

# Guthrie Center TIMES

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**DECEMBER 2025**

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## HOLIDAY RECIPES MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT

**TRADITIONAL AND FAVORITE EDIBLES  
FOR CHRISTMASTIME — AND ANYTIME**

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**ON THE COVER:** Roger Underwood makes holiday bars to give to friends and family. 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:**  
Jim Jacobsen

**EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS:**  
Rich Wicks  
Jolene Goodman  
Michael C. Woody  
Mark Reno  
Abby Davis

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# A SPAMWICH HOLIDAY TRADITION

We dedicated our cover story this month to favorite holiday recipes, and why not? The Christmas season wouldn't be complete without the treasured family foods that pop up this time of year. From the elaborate five-course dinners to a simple cookie, most all of us have some connection with a family favorite.

Jolene's family introduced me to a family tradition they served each Christmas Eve. Her mother would make oyster soup and Spamwiches. Yes, Spamwiches — a holiday ritual for the Poraths.

I would have preferred a ribeye, but nobody asked for my opinion. So, I ate oyster soup and Spamwiches with Dean and Lois for a few years.

What exactly was this Spamwich, you ask? Well, to the best of my knowledge, it was chopped-up Spam, pickle relish and cheese toasted on half of a hamburger bun in the oven. At least that was the Porath version. I have to admit, it was delicious. The oyster soup? Not so much.

I recognize some of you may have never tried Spam, and for good reason. My friends who grew up on farms said, if they wanted meat, they got the real thing. For us city kids, though, canned meat was an alternative.

When Jolene and I started our own



Shane Goodman

family, we continued the Spamwich tradition with our kids, and we still serve them each Christmas Eve. The oyster soup has been replaced with a choice of potato soup or broccoli cheese soup, thank goodness.

I wrote about this Spam tradition in the past, and my email in-box was full the next day with favorite Spam recipes from readers. One person even mailed me a Spam coin bank. It was then when I began to understand the Spam-lovers cult. In a conversation with a grocery store manager about Spam, my eyes were opened even more. Just to put this in perspective, more than 44,000 cans of Spam are produced every hour. Hawaiians alone consume approximately 7 million cans of Spam per year. Barack

Obama even admitted he likes it.

Truth be told, I won't be rushing to Hometown Foods to buy Spam anytime soon, but I will continue to enjoy our Spamwiches on Christmas Eve, and I hope you can enjoy a few of your family favorites, too.

Merry Christmas, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
Editor and Publisher  
Guthrie Center Times  
641-332-2707  
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# HOLIDAY RECIPES MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT

## Traditional and favorite edibles for Christmastime — and anytime

BY RICH WICKS

*Guthrie Center Times*

Throughout recorded history, celebrations and feasting have gone hand in hand. Enjoying special foods, often in large quantities during major celebrations, is deeply ingrained in humanity. In America, the approximately five-week span from Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's Day is especially noted for sumptuous meals and treats. Below are some local examples of traditional and favorite holiday edibles.

### PERFECT BEEF TENDERLOIN TRISH WHETSTONE

"I just love to cook," Trish Whetstone said. "When I was in corporate America, cooking dinner in the evening might be my only true accomplishment of the day. Cooking is a great way to create something with your own hands, try something new, and, the biggie is — show someone you love them in a totally different way by cooking something delicious."

A favorite holiday tradition of Whetstone's and her father's is beef tenderloin.

"Beef tenderloin is expensive and only gets made on special occasions at our house," she said. "With its price tag, which reflects its rarity, taking proper care of this piece of meaty deliciousness is important. Plus, it's such an impressive masterpiece. Who can resist? The secret is starting with high heat, sealing in the flavor and the juices. This is low effort with high reward."

#### BEEF TENDERLOIN:

Preheat oven to 500 degrees.

Use pan and wire rack: The wire rack allows for air circulation all around the tenderloin.

#### 3- to 4-pound beef tenderloin:

Trim any fat or silver from the loin.



Important: Let the meat come to room temperature.

Cut or tie the "skinny end" with cooking twine or tuck it under the larger part.

Rinse and pat as dry as possible with paper towels.

Lightly coat with grape seed oil (or any oil that can take high heat without smoking or burning).

Season the entire loin with salt (kosher if you have it) and fresh ground pepper, garlic powder and Cajun seasoning if you have it. Apply generously all over the loin.

Place the tenderloin on the rack with a

pan under.

Roast at 500 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.

If you have created a heavy layer of seasoning, you may need to leave the beef tenderloin in for a few minutes longer.

Look for a beautiful crust or sear, nice and golden brown.

When you have achieved a beautiful exterior, drop the oven temperature to 400 degrees F and continue to roast for 20 to 35 minutes. Use a quality meat thermometer (worth the investment for beef this nice) to determine the finish: Inter-

Trish Whetstone and her mouth-watering beef tenderloin with herb butter.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

nal temp 125 degrees F for rare, 130-135 degrees F for medium-rare, 140 degrees F for medium. Pro tip: Unfriend anyone who likes well done.

**Important:** Take out of the oven 5 degrees lower than your target. The loin will continue to cook internally during the resting time, and the temp will increase by 5 or so degrees over the next few minutes. A good resting time is 10 to 15 minutes. Options for this stage include wrapping in foil, and/or adding some pats of herb butter while it is resting. Let the butter melt over the beef. This silky glaze



will look as good as it tastes.

**HERB BUTTER:**

This can be made several days ahead. What is not used on the tenderloin can be added to mashed or baked potatoes.

Let one or two sticks of salted butter come to room temperature in a bowl.

Add kosher salt, pepper, garlic powder, smoked paprika, a squeeze of lemon juice, chopped thyme, rosemary and parsley (plus whatever looks good to you). Mix together.

Using plastic wrap or wax paper, place the butter mixture on the surface and roll it up tightly into a log. Place in refrigerator to harden. Slice butter into easy-to-use pats and let guests add to the tenderloin. Keep any extra for the next time.

**TWICE-BAKED POTATOES**  
**TRISH WHETSTONE**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.  
Clean several large baking potatoes.  
Pour some neutral oil such as canola, corn, grape seed, etc. onto your hand.  
Rub the oil on the potato skins.  
Take regular salt and salt the entire potato skin with a heavy coating of salt.  
Place in the oven and cook for one hour or until you can puncture the potato with a knife easily. Time will vary depending on size of potatoes.

Cool, cut in half (cut in half long-ways), scrape the flesh of the potatoes into a bowl. Save the outer shell of the potatoes to be re-stuffed (“twice baked”). The salt on the potato skin should have enlarged it due to the chemical reaction with the oil and the cooking.

**In the bowl:** Add potatoes, butter, cheese, sour cream, salt and pepper.  
**Optional items to add:** shrimp, leftover brisket or pork, bacon and chives.  
Add all the ingredients together and mix.

Lower the oven temperature to 350 F.  
Refill the skins and add more cheese to the top to make it pretty.  
Return to the oven for 15 minutes.  
Serve.

“Twice baked potatoes make an easy dinner, too,” Whetstone said. “Think about adding chili, chicken from that leftover rotisserie — anything. Potatoes are a great stretch item and, as we all know, they go great with just about anything.”

Whetstone explains how everything here is done in the oven.  
“I love using the oven,” she said. “It allows me to put a meal in and walk away to get something else done. It’s a magical way to do two things at once, and, in the winter, it can add a little heat to the house.”

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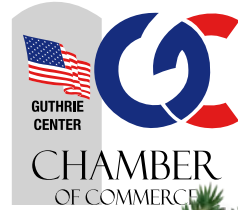
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Judi Zimmerline is well known for making holiday treats.

Whetstone encourages all cooks to step out of the ordinary this Christmas.

"It's easier than you think," she said. "Make it unforgettable with a tenderloin that steals the show."

