARLIC FOCACCIA BREAD IS A SLICE OF COMFORT

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Guthrie Center Times

This month, I share another recipe from my daughter, Samantha. She loves to make all kinds of bread. Few things make a kitchen feel more welcoming than the aroma of freshly baked bread, and parmesan garlic focaccia delivers that comfort in every bite. Golden and crisp on the outside yet soft and airy inside, this Italian favorite is elevated with the irresistible pairing of roasted garlic and nutty parmesan cheese. It is the kind of bread that feels special but is surprisingly simple to make at home. Serve as a side with soups and pastas, cut into squares for an appetizer board, or enjoy warm right out of the pan. Focaccia is versatile and crowd pleasing. The drizzle of olive oil, a sprinkling of herbs and the cheesy finish give it that bakery-style touch you will love sharing — or keeping all to yourself. Enjoy! ■

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



Jolene Goodman

PARMESAN GARLIC FOCACCIA BREAD

Ingredients:

- 1½ cups warm water (about 110°F)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2¼ teaspoons instant yeast (1 packet)
- 4 cups flour
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil, plus more for greasing
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian herbs or chopped rosemary
- Flaky sea salt

Directions

Combine warm water, sugar and



yeast. Let sit for 5 minutes until foamy. Add flour and salt. Mix until dough forms. (It will be sticky.) With a mixer, kneed for 5-7 minutes or by hand for 8-10 minutes until smooth. Brush dough with olive oil and cover. Let rise 1-1.5 hours in a warm spot until dough has doubled. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil with minced garlic until fragrant

(about 1 minute) in a pan. Keep for later. Place dough in greased 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Gently press to corners. Let rest 10 minutes, then stretch. Cover and rise 30-45 minutes. Preheat oven to 425 F. With your fingers, dimple the dough all over. Brush with garlic oil. Then sprinkle parmesan cheese, herbs and sea salt on top of dough. Bake 20-25 minutes until golden brown. Cool 10 minutes in pan, then transfer to wire rack. Slice and serve warm. Store bread for two days at room temperature or freeze up to three months.

For the best results, follow these additional steps: Make sure your water is warm (110 F), not hot. For the best texture, let the dough rise completely. Use plenty of oil in your pan, as this will give your bread a crisp crust. ■



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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is the bell in front of the American Legion Hall Post 124 at 507 State St. in Guthrie Center. There were no correct submissions. 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. ■



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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BY BETH ROGERS

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Our September Author Visit, Michelle Murray, spoke about her book "Amazing Iowa," which includes 80 interesting facts and unknown stories that occurred in our great state. Being an animated speaker, Ms. Murray engaged the audience with trivia, personal embellishments and a delightful sense of humor that kept the attendees engaged. Her book is available for check out, and you can find more about this author by visiting her Facebook page.

This past week, the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Guthrie County presented a Pumpkin Exploration. Participants learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin, created pumpkin slime, played Roll a

Pumpkin/Pumpkin Bowling and enjoyed pumpkin pudding.

Our Annual Costume Exchange, sponsored by the Casey Library Betterment Committee, will be from Friday, Oct. 17 through Oct. 25. You are invited to bring in new or gently used Halloween costumes any time prior to Oct. 25 to help someone pick out a "new" costume for themselves or a friend. Treats will be served on Oct. 25.

The October (Adult) Program is set for Sunday, Oct. 26 and tells the story of Iowa's Underground Railroad as told by storyteller Darrin Crow. This set of stories focuses on the small town of Salem in southern Iowa and its heroic citizens who helped hundreds of enslaved people find their way to freedom. Refreshments will be served, so bring your friends.

Some new books at the library include "The Recovery Agent," by Janet Evanovich; "The Anxious Generation, How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness," by Jonathan Haidt; "The Poisoned King," by Katherine Rundell; "Nightshade," by Michael Connelly; "The Knight and The Moth," by Rachel Gillig; "Impossible Creatures," by Katherine Rundell; "The Night Ship," by Jess Kidd and "Framed in Death," by J. D. Robb.

A few new DVDs are "The Accountant (I)," "M3gan 2.0," "Jurassic World Rebirth," "On Swift Horses," "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," "Casablanca," "Mile 22" and "Scooby-Doo."

Follow our Facebook page, Casey Public Library, to keep updated. ■



This past week, the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Guthrie County presented a Pumpkin Exploration. Participants learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin, created pumpkin slime, played Roll a Pumpkin/Pumpkin Bowling and enjoyed pumpkin pudding.

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