

# Guthrie Center TIMES

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JUST A PLACE TO UNWIND**

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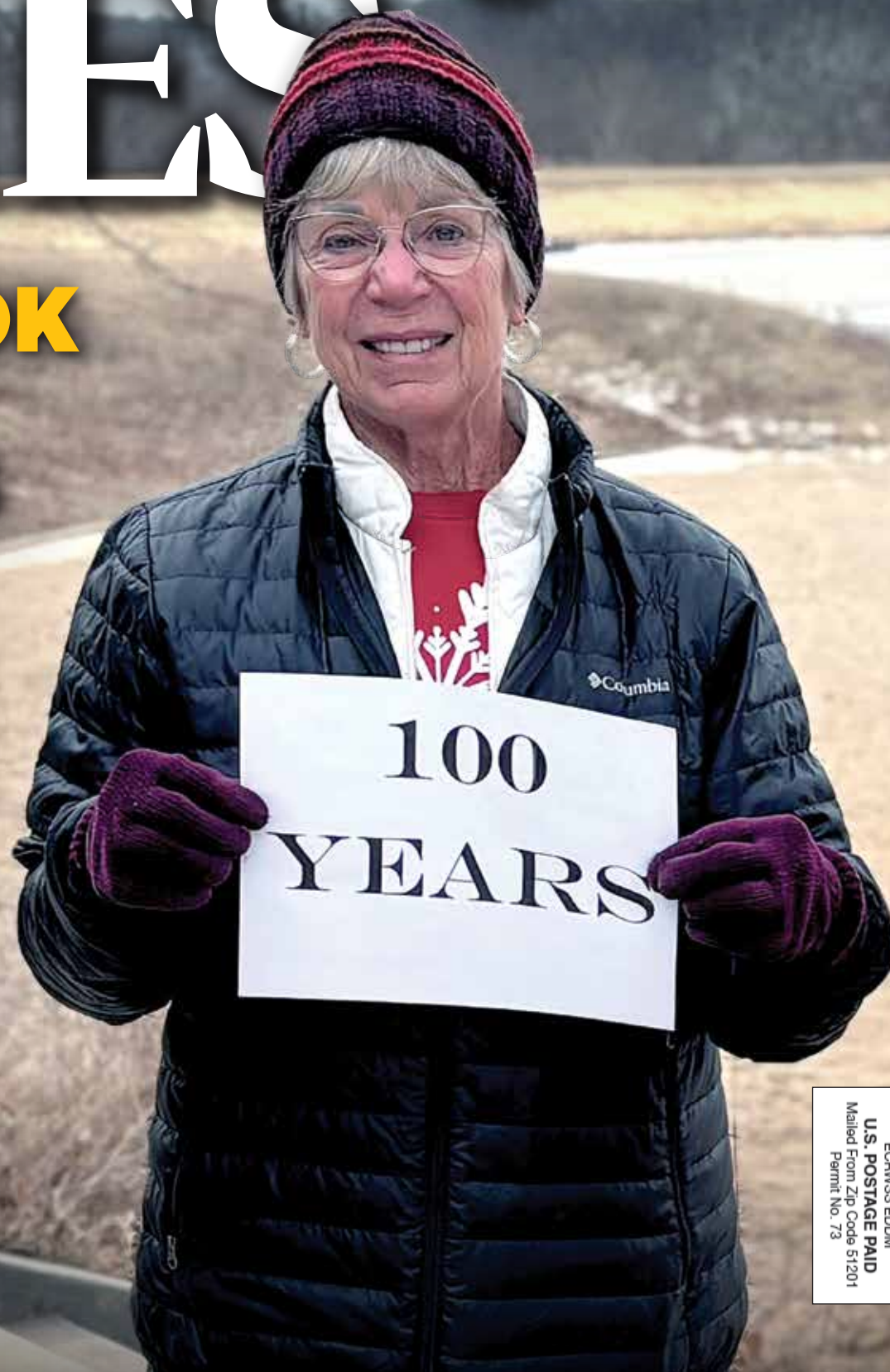
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### ACGC FFA MEMBERS ATTEND 41ST ANNUAL IOWA FFA LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM



**Front Row (L-R):** Rylee Robson, Junior Advisor;  
 Lilah Heinz, Vice President; Lucy Knutter, President

**Back Row (L-R):** Gracie Hodges, Reporter; Irelyn Wirt, Sentinel;  
 Stella Largent, Secretary; Ava Sneller, Reporter; Nora Langgaard, Treasurer

On Wednesday, January 21, eight ACGC FFA Officers were amongst the approximately 500 high school students from 88 different schools that visited the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines to build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism. The students visited with legislators, exhibited skills learned in the agriculture classroom and learned the importance of citizenship. This was all part of the 41st Annual Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium and FFA Day at the Capitol.

During the morning, FFA members gathered at the Downtown Embassy Suites for a brief greeting and tutorial. The program provided opportunities for FFA members to hear from Mike Naig, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Vice President, Brian Feldpausch, and Jake Swanson from High Yield Strategies.

The members then moved to the Iowa State Capitol Building, where they had the opportunity to visit with legislators. The ACGC FFA Officers spoke with Senator Jesse Green and Senator Annette Sweeney, both of whom serve on the Iowa Agriculture Committee.

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**ON THE COVER:** Park volunteer Linda Kastner at the beach at Springbrook State Park. 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

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# NOW IS THE TIME TO GET BACK TO NATURE

Most Guthrie County residents have heard of Springbrook State Park. Many of you have been there. And, a few of you are not even sure where it is even located. I am embarrassed to admit that, until last year, I was in the latter group. Jolene and I used to be avid campers. Like most who camp, we started with a tent and then progressed to a pop-up camper, a travel trailer and, eventually, a small RV. We spent many weekends in the campgrounds in Iowa and Nebraska, and we developed a fondness for Iowa's state parks. As our kids grew older, they made it clear to us that they no longer wanted to be "cooped up in a tin can." So, the RV

stayed in storage and gathered dust. Last year, though, Jolene and I decided to break out the camper. We packed the gear and made our first trip to Springbrook State Park. What we found was a wonderfully quiet retreat right here in Guthrie County with more than 930 acres of rolling hills and mature timber. We didn't get too adventurous on this first trip, but we did a bit of hiking, and we plan to bring our bicycles next time to explore the 12 miles of trails. We were