### CRANBERRY BREAD KAREL VAN ROEKEL

Preheat oven to 350 F.

- 2 cups fresh cranberries — wash and sort well for any imperfect ones
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped

Cream together butter, cream cheese and sugar until fluffy.

Add vanilla and eggs, one at a time, and continue beating.

Whisk dry ingredients in separate bowl and gradually add. Fold in berries and nuts. This makes two loaf pans or several mini loaves. Bake 60-70 minutes until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool 15 minutes, then remove from pan and cool completely. Freezes well.

### CUT OUT COOKIES BETH ROGERS

- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 egg
- 1 stick butter

Cream together. On floured counter, roll until about 1/8 inch thick. Cut out and place on cookie sheet. Bake in preheated 350 degree F oven for 5-8 minutes. Place on cooling rack. When cool, frost with cream cheese frosting.

"This recipe came from my aunt Merry Novak," Beth Rogers said. "We're all about easy stuff that tastes good."

### PEANUT BRITTLE JUDI ZIMMERLINE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup syrup
- 1/2 cup water

Combine and cook to a soft ball (235 degrees F)

Add 2 cups raw peanuts. Cook to 300 degrees F. Remove from heat and add 2 tablespoons butter, 2 teaspoons baking soda and 1 teaspoon vanilla, one at a time. Spread on a buttered cookie sheet.

### CHERRY MASH BARS JUDI ZIMMERLINE

- 2 cups sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt





- 2 cups cherry chips
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 2 cups marshmallows
- ¾ cup peanut butter
- 1 ½ cups chocolate chips
- 1 ½ cups peanuts, coarsely chopped

Combine sugar, butter, salt and milk. Boil 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in cherry chips and marshmallows. Spread in a lined 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Melt chocolate chips and stir in peanut butter and nuts. Spread over cherry layer. Cool and cut.

### APPLE GOODIE

LINDA CALTRIDER

- 3-4 cups sliced apples
- 1 scant cup sugar
- 1 rounded tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Mix and put in bottom of 8-inch by 8-inch or 9-inch by 6-inch Pyrex dish.

#### Topping:

- ¾ cup oatmeal
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup melted margarine
- Mix. Sprinkle on apples. Cook 30-40 minutes until done.

### HOLIDAY FUDGE

DIANE HEMMEN

- 10-12 Hershey candy bars, broken up
- 1 package (12 ounces) chocolate chips
- 1 pint marshmallow crème
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Bring to a rolling boil in saucepan for 6-7 minutes. Add 4 ½ cups sugar, 1/3 cup margarine, and one large can evaporated milk. Stir and beat until creamy. Spoon out on wax paper.

### GINGERSNAPS

DIANE HEMMEN

- 1 cup sugar
- ¾ cup shortening
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 egg
- 4 tablespoons molasses
- pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup flour, then 1 ½ cups more flour

Form into ball and dip in sugar. Bake at 350 degrees F until top cracks.

### CARAMEL PECAN DREAM BARS

ROGER UNDERWOOD

- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1/3 cup margarine
- 1 egg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Combine the above ingredients and mix at high speed until crumbly. Press evenly into pan. Set aside.

- 1 egg
- 1 14-ounce can Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup bits of brickle chips

Beat condensed milk, egg and vanilla until blended. Stir in pecans and chips. Pour over base in pan. Spread to cover. Optional: Spread pecan halves on top as desired.

Bake for 25 minutes or until light golden brown. Center may appear loose but will set upon cooling. Cool completely before cutting. Makes about 36 bars.

### CARAMEL RICE KRISPIE BARS

ROGER UNDERWOOD

- 1 package (14 ounces) of Kraft caramels, unwrapped (about 52 caramels)
- ½ cup plus 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 14-ounce can Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk



Roger Underwood makes holiday bars to give to friends and family.

Melt caramels, butter and condensed milk together in microwave. Set aside.

- ½ cup butter
- 82 large marshmallows (20 ounces)
- 8 cups Rice Krispies

Melt butter in microwave; add marshmallows and melt together. Add Rice Krispies and stir until mixed. Spray 9-inch by 13-inch pan with nonstick spray. Layer half of Rice Krispie mix in pan. Spread half of caramel mixture on top. Repeat layers and refrigerate. Cut into small pieces. These are very rich bars, but good.

Underwood noted that, when melting the caramels in the microwave, care is needed.

"A lot of people do it about 10 minutes at a time, and that's a complete flop. It just



The ingredients are ready for Roger Underwood's creations.

tastes burned," Underwood said. "We do it about a minute at a time, and then stir it up, and do another minute." ■

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# TEN SQUARED MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GROUPS DONATE \$36,300 TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

BY SHANE GOODMAN  
Guthrie Center Times

For the first time, the Ten Squared Men’s and the Ten Squared Women’s groups chose the same organization to donate to, providing combined total contributions of \$36,300 to New Opportunities.

The Ten Squared Men had its final meeting for 2025 on Nov. 18. The three presentations were New Opportunities, Guthrie County Sports, and Guthrie County FFA and 4-H Stable Barn. The group selected New Opportunities, which was presented by Steve Smith. The total gift from the men will be \$21,000. This brings the total giving for the 10 Squared Men for 2025 to \$59,900 and the total since the group began to \$479,650. Any men interested in becoming a part of the group should send an email to b.monaghan@gcsbank.com and request to be added for 2026.

On the same evening, the Ten Squared Women also selected New Opportuni-

ties. The total gift from the women will be \$15,300. No additional information on the Ten Squared Women’s Group was available as of press time. Any women interested in becoming a part of the group should send an email to 10squaredgc@gmail.com and request to be added for 2026.

The two gifts were combined, and a check was presented to New Opportunities Director Rhonda Huggins for \$36,300.

New Opportunities is located at 400 State St. in Guthrie Center. The Family Development Center is the information, application and referral center for all of the income eligible programs offered by New Opportunities to serve families, individuals and elderly people of Guthrie County.

The Guthrie County Family Development Center serves income eligible residents in Guthrie County with back to School Supplies, Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Christmas Gifts for Children, as well as Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), utility crisis assis-



Steve Smith, Kristin Crouthamel, JoAnn Johnson, New Opportunities Director Rhonda Huggins, and Barry Monaghan

tance, weatherization, food pantry, clothing, family development and self-sufficiency program, financial literacy counseling and more.

For more information on New Op-

portunities, call 641-747-3845, ext. 6020 or visit [www.newopp.org/services/outreach/guthrie-county](http://www.newopp.org/services/outreach/guthrie-county). ■



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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

THE BOSS. FRANKENSTEIN. ANOTHER PREDATOR. NUREMBERG. AND THE RUNNING MAN.