Shane Goodman

also intrigued by the park's 17-acre lake, and we hope to fish for the many crappie, largemouth bass and bluegill that reside there. Like many of you, I find the history of Springbrook State Park to be fascinating, as many of the park's structures were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, creating a nostalgic setting. This year also marks the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of Springbrook State Park, and a year-long celebration will take place. We share the details in this month's cover story So, if you are looking for a get-away for an afternoon, a weekend or an extend-

ed stay, plan a trip to Springbrook State Park, located at 2437 160th Road, just east of Highway 25. And, if you are looking for a tin can to get cooped up in, just let me know. Have a great month and thanks for reading. ■

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



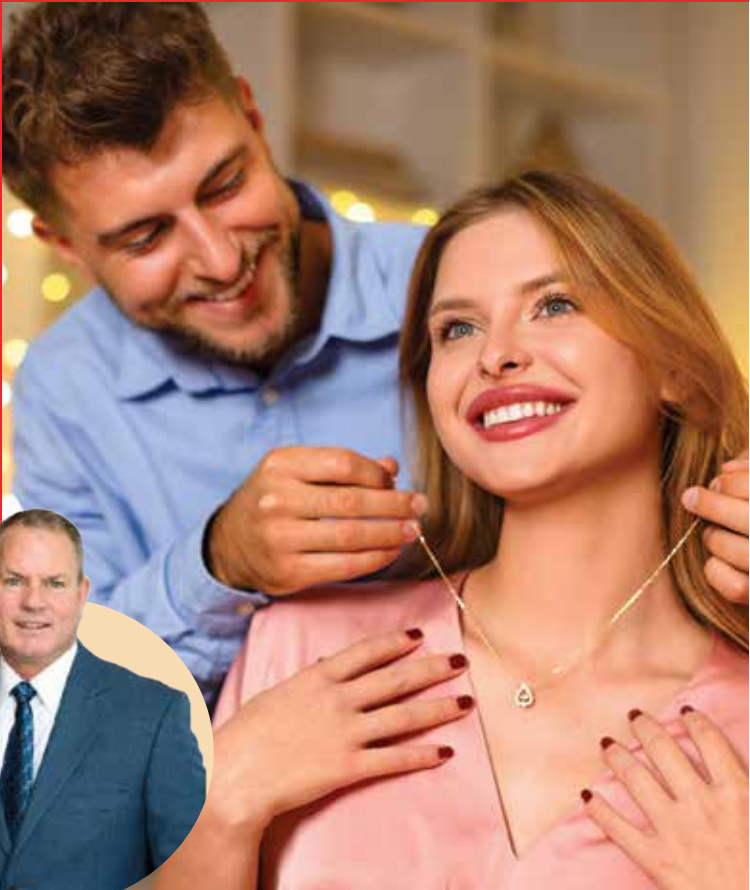
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# SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

**The park offers something for anyone who enjoys nature, sports, history, beauty or just a place to unwind.**

BY RICH WICKS

*Guthrie Center Times*

People sometimes travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to see wonders of engineering and/or natural beauty. One of the reasons people are willing to travel to see these sites may be “elsewhereism,” which is the human tendency to undervalue things near us and to overvalue things that require us to make an effort to visit. However, some natural wonders, such as Springbrook State Park, are just up the road.

Located a few miles north of Guthrie Center, at 2437 160<sup>th</sup> Road, Springbrook is the only state park in Guthrie County and one of only 63 statewide. The park offers something for anyone who enjoys nature, sports, history, beauty or just a place in which to unwind. The park also shows many examples of human engineering in the creation of the park’s lake, many buildings, and many roads and trails.

Information for this article was gleaned from historical documents as well as interviews with five local people who have long-term involvement with Springbrook State Park. Park Manager Reaghan Oakleaf, Naturalist/Educator Anne Riordan, Conservation Officer Jeremy King, retired Park Ranger Rod Nelsen, and longtime volunteer Linda Kastner each shared their perspectives.

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of Springbrook State Park. Read on for a look at the history of the park and what it offers for visitors.

## HISTORY: A TIMELINE OF SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK

Approximately 12,000 B.C., the Middle Raccoon River carved a valley through the area as it carried away glacial meltwater. The melting glacier also left behind many large and small boulders that had been brought from hundreds of miles to the



Park volunteer Linda Kastner celebrates Springbrook’s anniversary year.

north. Because of the glaciers, Springbrook State Park sits at the crossroads of various terrain changes.

Cultural artifacts have been found in Springbrook State Park and nearby Whiterock Conservancy indicating Native Americans lived in the area for thousands of years. Some of the evidence includes burial mounds, which are considered sacred and are protected by Iowa law, similar to those found in various locations throughout the Midwest.

- **1840s:** Groups of Mormons were among the first Europeans to leave wagon trails through the area as they headed further west to settle.

- **1850s:** As Europeans first settled in Guthrie County, the area was mostly prairie.
- **Late 1800s:** Coal mining was done in many areas of what is now the park.
- **1918:** Iowa’s state park system was created. There was also growing interest in creating a state park in Guthrie County.
- **July 9, 1926:** \$2,000 was used to purchase 132 acres from the King Estate to establish “Kings State Park.” Most of the land had been heavily grazed and, therefore, had few trees.
- **1928:** Additional land was acquired to bring the park’s total to 300 acres.
- **Nov. 1, 1932:** The park was renamed

“Springbrook State Park.”

- **1933:** The first park custodian, James Thomas, was hired at a salary of \$25 per month.
- **1930s to 1940s:** For nearly a decade, much of the construction of the park was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- **1969:** Construction of the Conservation Education Center began. It opened in 1970.
- **1994:** Springbrook expanded to 796 acres and was reclassified as a state recreation area to allow deer hunting.
- **1995:** The park expanded to 866 acres.





One of many structures built by the CCC.

- **2026:** The park now boasts roughly 1,000 acres. Various events will be held throughout the year to celebrate Springbrook turning 100.

## NATURE

Springbrook State Park is a treasure chest of wildlife with an amazing array of plants and animals. A bird count once tallied 186 species observed in the park including year-round inhabitants as well as migratory birds. Bald eagles, once rare and endangered, are now a common sight in the park.

Although there were very few deer in the county a century ago, the deer population has increased greatly over the decades.

"In the early 1950s, there were no deer here," Naturalist/Educator Anne Riordan said. But that changed rapidly, and the situation came to a head in the mid-1990s.

A local newspaper article in July 1994 bore the headline, "Springbrook has got trouble," and it focused on the rapidly increasing deer population in the area, which caused significant loss of crops for area farmers. One local farmer whose land was adjacent to the park, Earl Hasty, was quoted saying he had counted as many as 160 deer on his farm at one time. It was also noted that driving through the park was hazardous because of the likelihood of deer running across roadways. Because of the deer overpopulation, the



Anne Riordan and Reaghan Oakleaf welcome everyone to the party.

park was reclassified as a recreation area, which allowed for increased harvesting of deer in the area.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources continues to adjust deer hunting tag numbers as needed to manage the number of deer.