"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere"



"Frankenstein"



"Die My Love"



"Anniversary"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Guthrie Center Times*

"SPRINGSTEEN: DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE"

I have never watched the FX series "The Bear," but my wife, Sue, is a huge fan. So, off we trot to see her favorite actor from "The Bear," Jeremy Allen White, take on the mega-star Bruce Springsteen. I am a huge Springsteen fan, especially his album "Nebraska," so I went in with some hesitation. I was blown away by the film and by White's performance as The Boss. His performance will get him at least an Oscar nomination, if not more, for this role. It is one of the year's best films.  
**Grade: A**



"FRANKENSTEIN"

This is quite the transition from "Springsteen" to "Frankenstein," but I'll

try my best. Guillermo Del Toro is a wonderful writer and director and has given us some truly special movies including his dark version of "Pinocchio" and his Oscar-winning film "The Shape of Water." Here, he takes on one, if not the, greatest horror stories of all time — this time as the writer AND director. The film opens with a harrowing shipwreck in icy waters and the escape of something truly horrifying. I wish I had read the original Mary Shelley novel so I could compare the two. The film seems so over the top that I just wonder how many liberties were taken with the original text. I can also admit that Mel Brooke's classic comedy, "Young Frankenstein," ruined this movie for me. Still, it is superbly filmed and extremely well-acted. **Grade: B+**



"DIE MY LOVE"

It is possible that your brow has just

furrowed as to what this film is. I've seen the movie, and mine is still furrowed. It is story of a young couple played by Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson. The cast also includes Sissy Spacek and Nick Nolte. That's why the film is so puzzling. How do you take that great cast and make a movie that is so dark and depressing that the urge to leave was ever-present? Essentially, we watch this woman struggle with postpartum depression for nearly two hours. It is dark, it is depressing and it is well worth skipping. **Grade: D**



"ANNIVERSARY"

This hardly promoted film is full of talent not unlike the old Robert Altman films where everyone is recognizable but you are not sure from where. A large family with many secrets is gathered to celebrate an important anniversary, but trouble is brewing. This film is so reminiscent

of the politics we see on television every day and is a truly damning look at those politics. It is very well made and acted but a little too close to reality for me. Still, it is worth finding. **Grade: B+**



"PREDATOR: BADLANDS"

Yes, another sequel to the far superior Arnold Schwarzenegger film released in 1987. For the first time, a sequel tries something different, and it works — really well. A solo predator is on a planet and being tracked by evil things. When he happens upon a nearly destroyed sentient being (voiced beautifully by Elle Fanning) who is in need of rescue, he steps in to help. She adds a level of context that these films have lacked including, of all things, humor. Who knew that this series needed humor, but it is very en-



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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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"Predator: Badlands"



"Nuremberg"



"Now You See Me: Now You Don't"



"The Running Man"

tertaining and well worth seeing. **Grade: B+**

### "NUREMBERG"

Admittedly, I might have skipped a few history classes in high school, so this story was fresh to me and, quite frankly, super engaging. The trial to hold the German leadership responsible for the near annihilation of the Jewish people is indeed difficult to watch, but the story-telling and acting are at a level that you will be reminded of when Oscar nominations are announced. Obviously, the subject matter is intense and truly horrifying, but the story is so well told and acted that this will be an easy



pick for my top 10 list this year. **Grade: A**

### "NOW YOU SEE ME: NOW YOU DON'T"

I guess there was a previous sequel to the first film that I must have completely missed in this series, which started in 2013 about a group of magicians who get together to create mayhem and steal things — big things. While I obviously can't speak about the first sequel, I can tell you this one is dead on arrival. They have managed to take the fun and charm of the first film and turn it into action and silly dialogue. It's not a bad movie — just a boring one. **Grade: C**



### "THE RUNNING MAN"

In 1987, Richard Dawson and Arnold Schwarzenegger gave us a futuristic view of a game show where one man has a chance to escape his fate by competing in a deadly game of hide and seek. The action and the humor were wonderful, and I'm happy to tell you they are again in this sequel. Glen Power is excellent in the Schwarzenegger role, and Josh Brolin takes on the role as the baddie with Trumpian flair. The action is fun as Powell turns the tables on Brolin's character, giving the audience both in the film and in the theater someone to cheer for. Director Edgar Wright delivers



the goods as he did in his outstanding film "Baby Driver." This is one to catch in the IMAX if you can. **Grade: A**

I wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons. See you at the movies. ■

*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 DISCUSS EMS AS ESSENTIAL SERVICE

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

NOV. 18 – CAMPING, TRAIL UPDATES

During the Nov. 18 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Conservation Director Brad Halterman summarized the department’s 2024-2025 annual report.

“We had an average to above-average camping season,” Halterman said. “As far as fiscal, it was a good year.”

Halterman shared information on current and planned projects.

“One of the highlights, as far as the Racoon Valley River Trail, within the last year we were able to secure a little over \$2 million on that \$4.8 million grant project,” Halterman said.

The board approved the report as presented.

The board then went into a closed session to discuss matters regarding the Law

Enforcement Center.

**NOV. 25 – SUBDIVISION REQUEST, AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OPENING**

During the Nov. 25 meeting, a public hearing was set regarding the proposed Calmer Minor Subdivision (29-80-30 near Highway 4).

Chris Whitaker of Region XII explained. “Mr. Calmer requested a minor subdivision of about four acres north off of Highway 4, near Panora,” Whitaker said. “The Planning and Zoning Commission did review this a week or so ago and did recommend approving this.”

The public hearing was set for 9:30 a.m. during the supervisors meeting on Dec. 9.

The supervisors accepted the resignation of Vicki Gubser from the Guthrie County Regional Airport Authority Board. Those interested in applying to fill the vacancy will be able to access the application form

on the county’s website.

The supervisors voted to adopt Resolution 26-13 (Second Appropriation Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026).

**DEC. 2 – PROPERTY SALE, AGENCY ON AGING REPORT, FLU SHOTS**

During the Dec. 2 meeting, County Attorney Dana Minter about the sale of county-owned property to private individuals/entities. She summarized that one of the key factors the county should consider in any potential property sale is weighing the benefits of a sale versus the benefits of continuing to own the property.

“If the board has a piece of property that they would like to dispose of, they put that in a resolution, set a public hearing and allow the public an opportunity to voice either their agreement or disagreement,” Minter said.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said the supervisors will “do the math” regarding any potential sales to be sure the board makes

the decision that is best for the county.

Sandra Jackson from Elderbridge Agency on Aging provided an annual report and discussed the Fiscal Year 2027 county match request. She shared information on funding cuts the agency has faced, including the ending of COVID funds.

“The demand is still there, but our dollars are fewer,” Jackson said.

She requested an increase of 10 cents in the rate paid by the county for services and estimated that would result in about \$1,000 in additional cost to the county annually. No decision was made at this time.

Health Service Director Jotham Arber offered a departmental report. He shared information on the county’s status on providing immunizations.

“I don’t have our November numbers in here, but we had a lot of November flu shots,” he said.

The supervisors discussed the Guthrie County Airport Authority board vacancy



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and a possible deadline for interested applicants to fill the vacancy. The supervisors voted to set a deadline of Jan. 2 for applicants. If needed after that date, the supervisors will look into additional ways to find potential airport board members.

**DEC. 9 - EMS PATH, RELAY RACE**

At the Dec. 9 meeting, the supervisors held a discussion about the path ahead regarding the possibility of declaring EMS as an essential service. There was discussion that for the matter to be decided by voters, the best options for when to hold such an election would be September or November of 2026 or March of 2027. The September and March options would be a special election, which would likely see lighter voter turnout.

Supervisor Steve Smith voiced his opinion that the September 2026 option is too soon and would not allow time for everything that would need to be done before the matter went to voters.

Supervisor Brian Johnson said he feels the county should “start from scratch” with the process to assure that all applicable steps are done appropriately for the county’s situation.

The supervisors discussed ideas on the size and makeup of a committee that would likely be formed to work on the issue.

No formal decisions were made at this time.

Board Chair Maggie Armstrong said she

has started looking into the factors to consider for whether or not the county would choose to sell a 9-acre parcel of land at the former county home.

Brenda Dudley addressed the supervisors with a preliminary idea about having a running relay race along the 26 miles of White Pole Road, possibly on Sunday, June 7, 2026. She said one of the goals of the event would be to generate opportunities for local retailers to have additional sales.

Armstrong said she has safety concerns regarding having a running event on White Pole Road if the road were not closed.

“Safety is a really big concern for me on that,” Armstrong said.

Armstrong also shared her opinion that runners may not become shoppers at the conclusion of such an event, so the retailers may not see the targeted benefit. There was discussion with Dudley about scheduling a different type of event. Supervisor JD Kuster talked of the possibility of having some type of “poker run” in motorized vehicles rather than a running event. He told of the poker run events he has helped with in the past. No vote or formal decision was made at this time.