"1994 was when we first started having controlled deer hunts. And then later it went back to being a state park," Conservation Officer Jeremy King said.

Some animal species have been introduced into the park and surrounding areas. In the 1930s and 1940s, wild turkeys were introduced. In the 1980s, otters were brought in. Although the otters are seldom seen, they have survived.

"I had to stop my car and wait for three otters to cross in front of me several years ago, so I know they're here," Riordan said.

"That's a great conservation success



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The Education Center opened in 1970.

story," King added. "We had a resident elk here for a while. It's not uncommon to see an elk in Iowa anymore."

Riordan mentioned two uncommon plants that are seen in Springbrook.

"There's skunk cabbage. It's a plant that blooms in March in the snow. It creates its own heat, and it puts off a scent like a dead critter because it's attracting its pollinator, which are flies," she said. "And there's ghost pipe. It looks like a fungus, but it's a plant that does not have chlorophyll."

King noted that ginseng can also be found in the park, but it is not legal to pick.

One common rule of thumb in parks and preserves is "take only photos, leave only footprints." That is an excellent guideline, but Springbrook actually allows visitors to collect and take mushrooms, asparagus, nuts, fruits and berries. All such items should be collected carefully to avoid any toxic or unsafe items being consumed. Other items (antlers, rocks, plant or animal specimens) are not to be removed from the park.

### WHAT TO DO IN THE PARK

Camping is a popular activity at Springbrook, and the park offers more than 100 campsites. Some offer electricity while others are non-electric. The park also boasts a number of shelters that can be reserved or used on a first-come basis.

The Sherburne House is a large facility that can be reserved for a fee. It sleeps up to 14 and is ideal for family getaways. Reservations for camping and/or shelters can be done on the park's website within the Iowa state park system. Oakleaf pointed out that a number of upgrades to the Sherburne House have recently been

completed.

Also available at the campground are a sand volleyball court, basketball court, horseshoe pit, a large swimming beach on the lake and miles of trails. Snowmobiles, cycling, cross country skiing and even e-bikes are allowed. Pets are allowed but must be on a leash.

The 17-acre lake allows kayaking and boating, but only electric motors are permitted. According to King, the Springbrook State Park lake may not be a hotspot for trophy fish, but it does have plenty of panfish for recreational fishing.

"If you're an equal opportunity hooksetter, you're going to have a good time," he said. "A small lake like this can easily be over-harvested. I always tell people to just keep what you're going to eat."

Ice fishing is also popular when conditions are right. Hunting is allowed outside of the park in the adjacent wildlife areas.

For campfires, firewood can be purchased at stands near the park. Wood for fires can also be picked up off the ground.

"If it's dead and down, that's OK," Nelsen said. "You just can't run a chainsaw."

### HOW THE PARK WAS BUILT

In telling the creation of Springbrook State Park, one major factor was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was created by the federal government in 1933 as part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal." The CCC operated until 1942. The CCC provided paid work for young men ages 18 to 25. This helped bring the country out of the Great Depression. A total of roughly 2.5 million young American men were hired by the CCC and paid \$30 per month. The work-







A fishing lesson from years past at Springbrook State Park.

ers also received food, housing and clothing while employed.

CCC workers in the 1930s did most of the construction at Springbrook State Park, including building roads, bridges and structures, many of which still stand today.

The creation of Springbrook Lake was a joint project of the CCC and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), another organization created as part of the "New Deal." CCC workers cleared the woods for the lake and spillway, while the WPA built the actual dam on Kings Creek.

Another unique feature of Springbrook State Park was the Conservation Education Center (CEC), which operated as a learning center for thousands of visitors for more than 50 years.

The CEC at Springbrook Park opened in 1970, providing education to teachers, students and other groups interested in learning about natural resources. The idea was a spinoff from the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, which operated as a camp experience at Springbrook for many years. In its heyday, the CEC welcomed about 20,000 visitors per year. Budget cuts eventually led to the closing of the CEC. The buildings now stand empty and are scheduled for demolition.

#### **VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE**

In telling the tale of Springbrook State Park, Riordan and Oakleaf noted another frequent visitor seen in the park: volunteer Linda Kastner.

"Linda is an absolutely indispensable part of Springbrook," Riordan said.

Park Manager Reaghan Oakleaf agreed. "Linda just sees what needs to be done, and she does it," Oakleaf said.

Since retiring 15 years ago, Kastner has made Springbrook her pastime. Living just a few miles north of the park, she took it upon herself to beautify the area for everyone. It is common to see Kastner operating a chainsaw, rake, broom or leaf blower to cut and clear branches, assure that drains remain clear, and remove debris from trails and stairs.

"In the summer, I'm down here about three days a week, but it's not the whole day. It's more like a couple hours in the morning or afternoon. I don't think the staff even knows half of the stuff I do here," Kastner said. "I bring my leaf blower up to the CCC shelter and keep that cleaned out all year-round, and I clean out the fireplace. It's surprising how many people use it in the winter."

Kastner realizes much of the work she does in Springbrook is never noticed by visitors, but the absence of her dedication would quickly be noticed. She encourages everyone to do a bit of upkeep while enjoying the park.

"It's just not a walk or a hike without picking up sticks. I don't know how people can walk right by or step over them without doing something," she said. "Bring a bag along on your walk, to pick up trash, or move sticks off the trail or road."

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To celebrate Springbrook's 100 years, a variety of events are planned throughout 2026. The currently planned schedule of 2026 events is below (subject to change). Updates will be announced as available:

## EVENTS

- Saturday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.: Make and Take Pinecone Bird Feeders
- Sunday, April 12, 1 p.m.: Native Pollinator Seed Planting
- Sunday, June 7, (time TBD): 100 Years of Fishing at Springbrook Park (Free Fishing Weekend)
- Saturday, June 13, (time TBD): Hike, Kayak, Campground Host Craft program
- Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 p.m.: Perseid Meteor Watch (Campers only)

- Friday, Aug. 28, (time TBD): Full Moon Night Hike, campfire, and marshmallow roast
- Saturday, Aug. 29, All Day.: 100 Year Celebration with staff and guest presenters. Possible activities include: Hike through time, Rose's Krafty Korner, Kayaking, Live Raptors with Christina, Outdoor Skills Team Challenge, Park Potluck, Dutch Oven or Fudgy Pies, Rap with Reagan, CCC Presentation, Music in the Park, Folk Circle
- Sunday, Aug. 30, (time TBD): Spiritual celebration
- Friday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.: "Who Goes There?" Night Hike
- Saturday, Nov. 21, 9 a.m.: Winter Preparedness/Survival program ■

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# Guthrie Center ASK TIMES



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

**Q: JUST NORTH OF THE 4-WAY INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 44 AND HIGHWAY 4 IS A MILEAGE SIGN INDICATING THAT ESTHERVILLE IS 138 MILES. WHO REALLY CARES?**

**A:** Well, clearly you don't have any interest in the 437-pound meteor that fell north of Estherville in 1879. Specimens of this meteor are on display in the Estherville Public Library and Chamber of Commerce. The Iowa DOT says it determines which cities and distances to include on road signs based on specific criteria, such as the city's population and its distance from the highway. And, apparently, meteorologists.

**Q: WHAT IS MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP, AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT THAN THE GUTHRIE CENTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP?**

**A:** Midwest Partnership is an economic

development corporation serving Adair and Guthrie counties and is a facilitator for the retention, expansion and attraction of business to create jobs and grow the tax base. The Guthrie Center Area Development Corporation was established in 1986 and is an independent organization and not directly affiliated with a larger national or regional group of organizations.

**Q: I HEARD THAT GUTHRIE CENTER IS THE SMALLEST OVERNIGHT TOWN RAGBRAI HAS EVER CHOSEN. IS THAT TRUE?**

**A:** Guthrie Center is the smallest community in terms of population on this year's route, but a handful of smaller towns in the state have served as overnight communities in years past including Lansing (population 968), Lake View (population 1,113) and Sabula (population 506). ■



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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

GREENLAND. ANOTHER AVATAR. UNHAPPY MARRIAGES. AND MORE ZOMBIES.



"Train Dreams"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Guthrie Center Times*

I had the opportunity to write this on a frigid mid-late January morning with the Oscar Nominations just being released (aka one of my favorite days of the year). Several of my reviews will be late-in-the-year releases that garnered nominations.

"TRAIN DREAMS"

This is not only one of the best movies of the year but also one that was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. I wholeheartedly agree with that nomination. It's a quiet film about a man working for the railroad back when they were building tracks to cross our country. It is a beautiful film, and it deserves the multiple Oscar nominations. Joel Edgerton and Felicity Jones are great, and director/co-writer Clint Bentley delivers a wonderful film. The film also garnered nominations for screenplay, original song and cinematography. Super easy to watch on Netflix. **GRADE: A**



"Marty Supreme"

"MARTY SUPREME"

Also grabbing multiple nominations (picture, director, actor, screenplay, casting (a new category this year), cinematography, costume design editing and production design!) Wow! So is the movie any good? Yes. It is a crazy film that might turn off some people, but it is a wild and crazy ride with Chalamet leading the fun in a movie that you will need to pay attention to or you will quickly get lost. **GRADE: B+**



"AVATAR FIRE AND ASH"

I'm on the record for loving the visuals from James Cameron with this series of films that are dominated with crazy good special effects at the expense of the story and performances. It is just not my cup of tea, but it is deserving of the nod for technology and visuals. **GRADE: B**



"THE HOUSEMAID"

OK, it looked like a fun movie about a



"Avatar Fire and Ash"

beautiful and wealthy housewife (Amanda Seyfried) who hires a young woman (Sydney Sweeney) to help her around a massive home. This could have been an entertaining movie with the two women fighting over the sleazy but handsome husband. Unfortunately, it turned into a nasty, violent and disturbing movie that I considered walking out of. In hindsight, I should have. **GRADE: D**



"GREENLAND 2: MIGRATION"

Most of the country never knew about a movie titled "Greenland." It opened during COVID, and, from what I can tell, it was largely forgotten. Regardless, I thought I would see the sequel (which is pretty much a stand-alone film), and I am glad I did. "Greenland 2" is the continuation of a story about the planet going crazy and the many people living underground and craving to get back above ground. We follow one group led by Gerard Butler's char-



"The Housemaid"

acter and his family. It is a harrowing journey, as they need to keep away from bad people and the planet, which is still in upheaval. I liked this movie a lot and might actually track down the first. **GRADE: B+**

"IS THIS THING ON?"

Films about unhappy marriages are not high on my list of entertainment, and this one falls in that category. We see a family with young children who are not in a happy place with their marriage. They decide to separate to see if they can rediscover happiness in their lives. He decides to try standup comedy, and she returns to coaching women's volleyball. Will Arnet and Laura Dern play the couple. Bradley Cooper and Arnet play friends, and Cooper directs the film. They both begin to casually date other people, and they come to find that honesty is not always the best policy. It's heavy at times, and not as funny as I expected, but the film is well done either way. **GRADE: B-**





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- Feb. 28 Bountiful Baskets
- Mar. 10 Guthrie Center Chamber Meeting
- Mar. 13 Celebrate Guthrie Center
- Mar. 14 Bountiful Baskets
- Mar. 14 Puzzles, Pies & Pints Fundraiser

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"Greenland 2: Migration"



"Is This Thing On?"

### "28 YEARS LATER: THE BONE TEMPLE"

If you have seen one of these "28 Years" films, tread lightly. This is the third in the series with a fourth already in production. The first film, "28 Days Later," was about a virus that threatened to take over the planet, a virus changed people into crazily possessed zombies. The second film focused on a man and his family trying to isolate themselves from these creatures. This one, "28 Years Later: The Bone Temple," once again shows the zombies wreaking havoc on a small community. In a nutshell, the first film was really good, the second film borders brilliance, and the third film is not brilliant but still darn creepy. **GRADE: C+**



"28 Years Later: The Bone Temple"

See you next month. Until then, pass me the popcorn. ■

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



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# VARIOUS SALARY INCREASES PROPOSED TO GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

**JAN. 13 – SALARIES, PR PERSON, BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS**

The supervisors discussed the recommendations from the county compensation board regarding 2026-2027 salaries for elected officials. Eric Reinhart summarized the compensation board’s salary increase recommendations for elected officials.

“The comp board met on Jan. 5. Based on my time on the board, we’ve always just come to you guys with just one general number for all departments. This year, it was determined by the board to take a different approach,” Reinhart said. “We recommend for the supervisors 4%, the county attorney 6%, the treasurer, recorder and auditor all 7%, and then for the sheriff’s office, we recommend 15%.”

Reinhart explained the board’s process in determining these recommendations in-

involved considering population rank, workload and other factors, comparing to other counties.