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

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# GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL SETS WAGE INCREASE AT 4%

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

**NOV. 24 — LOSAP CONSIDERATION**

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council on Nov. 24, Fire Chief Cory Campbell addressed the council to request approval for a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the city's firefighters to encourage them to remain on the crew.

Campbell said the fire department has seen a gradual decrease in the number of firefighters. He said the crew is down to 21 members, and he would like to maintain a crew of 30. Campbell explained that the state recently allocated funds to help cities that choose to establish a LOSAP for the firefighters.

"They put approximately \$1.5 million into this program," Campbell said. "It's a length of service program. Essentially, it's a 401K for firefighters."

Campbell explained that firefighters

would need to accumulate 100 points for various tasks (attending meetings, going on fire calls, etc.), and only those who tally 100 or more in a year would receive deposits into their accounts. He said if the city allocates funds for LOSAP, the state will provide a 3-1 match, meaning that if the city allocated \$167 per firefighter per year, each firefighter's account could receive another \$500.

The council consensus was that it could be an effective way to foster firefighters staying on the crew longer.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," Mayor Mike Herbert said.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith will draft a resolution on the matter for the council to consider at an upcoming meeting.

**DEC. 8 — WAGE INCREASES, SNOW CONCERNS**

During the Dec. 8 regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, possible

wage increases for city employees were discussed. Suggestions included a flat rate increase of \$1.25 hourly, or a 4% increase.

Street Department Director Darrin Sloss asked the council to also consider a 25-cent hourly increase for two staff members who recently achieved an additional certification.

The council also discussed whether to have wage increases effective in January or in July. The city has traditionally had increases effective in January, but there was no clear reason known.

"So, the only difference if you did it in July would be, you would actually know the numbers for the budget, instead of an estimation," Councilmember Ian Steensen said.

The council voted to approve a 4% increase for staff, and the additional 25-cent raise as requested by Sloss. No change in the effective date was made.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith asked that residents contact city hall with any con-

cerns about inadequate snow or ice removal on sidewalks in the downtown business area.

"Rarely do we have a problem," Arrasmith said. "We're very lucky."

The council chose to have a second council meeting in December, per the regular schedule. The meeting on Dec. 22 will include the swearing-in of Mayor Mike Herbert, councilmember Carolyn Masters, and newly elected councilmember Erica Finster, who will replace her father, outgoing member Chuck Cleveland, on the council.

The council discussed the 2024/2025 Annual Urban Renewal report.

"This is a formality that we do every year," Arrasmith said. "Just how much money we bring in on TIF and how much we're going to pass through every year."

The council approved the report as presented.

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

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# CAROTHERS TO JOIN GCH TRUSTEES

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the Dec. 1 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, the trustees voted to appoint Mary Jane Carothers onto the board.

Chief Nursing Officer Mandy Schiefert reported on fire extinguisher training that was recently completed with 62 employees. She also explained the hospital will soon obtain a new ventilator, which she noted will be user-friendly.

"The foundation approved the purchase of a new ventilator," she said. "That is a huge win, not only for our staff, but there are patients who have the capability of doing a bypass, which is not something that we offer right now."

Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson reported that open enrollment for employees recently closed, and that it went well. She added that retention is currently at 89.3%, which is an increase from the previous month's measurement of 85.9%.

Board Chair Mike Underwood asked

Anderson about any on-going staff vacancies that are particularly challenging.

"Dietician," Anderson said. "It's really hard to find. We're looking for a part-time dietician and for them to be in-house."

CEO Chris Stipe voiced appreciation for the excellent work done at the hospital in all departments.

"It's kind of flattering to be the CEO of a hospital that's in the top 10% in the country in every area that we measure," Stipe said. "I hope that we can continue to be consistent with that."

The board went into a special closed session to discuss two matters: a matter related to the purchase or sale of real estate, and to evaluate the professional competency of an individual.

Because of the Christmas holiday, the next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Monday, Dec. 29 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



Mary Jane Carothers

## ASK GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Submit your questions at  
www.guthriecentertimes.com or  
email shane@gctimesnews.com.

**Q: I HEARD THERE ARE MORE THAN 25 CEMETERIES IN GUTHRIE COUNTY. IS THAT TRUE?**

**A:** The county's website, www.guthriecounty.gov, lists 37 cemeteries throughout the county.

**Q: HOW MANY LIGHTED CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS ARE IN MITCHELL PARK IN GUTHRIE CENTER?**

**A:** The number varies from year to year, but the total is in the neighborhood of 100.

**Q: WHAT IS THE TOTAL POPULATION OF GUTHRIE COUNTY?**

**A:** As of the 2020 census, the population was 10,623.

**Q: WHERE CAN I RECYCLE MY CARDBOARD BOXES?**

**A:** The local options in Guthrie Center are the yellow bins a block south of Hometown Foods (cardboard and newspaper only) or the Guthrie County Transfer Station at 2349 Jaguar Trail.

**Q: WHY WERE THE PARADE AND SANTA EVENT CANCELLED AND NOT RESCHEDULED?**

**A:** The Very Merry Guthrie Center Christmas event and Guthrie Center's Lighted Christmas Parade, which were both set for Nov. 29, were cancelled because of the snowstorm and were not rescheduled due to the logistics of finding another date that would work for everyone involved. ■

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# THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

BASKETBALL PHOTOS BY MARK REED. WRESTLING PHOTOS BY ABBY DAVIS



Lane Stringer (157) takes down his opponent at the Dennis Field Invitational on Dec. 6.



No. 10 Reece Emgarten controls the dribble against West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



No. 1 Stella Largent looks for a pass inside West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



No. 4 Joe Crawford and No. 1 Thomas Skram against West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



No. 5 Meranda Gruber in a full-court press against West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



Carter Richter (275) earned first place at the Dennis Field Invitational on Dec. 6.



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No. 15 Hudson Gilland battles for the rebound against West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



No. 3 Jerzee Huss evades a West Central Valley defender on Dec. 2.



No. 11 Preston Kent goes for the layup against West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



No. 32 Camdyn Richter lobs the ball over the West Central Valley defender on Dec. 2.



No. 33 Cal Clark tries to break the trap against West Central Valley on Dec. 2.



Chase Slaybaugh (126) placed third at the Dennis Field Invitational on Dec. 6.

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# GUTHRIE CENTER SCHOOL BOARD ACCEPTS \$125,000 BID FOR STAIR REPLACEMENT

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

NOV. 17-ADAIR-CASEY SCHOOL BOARD

During the Nov. 17 meeting of the Adair-Casey School Board, Patrick Davis of Denovo reported on the findings of the district's recently completed facility assessment. The assessment included all district buildings, bus barn, daycare and athletic facilities. He explained the findings of areas suggested for improvements as well as areas of "celebration" for the things Denovo noted as strengths.

The main suggested improvements were in the categories of security and accessibility. Davis shared some ways that entryways and locks could be changed to enhance security. He also told of ramps and bathrooms that are not considered ADA-compliant. But, Davis said the findings are only recommendations.

"None of this is stuff you have to do," Davis said.

vis said.

"Sounds like we can maybe take a couple weeks to digest what's in front of us," Superintendent Josh Rasmussen said.

The board chose to take no formal action at this time so board members could take time to thoroughly review the report.

Principal Ed Den Beste reported on strong participation numbers for the recent parent-teacher conferences.

Den Beste also spoke about recent educational program on the dangers of human trafficking. He said although the material was "not easy to watch," the feedback was that the message was well received by students and adults.

Rasmussen spoke of the ways in which cell phones can be misused by those involved in human trafficking.

"That cell phone is access for you and your kid to the world wide web. The scary part about that is it gives the world access to your kid," Rasmussen said.

Board member Randy Carney asked that



Superintendent Josh Rasmussen thanks Brian Sheeder for his time on the board.

the proposed payment to Snyder and Associates be pulled out from the other bills payable in the Consent Items portion of the agenda. He voiced concerns about areas on the recently completed roofing project that still appear to need work. That payment was tabled. The remaining Consent Items were approved.



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Kris Langgaard and Adam Franzen are sworn in by Brandy Rudy.

Den Beste reported good attendance at the recent veterans breakfast with 10 veterans and about 30 family members participating.

The board approved purchasing 90 hurdles from Danco for the track and field teams at \$140 each.

The next scheduled meeting will be an organizational and regular meeting of the Adair-Casey School Board on Monday, Dec. 15. The public is welcome.

## NOV. 19 - GUTHRIE CENTER SCHOOL BOARD

During the Nov. 19 regular meeting of the Guthrie Center School Board, the board members discussed a bid for replacement of the front stairs outside the high school. Superintendent Josh Rasmussen reported on the expected scope of the project. The ground around and under the stairs has been partially washed away, so the extent and cause of that may complicate the project.

"I've been working with Steven at Denovo," Rasmussen said. "There's a lot of undermining that was going on there... When they scoped it, they ran into some stuff and couldn't get all the way through."

Rasmussen said Denovo therefore added some contingency into the bid.

"I think it's around \$125,000. If there's something wrong, they'll have to fix it," Rasmussen said. He stated the project could be completed in December, but the weather forecast makes that unlikely due to cold temperatures expected.

The board discussed the option of waiting until spring and again seeking bids, in hopes of finding a less expensive option.

"I don't want to rush the project just

to get a mediocre result," Matt Van Meter said.

"This might be as cheap as possible, right now," Rasmussen said. "My opinion is, you get it done," Rasmussen said.

The board voted to accept the bid with the understanding the project will be done as weather allows, which may be in the spring of 2026.

Outgoing board member Brian Sheeder was thanked for his service. Newly elected member Adam Franzen and re-elected member Kris Langgaard were sworn in.

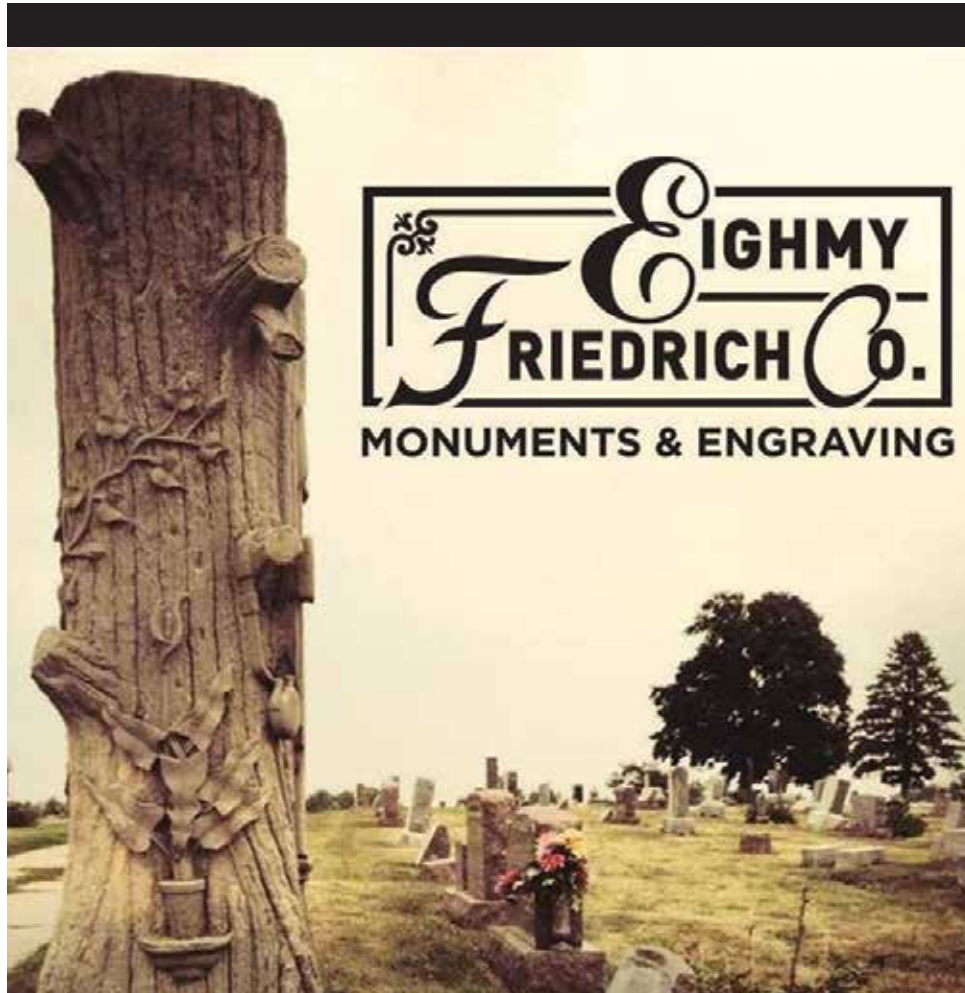
The board held its annual organizational meeting. Tate Stetzel was voted board president with Kris Langgaard vice-president.

Rasmussen talked about ACGC's recent screening of the film "GridShock," which describes the dangers of human trafficking. He said the film is "very tough to listen to," but said the feedback from viewers has been that the message is important and strongly presented. Rasmussen said the film will be shown at Panorama Schools, so anyone interested in seeing it still can attend.

The board discussed the Guthrie Center Elementary playground. Van Meter and Stetzel agreed that although some repair is currently needed, the playground could likely continue to be used for years if some lumber is replaced. The board consensus was to make the repairs and fundraise for eventual replacement.

The board approved purchasing a Toro lawn mower from Panora NAPA for \$9,341 after trade-in.

The Guthrie Center board's next regular meeting is set for Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the high school. The public is welcome. ■



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# DUB P FULFILLS A LONGTIME DREAM FOR POLICKY

Dub P Apparel and Signs fills a previously unmet need in the community.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Dub P Apparel and Signs is the name of one of Guthrie Center's newest stores, but some of you may not have seen it yet. The store is located at 1002 Cameron Pass, just east of Guthrie Center High School. Although the store is not on a high-traffic road, there is much to make it worth finding. Owner Wes Policky shared details about the store's many offerings.

"There are so many people that still don't know about us," Policky said. "We're not on the main drag. We have many items of pre-made apparel, Iowa State, Panther and Charger gear. We've got some I-80 metal art, and we have the Apparel On Demand side, and we do signs, decals and stickers."

Policky told how the business came into existence.

"Around five years back, I saw some things on Facebook, funny T-shirts and what not, and I thought, 'Oh, I could do that,' so I always had that in the back of my mind. I was working at IBM at the time, but I started feeling like I could do something more, so I applied for a job at LinkedIn, and decided either I would work there, or I would buy a heat press and start pump-



Wes Policky and Nick McCool are ready to create the apparel you want.

ing out shirts," Policky said. "I had that interview in November of 2021, and I didn't get that job, so I bought the heat press and started making shirts, just by word of mouth. I started doing this fulltime out of my basement, and the rest is history."

For Policky, his store fills a previously

unmet need in the community.

"There are a ton of great boutiques around, like Tribe, and Pearls & Lace," Policky said. "I wanted to create a store geared toward guys, with more 'dude wear.' We do have a lot of women's items, but I wanted something for guys, so we have a

lot of polos, pants, shoes and beard care items for men."

Eventually, Policky realized it was time to bring the business out of the basement.