“The county attorney and the supervisors are about on point, but everybody else is lagging. The sheriff’s office, in particular, compared to other similar counties, he’s far behind. Fifteen percent would get him into that middle range,” Reinhart said.

The supervisors talked of the possibility of implementing a certain proportional percentage of these recommended raises. No formal action was taken regarding salaries at this time.

Board Chair Steve Smith brought up his idea of having one supervisor be the “board PR person” that could deal with requests from the media for statements. He agreed that all five supervisors have the right to speak on issues but simply asked the supervisors to “mull over” the possible benefits of having one person be the point person to speak for the board at times.

The supervisors voted to appoint the board

chair and vice chair as the standard members to sit in on employee performance reviews. Steve Smith is currently chair, and JD Kuster is vice chair.

**JAN. 20**

The Jan. 20 regular meeting of the supervisors was canceled due to illness.

**JAN. 27 – SUBDIVISION APPROVAL, CAMPING REVENUES, CORN STALKS**

The meeting included consideration regarding the proposed Scott Calmer Minor Subdivision, near Highway 4 north of Panora. A public hearing was held on the matter. Following the public hearing, the supervisors voted to approve the final plat of the subdivision.

Conservation Director Brad Halterman noted that his budget projections show an expected decrease in camping revenues. He said camping revenue numbers had been increased for several years but now seem to be

returning to pre-COVID levels.

Halterman shared an unusual discovery on the bike trail. He said in the winter, it is common to see large snow drifts on the bike trail, but this winter’s lack of snow cover led to a new sight. He noted that the wind has left many corn stalks in drift patterns on the trail.

“We had drifts waist-high,” Halterman said. “So, that was new.”

County Engineer Josh Sebern discussed right-of-way contracts for road/bridge projects.

The supervisors approved Dani Fink to serve as secretary for the newly formed EMS nine-member committee. The committee’s meetings will be posted on the county website.

**FEB. 3 – WAGON ROAD PLANS, AIRPORT AUTHORITY, APPOINTMENT, FENCING NEEDS**

The meeting included a report from County Engineer Josh Sebern regarding the planned road rehabilitation project on P28



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(Wagon Road) between Panora and Stuart. Sebern said during the project, there will be a detour at times, likely involving Mon-teith Road and Highway 25. When firmer schedules are known, the county will an-nounce detour timelines and details.

“When you get this project done, hypo-thetical question, what about White Pole (Road)?” Supervisor Steve Smith asked.

Sebern said White Pole Road is targeted for a project in 2028.

In other news, the supervisors appointed Keelan Woods to fill an opening on the Guthrie County Airport Authority.

Jake Anderson, county farm lease holder, addressed the supervisors about fencing needs on the property.

Brenda Dudley, on behalf of Midwest Part-nership, asked the supervisors to consider a Fiscal Year 2027 financial contribution. She asked for the same amount that was allocat-ed a year ago. Dudley summarized the proj-ects and accomplishments of Midwest Part-nership. No action was taken at this time on Dudley’s request.

**FEB. 10 – COUNTY LINE ROAD, LIQUOR LICENSES, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

County Treasurer Brenda Campbell and County Engineer Josh Sebern provided de-partmental updates.

Sebern spoke regarding two proposed res-

olutions regarding County Line Road east of Stuart. The road is shared with Adair Coun-ty. Sebern explained that Resolution 26-22 would reduce the service on a portion of the road to Level B. Resolution 26-23 would vacate a portion of the road.

“It’s in their 28E jurisdiction, so it’s theirs to take the lead on,” Sebern said. “We have to set up a joint Board of Supervisors meeting, virtually.”

The supervisors voted to set the joint pub-lic hearings. The date and time will be co-ordinated with Adair County.

A liquor license renewal for Shootout Sa-loon and a new Liquor License for Golden Outdoors were approved.

In the “Supervisors Updates” portion of the meeting, Supervisor Brian Johnson pro-vided a legislative update.

“The pipeline bill, they’re negotiating, some of the leaders are. And the tax bill will continue to evolve as they go through the process,” he said.

Sebern noted that because the county road crew has not needed to spend much time plowing snow or treating roadways, they have been running chainsaws to remove trees in some areas.

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

**GUTHRIE COUNTY CATTLEMEN’S BANQUET  
BEEF ROYALTY ANNOUNCED**



2025 Beef Queen Ava Thompson, 2026 Queen Rylee Robson, Maci Bauer, 2026 Princess Nora Langgaard, and 2025 Princess Austyn Smith pose following the coronation.

**BY RICH WICKS**  
*Guthrie Center Times*

At the annual Guthrie County Cat-tlemen’s banquet on Jan. 31 at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds, the 2026 Beef Queen and Beef Princess were

crowned. Candidates included Maci Bauer, Rylee Robson and Nora Lang-gaard. Robson was crowned queen, and Langgaard was named princess. As usual, a large crowd of beef produc-ers and interested persons were on hand. ■

# TOP 10 THINGS

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# GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES PLANS FOR RAGBRAI ARRIVAL JULY 20

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

JAN. 12

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, Compliance Officer Wes Clark shared details about a noise complaint at the property at 907 Grand St. “There’s an ongoing neighbor dispute. It’s currently a rented property with non-stop parties; vehicles being worked on. Deputies are well aware,” Clark said. He noted that the issue may require involving the city attorney to address the issue. Clark also noted the new garage built at 907 Prairie St. He said the structure was not built as approved.

“We had an accessory building put up that didn’t do what he said he was going to do. He put up a canvass structure. I think we’re working toward a common goal, though, of getting that resolved,” Clark said. Beer/liquor permits were approved for

Hometown Foods, Dollar General and Pine Room. Brenda Dudley addressed the council with an annual update and funding renewal request regarding Midwest Partnership. The council voted to renew membership with Midwest Partnership.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith shared information on an option to purchase new playground equipment for Mitchell Park. She said the new set would cost about \$38,000 with half paid by a grant. She explained this would be roughly the same cost as attempting to repair the current playground set. The council agreed to pursue the option for a new set.

JAN. 26

Discussion was held regarding the announcement that Guthrie Center would be on overnight community on the RAGBRAI bicycle tour this summer. City Administrator Kris Arrasmith said 1983 was the most recent year in which RAGBRAI overnight-

ed in Guthrie Center. Participants in The Des Moines Register’s statewide bicycle ride will arrive in Guthrie Center July 20 and leave the next day. Arrasmith acknowledged that the event will create traffic congestion issues, but she said the benefits far outweigh the challenges. She said RAGBRAI staff will help share their expertise regarding the city’s planning.