"We had our grand opening here July 11 of this year," Policky said. "I always had a dream of owning a store of some sort. I



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Clothes, cups, mini helmets, metal art and more can be found at Dub P Apparel.

didn't know what that looked like, didn't know what that was. But, as it evolved in my basement, it felt like I needed a place where people could try stuff on, and that was one of the reasons for getting out of the basement and opening this up."

Policky grew up in Nebraska, and prior to moving to Guthrie Center, the family was living in Milwaukee.

"My wife, Jen, works for State Farm Insurance here in town," Policky said. "We love it here," Policky said. "I do some rec league coaching for our kids, and I'm assistant basketball coach now. So, we were able to get ingrained with the community and build relationships."

Policky appreciates how much the community has embraced his new business, and he shared how much family has helped with the venture.

"My wife and family have been amazing," Policky said. "Jen has supported me in doing this, and I couldn't be here without her. She's been up with me until 2 or 3 a.m., pressing shirts and bagging orders."

The kids have been great, too. And my parents and Jen's parents, they have done whatever we've asked of them."

Policky has one fulltime employee at Dub P Apparel. Nick McCool brought experience in using an embroidery machine to put logos and designs onto items. The store also has a few part-time helpers as needed.

Policky noted that his building was built with storage units, which he rents out. There are smaller units (12 feet by 20 feet) and large units (20 feet by 50 feet). Currently, all are filled.

Dub P Apparel and Signs has a website (<https://www.dub-p-apparel.com>) and a Facebook page ("search "DubPApparel").

With the store only being about six months old, Policky is learning as he goes, and he knows the path ahead is yet to be determined.

"I dream big, pie in the sky," Policky said. "I have big dreams for this place. I would love to expand, but I don't know what that looks like yet." ■



Dub P Apparel is located at 1002 Cameron Pass in Guthrie Center.

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# SIMMONS FAMILY KEEPS LIGHTING TRADITION ALIVE

For 30 years, Betty Simmons and her late husband, Gerald, and their son, Raymond, have shared their amazing creations at Guthrie Center's Mitchell Park.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

A famous quotation, attributed to anthropologist Margaret Mead, states, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." That concept holds true at Guthrie Center's Mitchell Park each holiday season. Pam Kunkle explained that for the past 32 years, a small group of volunteers has worked tirelessly to make the annual holiday light display happen. The Simmons family has played a crucial role in those efforts.

"For 30 years, Betty Simmons and her late husband, Gerald, and their son, Raymond, have shared their amazing creations at our park," Kunkle said. "They have created hundreds of wooden characters for the displays, but they have gone over the top by building a working merry-go-round, a motorized Ferris wheel and, this year, a blow-up snow globe."



Betty and Ray Simmons show their newest addition, a huge snow globe.

Each year, the park holds upwards of 100 displays from local businesses, civic groups and families. The Simmons family has one

of the largest displays in the park, and new items are added each year. The family's display at the park includes characters that

are designed on wooden planks, which Ray cuts to size. Betty then paints on each character.



Ray Simmons poses behind the deer and bears he created.



"Guthrie Express" train brings joy to visitors at Mitchell Park.





Ray and Betty Simmons show the working Ferris wheel they created.

For many years, Betty and her husband, Gerald, worked together on the project, but he passed away in 2010, and Betty worried that the park lighting project might end.

"But, I got a big surprise. Raymond stepped in," Betty said. "Raymond has done a super job of stepping in and taking his dad's place. He cuts out what I want, and he expresses his opinions, just like Gerald did. He's particular."

Betty and Ray work on their holiday displays all year long, designing, cutting and painting the wooden characters while also repairing items and figuring out how to make displays weatherproof. The holiday displays at Mitchell Park stay up until around New Year's Day, depending on the weather.

"If we have a decent day, we'll come in and take it down," Betty said.

Besides the family's large display near the swimming pool parking lot, Betty and Ray also have one of the first displays that

visitors see when entering Mitchell Park. A large train display with various cutout characters sits just to the left as visitors arrive.

"This year, we added some more stuff to the train up there, too," Betty said.

Betty and Ray welcome anyone with time and/or talent to spare to help keep Guthrie Center's lighting tradition going.

"We work as a team with Mary Jo Laughery and Pam Kunkle, and my family. It just takes teamwork," Betty said.

Although Betty has been involved for decades, she plans to continue for the foreseeable future because of the joy it brings to her family and the community.

"I just had my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I just take it a year at a time anymore. I enjoy doing it and knowing that I'm doing something that is pleasing other people in our town," Betty said. "When I'm painting, I may not stay within the lines anymore, but who's going to go up there and check? It's something I can do in my house, and I enjoy it." ■



One of many displays at Mitchell Park.



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# OBITUARY

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**KARLA CALTRIDER**  
1938-2025

Karla Caltrider, 87, of Casey, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at Heritage House in Atlantic.

Karla Jane was born on May 7, 1938, at the Larson Hospital in Adair, the daughter of Raymond Michael William and Lucille Marie (Hammond) Wesack. She grew up with her sister, Pat, and they shared a close bond as kids and into adulthood. On June 21, 1938, she received the sacrament of baptism, and on May 29, 1953,

was confirmed, both at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Adair. She grew up on a farm south of Adair and attended Adair Community Schools. In school, she was active in music, band and the school plays; she graduated in the Adair High School Class of 1956. Following graduation, she attended Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Missouri, and received her teaching certificate.

Can you believe that a night out with a group of friends at an Adair area dance resulted in them all finding their perfect match? Karla met the love of her life, R. Keith Caltrider, and the couple married on Sept. 6, 1959, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Adair. The couple was blessed with two children, Jennifer and Kevin. They made their home on the Caltrider Family Farm, now a Century farm, northwest of Casey for 57 years. As a family, they looked forward to getting away to Leech Lake, Okoboji and vacations with the

Rumple and the Dolan families.

After her kids started school, she operated Lollipop Preschool at the Casey United Methodist Church. Karla always stressed the importance of proper etiquette and education and dedicated more than 35 years to getting the young ones off to the right start. A former student, who is now in education, recently shared the impact Karla made on her, and she uses some of the same style of teaching to connect with the students in her classroom. During retirement, Karla also worked at Tiger Tikes Preschool in Guthrie Center and Von Maur.

Karla was a long-time member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Casey and was active in LWML and sang in the choir. She was also a member of the Daughter's of the American Revolution, Casey Community Club, and Zetetic Club. She was a driving force and was compassionate about the restoration of the Casey Library. Karla and

Keith played numerous roles at the Guthrie Center Community Theatre, including ones in "Hello Dolly" and were members of the 5x80 Country Club.

Karla loved spending time outdoors at the farm tending her flower and vegetable gardens that always seemed to flourish with her green thumb, a gift that even had people bringing her their dying plants to revive. Time inside was spent making crafts, painting and rolling out dough for her prized apple pie that was required at any family or town function. Did you know Karla had a competitive side? Whether it was cards with friends or playing murder with family, you could bet by the end she had called at least one person a cob! She loved Christmas time and had a large Santa collection. Karla was an avid Iowa State Cyclone and Iowa Hawkeye fan. Who did she root for when they played each other?

Time with her grandchildren was always filled with

adventure. Their memories include playing in her classroom when she was prepping lessons, baking gingerbread every Christmas, reading with her, helping her with her arts, crafts and plants and eavesdropping on the adults after bedtime through the grate in the floor of the front bedroom. The joy they brought to her days was evident in her smile when they were around.

Karla's loving and kind spirit and unwavering focus on her faith, family and friends will always be treasured by her children, Jennifer (Mick) Allen of Atlantic and Kevin (Michelle) Caltrider of Carroll; grandchildren, Alissa (James) Puffett, Benjamin (Kelsey) Caltrider, Trevor (Ry) Caltrider, and Paige (William) Badding; great-grandchildren, Xayne Howard and Hadley and Kennedy Caltrider; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Lucille Hammond; husband, Keith Caltrider; parents-

in-law, Charles and Irene Caltrider; grandson, James Howard; great-granddaughter, Ayreiz Howard; sister, Patricia Unrein; brother-in-law, Ray (Eva) Caltrider; sister-in-law; and Betty (Don) Slayton.

Visitation with the family present was at 12:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Casey, followed by the funeral service at 1:30 p.m. A slideshow and recording of the service are available on the funeral home website.

A private family burial was held in the Dalmanutha Cemetery, northwest of Casey.

Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation to the Casey Library Betterment, Casey Service Club Grant Committee, Casey Historical Society and Country Grove at Heritage House.

Roland Funeral Service is caring for Karla's family and her arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.rolandfuneralservice.com](http://www.rolandfuneralservice.com). ■

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**We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

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# OBITUARY

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## NEVA JUNE LANGGAARD (BRADY)

1927-2025

Neva June Langgaard (Brady) born on Sept. 8, 1927, to Harmon O. and Georgia Anna (Passmore) Brady.

Neva attended school in Guthrie Center. She enjoyed basketball during her high school days and often told stories of her days of playing. She told of only going to school for half a day when she graduated from high school due to the end of World War II. Neva worked

in the grocery store in her younger years. After graduation, she had taken Normal Training in high school and upon testing and passing, she was able to teach school. She earned her teaching certificate and started teaching country school in August of 1945. She had 14 pupils — two kindergarteners, three second-graders, four third-graders, three fifth-graders, one seventh-grader and three eighth-graders. Neva taught for eight years in four different schools: Bear Grove No. 1 for two years, Bear Grove No. 5 for two years, Seeley No. 7 for 1 year, and Seeley No. 8 for three years.

Neva and Erwen went on their first date in February of 1949. The two went on a double date where they went rolling skating. The following June, Neva took a trip to California to visit relatives for four weeks, and Erwen sent her a letter each week anxiously awaiting for her to come home. Their courtship continued upon her return, and the two were married on June 18, 1950, at the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center. Together,

they lived in Guthrie Center with Neva's dad after they were married. In 1951, they moved to the farm where Neva continued to reside. To this union, three children were born, Edward Erwen, Elizabeth Anna, who died at childbirth, and Tommie Eugene. Neva continued to live on the farm, watching the farm equipment, neighborhood traffic and the birds out the kitchen window every day.

Erwen and Neva loved to play cards and were in several card clubs. Neva continued to play cards after Erwen passed. After all the years of having chores with the chickens, goats and cows, Neva and Erwen took to traveling. They traveled to Florida, eating oysters right from the coast. Together, they took many trips to Denmark to visit Erwen's family, maintaining strong relationships with their family overseas, even celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in Denmark the Danish way. Neva and Erwen took Tom and Janelle and then Ed and Kim on trips to Denmark, making

sure they also knew their Danish family. After Erwen passed, Neva and her travel partner, Mona Sellman, traveled with the Heritage Club, going several places and one last trip to Denmark by herself. Neva always said travel when you can.

Neva belonged to the First Christian Church, Victory Ladies Club and the Eastern Star. She loved watching basketball during March Madness and going to the grandkids' sporting events. She was a great cook, always cooking for family gatherings as well as those who helped doing anything on the farm, including remodeling projects in the house.

Neva was also a gardener and took great pride in her well-producing garden. She loved family gatherings, especially when the grandkids and great grandchildren came to visit. Neva's kitchen table was always open to many visitors, and all were greeted with fresh rolls each morning. Neva was always sending cards. She was great at saying thanks and wishing you a happy birthday.

Neva was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Erwen; children, Edward and Elizabeth; sisters, Ruth Brady and Francis Wasson; and brothers-in-law, Norman Langgaard and Dwight

Wasson.

Left to mourn Neva is her son, Tom (Janelle) Langgaard, and daughter-in-law, Kim Langgaard of Guthrie Center; grandkids, Katy (Jason) Victora of Grimes, Kris (Sarah) Langgaard of Guthrie Center, Neil (Alicia) Langgaard of Missouri Valley, Brady (Jessica) Langgaard of Guthrie Center and Jami (Trevor) Jorgensen of Casey; great grandkids, Landon and Nolan Victora, Nora, Aaron, Ryan and Logan Langgaard, Michael Zane Langgaard, William and Eli Langgaard, and Boone and Blakely Jorgensen. Also left to mourn her is our Denmark family. ■

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# OBITUARY

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**LILLIEN PAULINE GILSON**  
1939-2025

Lillian Pauline Gilson, age 86, of Guthrie Center, died on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025, at her home and surrounded by loved ones. She was born on March 30, 1939, in Monteith.

Lillian is known throughout the

community for her quiet servant heart and hard work. From baking pies in her busy kitchen to leading considerable fundraising efforts or serving as a caregiver for many friends and family members who needed an extra hand, she diligently cared for the needs of others and always put them first. She spent her entire life loving those who needed it most.

She will always be remembered for her superior card-playing abilities, her excellent eye for finding just the right piece in tricky puzzles and her great love for children. She had a gentle way of making every child feel valued and treasured, as her lap was always full of children being rocked to sleep, reading a book, doing a craft or playing a game of pretend. As they grew older, she continued her commitment to them by being their biggest

cheerleader at sporting events, music concerts, plays and other activities.

Lillian is survived by one sister, Mabel (Mike) Hamling of Granger; sister-in-law, Jeanie Michaelson of Guthrie Center; daughter, Peggy (John) Byrd and daughter-in-law, Roberta Gilson, all of Guthrie Center; grandchildren, Penny (Kory) Schramm of Johnston, Travis (Karla) Gilson of Grimes and Tara Reed of Guthrie Center; step grandchildren, Lee (Ali) Byrd of Ankeny and John (Kim) Byrd of Bloomfield; 14 great grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews who affectionately referred to her as "Auntie." Lillian is preceded in death by her parents, seven brothers and two sisters, her loving husband of 42 years, John, and her son, Rick.

Because of her love of children and helping those in need, Lillian requested that memorials be directed toward St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. ■

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## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 3, 1975

**'TIS THE SEASON.** With Christmas just three weeks away, many Christmas trees will be going up this week. Some will buy trees while others may scavenge theirs. Tammy Dickey (Madaline) is the Guthrie Center News-papers December calendar girl.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 25, 1985

**HOPING, WAITING.** All he wants for Christmas is his two front teeth...and...and...and. Unlike the youngster in the song, 8-year-old Matt Reinhart doesn't need his two front teeth to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 6, 1995

**SANTA DOES THE HONORS.** Santa Claus was the designated switch flipper at Guthrie Center's second annual Festival of Lights ceremony at Mitchell City Park late Saturday afternoon.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 21, 2005

**STILL BELIEVE!** These young ladies from Casey took their turn telling Santa their wish lists for Christmas last Saturday. From left are Alma Krueger, Helen Peterson, Santa and Lucy Hall.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Dec. 9, 2015

**SPECTACULAR!** A line of trees lights up the Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library during the annual Festival of Trees event.

## 5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Dec. 24, 2020

**10 SQUARED MEN DONATION AIDS VACCINATION EFFORT.** Guthrie County's 10 Squared Men recently made a \$17,000 contribution to Guthrie County Public Health to help finance software needed for use during the COVID vaccination process, which is to begin this month. Pictured here are Alexi Buckner, Jo Rasmussen, Cheyenne Hester, Abby James, Jotham Arber and Kent Irwin. ■





RECIPE

# HOLIDAY RECIPE FAVORITES

BY JOLENE GOODMAN  
*Guthrie Center Times*

As a child, the arrival of the Christmas season meant one thing: weeks of baking treats for every family gathering. Looking back, I am certain that is where my love of baking truly began. The tradition has continued with our own family, becoming one of the most treasured parts of our holiday season.