“It’s going to be some work, but it’s 24 hours,” Arrasmith said. “I think we can pull together and make this a really cool event.” In other news, Arrasmith shared news on the playground equipment she suggested the city buy to replace old equipment in Mitchell Park. She said the equipment’s cost has dropped from about \$38,000 to about \$23,000, so she suggested also buying a swing set for about \$4,900. Arrasmith said she expects the city will need to pay half of the total with the other half paid by a grant. The council voted to approve the purchase as suggested.

The council heard from Becky Petersen and Steve Smith regarding Main Street Guthrie Center. They mentioned the Celebrate Guthrie Center event is set for Friday, March 13. Councilmember Erica Finster was named as the city’s representative on the nine-member EMS Advisory Committee.

FEB. 9

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith shared information on repairs needed at the city’s “shop” building. She noted the budget includes funds (about \$65,000) for a roof repair on the building, and some funds are set aside for installation of overhead doors as well. The council appointed Brandon Monaghan to a six-year term on the library board to replace Marcia Priestley, who retired from the position in the fall of 2025. Arrasmith updated the council on the status of the Lacey building (next to Subway). She said the Guthrie Center Area De-



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velopment Corporation received a grant to help fix up the building.

"They got the Challenge Grant," she said. "The floor is a little soft in spots, but it will be good enough to get things out of there."

Arrasmith noted that the city will provide in-kind help to empty out the building when work begins.

Regarding RAGBRAI planning, Arrasmith said the initial planning meeting

was held with local personnel and RAGBRAI staff. She pointed out that the Facebook page ("RAGBRAI Guthrie Center 2026") is the best source for anyone wanting to keep up on what is happening and planned for the July 20 arrival of RAGBRAI bicycle riders.

The next regularly scheduled of the Guthrie Center City Council is set for Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. The public is welcome. ■

## HEALTH

# GCH ANNOUNCES \$46 MILLION PLANNED RENOVATION

*Special to Guthrie Center Times*

On Feb. 9, Guthrie County Hospital announced approval of a \$46 million renovation project, marking a historic investment in the future of health care for Guthrie County and the surrounding communities.

The comprehensive renovation will modernize existing facilities, expand clinical capabilities and enhance patient-centered care while maintaining the hospital's long-standing commitment to serving rural Iowa. The project is designed to improve patient experience, enhance patient privacy, support medical staff and ensure the hospital can meet the evolving health care needs of the region for decades to come.

Hospital leadership worked closely with hospital staff, architects and construction partners to ensure the project reflects both best practices in modern health care design and the unique needs of our patients.

"Guthrie County Hospital has been a cornerstone of this community for decades," said Christopher Stipe, hospital CEO. "This project honors that legacy while building a facility that supports advanced care, workforce recruitment and long-term sustainability. Having virtually no debt, the hospital is in a strong financial position. With the assistance of the USDA, local banks and other financial partners, we feel it is the right time to proceed with the project."

The project includes new construction for the lobby, laboratory, sleep lab, IV services area, MRI addition and kitchen with updated serving and dining spaces. Clinic and specialty clinic areas, along with the

physical therapy and fitness center, will be expanded and remodeled. Updates and improvements are also planned for the emergency room, surgical department and inpatient rooms. In addition, the renovation will include a new conference center with meeting rooms available for community use.

"Guthrie County Hospital is one of the most important institutions serving Guthrie County. Continuing to update health care services is essential to meeting the needs of all residents, particularly as the county's population continues to age," said Brian Johnson, Guthrie County Supervisor.

The renovation and expansion will be completed in phases over 30 months to minimize disruption to patient care and hospital operations.

"This renovation represents more than brick and mortar — it's an investment in the health, safety and well-being of our community," said Dennis Flanery, director of the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation. "By upgrading our facilities, we are ensuring that high-quality, accessible care remains close to home for future generations. This is a great way to kick off our 75th anniversary for the hospital."

Additional details, including project timelines and opportunities for community engagement and support, will be shared in the coming months by the hospital and the foundation.

For more information about the renovation or the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation, visit <https://guthriecountyhospital.org> or contact Dennis Flanery at 641-332-3879. ■

## EVENT

# OLYMPIC SPIRIT AT THE NEW HOMESTEAD



Kathy Coe throws at the bags board.

**BY RICH WICKS**  
*Guthrie Center Times*

On Friday, Feb. 6, while the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy, was ongoing, there was a spin-off event occurring in Guthrie Center. Residents of The New Homestead and

members of ACGC's National Honor Society came together to hold Winter Olympics games.

Various table games and carnival games were played. Although no new world records were recorded, those involved agreed that it was fun to participate. ■

## MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER IN CASEY

**BY SHANE GOODMAN**  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Midwest Partnership, an economic development group for Adair and Guthrie counties, held its annual meeting and dinner on Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Casey Community Building in Casey. The theme was "From the Ground Up: Honoring Our Roots, Shaping What's Next." Dinner was provided by Café on the Hill.

Director Brenda Dudley shared a report highlighting the efforts of the organization over the past year and recognized current board members. She thanked outgoing board members Cheryl Marks and Kathy Rohrig and welcomed newly appointed board members Megan Edwards and Shane Goodman.

The current board includes:

- Matt Wedemeyer, president
- Brad Hayes, vice president
- Renee Jensen, secretary

- Brian Johnson, treasurer
- Kaye Bax
- Josh Calmer
- Chris Carlson
- Marty Doud
- Megan Edwards
- Stacie Eshelman
- Shane Goodman
- Eric Reinhart
- Scott Tonderum
- Holi Weston

The Entrepreneurial Economic Impact Award was presented to Main Street Guthrie Center.

The guest speaker for the event was Lt. Gov. Chris Cournoyer, who led a panel discussion with Erin Carney with BC Angus, Brian Fox with Fox Welding, Regan Doely with Doe A Deer, and Dustin and Taylor Teays with Central Iowa Publishing.

Learn more about Midwest Partnership at [www.midwestpartnership.com](http://www.midwestpartnership.com). ■





# THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

PHOTOS BY MARK HENDON | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



No. 44 Olivia Mahaffey gets caught by the Panorama defender on Jan. 23.



No. 21 Becca Littler looks for a teammate in the game against Panorama on Jan. 23.



No. 2 Jonny Kading tries to get past the Panorama defender on Jan. 23.



ACGC's No. 32 Camdyn Richter shoots the running left hook against Panorama on Jan. 23.



No. 10 Reece Emgarten goes for the layup in traffic against Panorama on Jan. 23.



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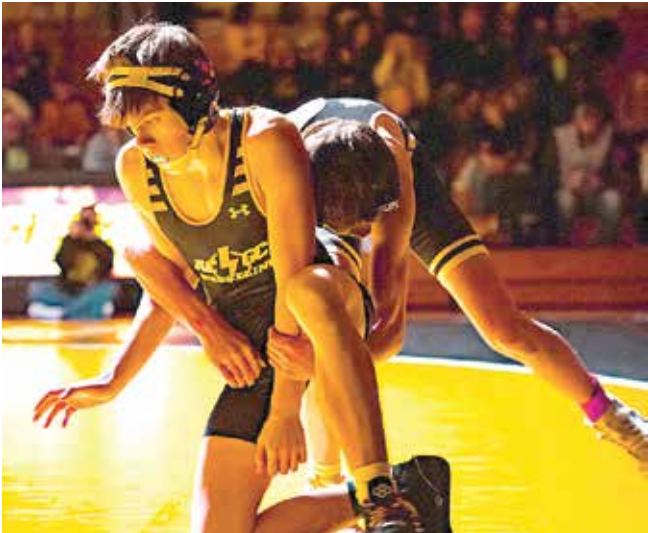




Ryder Cline reached 100 wins this season, pictured here at Perry on Jan. 27



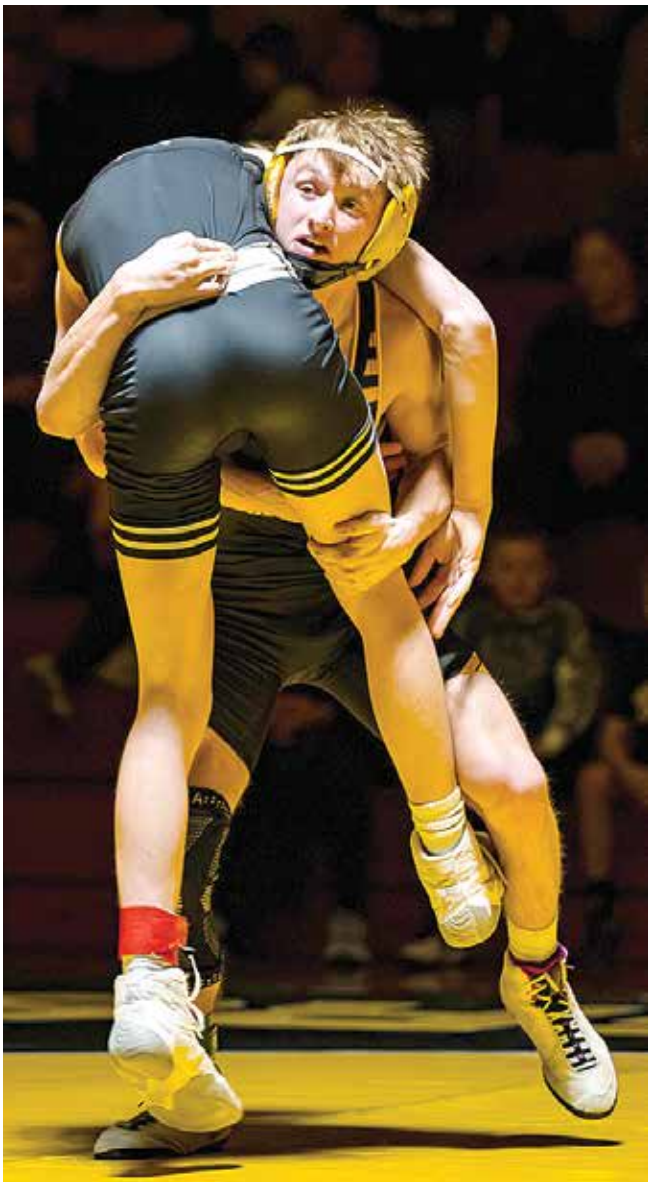
ACGC's No. 1 Thomas Skram dominated on offense against Panorama on Jan. 23, scoring 27 points.



Gavin Steensen works to escape his opponent at Perry on Jan. 27



ACGC's No. 4 Joe Crawford checks the clock before taking action against Panorama on Jan. 23.



ACGC's Chase Slaybaugh gets his Perry opponent airborne during their match on Jan. 27. ■

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EDUCATION

A-C AND GC SCHOOL BOARDS DISCUSS WHOLE GRADE SHARING

BY RICH WICKS  
Guthrie Center Times

During the Jan. 21 joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, Superintendent Josh Rasmussen encouraged board members to contact state legislators regarding whole grade sharing and how the current rules impact the feasibility of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center districts' potential consolidation.

Per current regulations, the two districts would each lose out on approximately \$180,000 per year in operational sharing if/when consolidation occurs. Rasmussen said that additional incentives and supplemental weighting for three to four years after consolidation would be needed to give time to find new sharing opportunities with neighboring schools and recoup some of those lost sharing dollars. This is why the renewal of whole grade sharing, joint employment, and property tax reduction incentives is needed in order to move forward with

reorganization/consolidation.

Each of the two boards tabled action on approving the whole grade sharing agreement.

The Guthrie Center School Board discussed the possible purchase and installation of a new audio system for the high school gym. Matt Van Meter voiced a concern regarding the warranty on the bid being considered. He pointed out that the warrant information states that any equipment concerns should be brought up with the manufacturer.

"I've got one problem with it," Van Meter said. "I think it's a red flag that the company that's installing it will not warranty the equipment that they're putting in."

After discussion, the board voted to table the matter until more warranty clarification can be obtained.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be a joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the junior high school in Adair. The public is welcome. ■

HEALTH

GCH TRUSTEES DISCUSS FUNDING AND BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS  
Guthrie Center Times

During the Jan. 22 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, the trustees reviewed plans for funding the hospital's improvement project.

CEO Chris Stipe summarized the funding plan.

"The USDA portion would be \$37 million, that's the cost of construction," Stipe said. "Then there's the separate loan of about \$5 million that the banks are going to pay in, and then there's our equity of about \$4.8 million. So, that's how you get to the \$46 million."

Although bids on the project are in, the formal USDA approval has not yet been received, so bids were not considered for acceptance at this time.

Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson provided a summary of hiring and personnel status.

"We have seven positions open now," Anderson said. "And, we also have an offer out to a dietician. We should find out tomorrow if she is going to accept. So, we're currently holding 153 employees, and our retention rate remains at 88.7%."

Stipe shared information regarding the pursuit of a countywide EMS plan.

"The county is putting together another EMS board," Stipe said. "Mary Jane Carothers will sit on that board."

Stipe added that he would recommend Chief Nursing Officer Mandy Schiefert as a possibility to serve on the EMS ad hoc committee.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery shared information on the annual Handbags and Bingo event, which is set for April 10. He said this year's theme will be "Pajama Party."