When our daughters were young, we spent several weekends in December preparing an assortment of goodies to enjoy at home, share with friends, send to the office, and bring to dance, choir and wrestling events. You name it, we brought treats there. The undisputed favorite, though, has been the frosted sugar cookie. And, honestly, they are the most fun to make. We roll out batch after batch, mix up four to six colors of frosting and equip our helpers with plenty of creative tools — sprinkles, candies, sugar crystals and, of course, Red Hots for Santa’s and Rudolph’s noses. Most everyone joins in. Some family members have even been known to frost a few cookies strictly for their own snacking enjoyment.

Despite all these years of baking, I still have not settled on one “perfect” sugar-cookie recipe. I try a new version every year, which keeps things interesting. Beyond cookies, our holiday platter includes fudge (Shane’s favorite), Russian tea cakes, chocolate-covered pret-



Jolene Goodman



Sara Goodman and her grandmother, Lois Porath, spent time baking cookies and other treats at a past Christmas.

zels, spritz and almond bark. Our family added peanut butter blossoms, and, sometimes, we throw in chocolate crinkle cookies, snickerdoodles, biscotti, or Rolo pretzels.

While one daughter lives nearby, our other two now reside out of state. Yet, each Christmas — something I consider a true blessing — they all make the trip home. And, without fail, they request a scheduled time to bake cookies together, even if it is only for a few hours. It is not just baking. It is tradition. It is connection. It is home.

Today, I’m sharing two simple recipes that have stood the test of time. The first is our fail-proof fudge. Just buy the

## FANTASY FUDGE

- Ingredients:**
- 3 cups sugar
  - ¾ cup butter or margarine
  - 1 small can (5 ounces) evaporated milk (about 2/3 cup) (Do not use sweetened condensed milk.)
  - 3 packages (4 ounces each) semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
  - 1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow creme
  - 1 cup chopped walnuts
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Directions**
- Line 9-inch square pan with aluminum foil with ends of foil extending over sides. Bring sugar, butter and evaporated milk to full rolling boil in 3-quart saucepan on medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook 4 minutes or until candy thermometer reaches 234 F, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.
  - Add chocolate and marshmallow creme; stir until melted. Add nuts and vanilla; mix well.
  - Pour into prepared pan; spread to cover bottom of pan. Cool completely. Use foil handles to lift fudge from pan before cutting into 1-inch squares. ■

## BUTTERSCOTCH PEANUT BUTTER CLUSTERS

- Ingredients:**
- 1 cup peanut butter
  - 1 bag of butterscotch chips (11 ounces)
  - 4 cups of corn flakes cereal
- Directions**
- In a saucepan, melt butterscotch chips and peanut butter together over medium heat. Remove
- pan from stove and add corn flakes. On wax paper, drop by spoonfuls. Chill to harden, or they will harden on their own if left out, but it will take longer. These can be stored in or out of the refrigerator and will keep for three weeks. (I do not refrigerate mine). ■

7-ounce jar of Kraft Jet-Puffed Marshmallow Creme and follow the Fantasy Fudge recipe on the back. It debuted in 1957 and has remained a holiday classic for good reason. My second recipe, Butterscotch Peanut Butter Clusters, is easy and has been on my cookie trays since childhood. If you love peanut butter and butterscotch, they will quickly become a tradition in your home, too.

Enjoy — and happy baking! ■

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

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**BY KAREN KELLY**  
*Special to Guthrie Center Times*

On Monday, Dec. 1, the Taylor Meeting Room at the MJB Library received a delivery of new tables and chairs. The sturdy nesting tables are on wheels for easy movement. The new chairs have good lumbar support, a sturdy base and

arms, which will allow patrons with mobility problems safer and more comfortable seating in the meeting room. The new seating and tables were made possible by the ALA LTC round 3 grant the library received. The library staff and board have made accessibility a priority, and the ALA LTC grants have helped make this happen. The first ALA grant was used

to put an automatic door opener on the inner library door and to purchase additional large print books. With the second ALA grant, the library purchased part of the new furnishings for the children's area. On Wednesday, Dec. 17, the youth Creation Corner will be from 2-3 p.m. at the library. Preregistration is preferred. Preschool Story Hour will be each Friday

at 10 a.m. for preschoolers and their caretakers. Dec. 12 will be focused on snowflakes. On Dec. 19, Christmas will be the theme. Plan ahead for the MJB Library holiday hours. The library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25. The library will be closed at 3 p.m. on Dec. 31 for New Year's Eve, and closed on Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. ■

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



1 Main Street Guthrie Center 2 Cass Pioneers 4-H Club 3 Synergy Wellness and Physical Therapy and Outdoor Odyssey 4 Reads Well With Others Evening Book Club 5 The Mowrer Family 6 Guthrie County State Bank 7 American Legion Auxiliary Group

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## Welcome to the GCSB Team!



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Universal Banker,  
Guthrie Center



**Makenna Vais**  
Universal Banker,  
Guthrie Center



# AREA CHURCH GUIDE

▶ SUBMIT CHANGES OR UPDATES TO [SHANE@GCTIMESNEWS.COM](mailto:SHANE@GCTIMESNEWS.COM)

## ADAIR

**Adair First Presbyterian Church**  
405 Audubon St., Adair

**Adair United Methodist Church**  
404 Cass St., Adair  
641-746-2210

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
1107 Broad St., Adair  
641-742-3802  
<http://goodshepherdadair.com>

**New Life Baptist Church**  
218 Audubon St, Adair, IA 50002  
[www.newlifeadair.org](http://www.newlifeadair.org)  
Our messages:  
[www.newlifeadair.org/videos](http://www.newlifeadair.org/videos)



## Saint John Catholic Church

501 Adair St., Adair  
515-523-1943  
<https://adairstjohn.org>



## CASEY

### St. John Lutheran Church

104 E. First St., Casey  
641-746-2734  
[www.idwlcms.org/congregation.php?id=29](http://www.idwlcms.org/congregation.php?id=29)



### Casey United Methodist Church

100 E. 2nd St., Casey  
641-746-221

## GUTHRIE CENTER

### Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church

2397 Bowman Ave., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2408

## First Christian Church

105 N. Fourth St., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2571  
[Christian.org](http://Christian.org)



## First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2408  
[www.gcumcia.org](http://www.gcumcia.org)



## First Presbyterian Church

701 State St., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2425



## Guthrie Center First Baptist Church

113 N. Fifth St., Guthrie Center  
641-747-8198  
[www.guthriecenterbaptist.com](http://www.guthriecenterbaptist.com)

## Guthrie Center Seventh-day Adventist Church

1305 North St., Guthrie Center  
641-322-2778  
[www.guthriecentersda.com](http://www.guthriecentersda.com)



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

713 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2918  
[www.immanuelgc.org](http://www.immanuelgc.org)



## Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

1300 Grand St., Guthrie Center  
515-747-8524  
[www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)



## Saint Mary Catholic Church

603 Main St., Guthrie Center  
641-747-3843  
[st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com](http://st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com)



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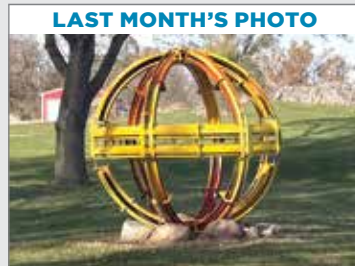
# WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is the repurposed yard art at the Matt and Jessica Wetzel home at 1735 190th Road in Guthrie Center (Wichita). Dennis Betts 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](mailto:shane@gctimesnews.com). ■



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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Broker/Owner

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ANDERSON  
Realtor/Office Admin

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WAGLER  
Broker Associate

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