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



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# MARY J. BARNETT LIBRARY NEWS

400 GRAND ST. IN GUTHRIE CENTER | 641-747-8110 | MJB LIB@GUTHRIECENTER.LIB.IA.US | WWW.GUTHRIECENTER.LIB.IA.US.

BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

When considering the resources that are available at the MJB Library, be sure to remember the digital resources. The library webpage <https://www.guthrie-center.lib.ia.us> is loaded with links to valuable information. Mometrix will prove to be invaluable to students, professionals and job seekers.

Mometrix eLibrary provides a wide range of study materials to help test-takers, including flashcards, practice tests and guides, covering subjects from foundational education to specialized trades and advanced academic fields. Funded by an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature, this online resource is available to all Iowa residents.

To access this resource, go to the library website and select "Online Resources." The first option in the pull-down menu will be Mometrix eLibrary. Once at that link, users will need to create an account, which only requires a working email and a password.

The site has a tutorial video to help users get started. Once users are comfortable with the site, they can go to the page with test categories. Sixteen categories include business, college admissions and placement, financial insurance and real estate, K-12, public service and legal, construction and industry, medical professionals, nursing, and teaching.

Each category has some study aids, including PDFs of study guides, and interactive study materials, including practice test questions, flashcards and prac-

tice tests. Each exam is hyperlinked to the materials relating to the topic. Within study guides and instructional videos are hyperlinks to take users directly to additional information relating to the topic. Some other user-friendly features are the ability to change font sizes and to flag flash cards to review later.

In addition to more than 150 exams, the site also features a wealth of employment resources. Mometrix covers the following job-related topics:

- Employment resources
- Common interview questions
- Questions to ask in an interview
- Updating your resume
- How to negotiate a job offer
- Selecting a career or job
- How to apply for financial aid
- How to apply for scholarships
- How to apply for college online
- How to apply for jobs online
- Job interview tips

Contact information is provided to reach someone who runs the site in the event that the site is lacking something the user is looking for. All of this is free online to access from the library's website. Set up is quick and easy, and the materials are current and comprehensive. Students, professionals who need to take exams, and job seekers will find this to be a very useful, user-friendly, free site that is available for all Iowans. The link is on the MJB Library website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February youth programs include Creation Corner at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18. This event is available to youth of



The February display in the library display case also reflects local history. Loaned to the library by Bryan Crowder is a display of Iowa High School State Basketball Tournament Memorabilia. The display includes tournament programs, many of which feature Guthrie Center teams, state basketball yearbooks, clippings from the local Guthrie Center paper about the tournaments, a trophy and tickets from the 1963 girls state tournament games. The memorabilia will be on display through the end of the month.

all ages, though pre-registration is preferred. Preschool story hour will be at 10 a.m. each Friday. Owls are the topic of the Feb. 20 story hour; cookies are the subject for Feb. 27.

Cardmaking Class will have its monthly gathering on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 9-11 a.m. Participants are reminded that all necessary materials are provided for a \$5 fee. Cookbook Club also meets on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Those who wish to come to the meeting are invited to stop at the library to choose a recipe from the featured cookbook to prepare

and bring to the meeting.

Reads Well With Others Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. to discuss the Freida McFadden thriller, "The Tenant." Copies are available in large or regular print to check out.

Patrons are reminded that our weekly adult events are open to anyone in the community. Cribbage meets each Monday from 9-11 a.m. Craft and Connect meets weekly from 4-6 p.m. on Monday. Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. are when the Bridge Class meets. ■



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2-22.... Beer, Pizza & Puzzle 1pm

4-18 .... Chuck Briseno Band is back again 8-11pm

5-9..... Draisey Bag's Tournament 1pm

5-9..... Live Music 7-10pm

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# MAMA'S HOUSE MARKET: HEALTHY AND HOMEY

Megan Richter offers handmade goodness for your home, one small batch at a time.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

If the thought of fresh-baked sourdough bread dipped in flavored oils sounds tasty, then Mama's House Market is definitely worth a try. The motto of Mama's House Market in Adair is "Offering wholesome ingredients for your family." That explains the personal philosophy of owner Megan Richter, as well as the philosophy she brings to the products she makes and sells. Richter explained how Mama's House Market came about.

"It started last spring, in April. I had been in the corporate world for 25 years, and I had the opportunity to stay home and help with the bar," she said. Richter and her husband, Tony, own and operate The Blue Goose bar in Adair, but she soon found that she needed something more to keep herself busy.

"I was talking to my cousin about how to make a sourdough starter, and somebody overheard me, and they asked if I could bake some for them. So, that led to me starting to make sourdough bread to sell," Richter said. "Mama's House Market came about as an extra outlet for me. I don't sit still well."

Richter explained that she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, and one of them always called her "Mama," so that's where the business name came from.

Sourdough bread loaves and infused oils



Megan Richter enjoys offering a variety of homemade items.

for bread-dipping are Richter's best sellers, but she offers a variety of items.

"It's the basic sourdough loaves with several inclusion options. There's fruit, cheese, chocolate, marshmallows, that kind of stuff," Richter said. "I also do din-

ner rolls and sometimes bread bowls. Apart from sourdough, I also do infused olive oils, seasoned salts, flavored sugars. I also offer nourishing goat milk soap, cocktail kits, fresh dryer ball sprays and room sprays, and effective natural cleaners —

simple, toxin-free essentials for your home. I try to keep it interesting. I also have Heaton honey products available."

Richter adjusts her offerings based on what customers like. For example, she previously offered vanilla extract but

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Infused olive oils are in a variety of flavors.

found that few people bought it, so it was dropped.

She says the Mama's House Market page on Facebook is the best place for anyone interested in seeing her products and/or putting in an order. A website is currently in the works as well.

Having learned the process of making sourdough, Richter now finds it is not difficult, just time-consuming.

"What a lot of people don't understand about sourdough is it's a four-day process. You feed the starter one day, you make the dough the next day, and on day four, you bake," Richter said.

Throughout the year, Richter sets up at various farmers markets and similar events in the area to sell her products.

Richter has no plans to mass-produce her items. She says she enjoys focusing on quality rather than quantity.

"Everything I make is intentionally curated, minimally processed and rooted in quality, flavor and function," she said.

"I'm bringing handmade goodness to your



Cocktail kits are a popular item.



Sourdough loaves are a challenge to resist.

home, one small batch at a time."

When asked which of her offerings is most surprising to customers, Richter said the answer is simple.


"A lot of people don't know that I do anything other than bread," she said. ■




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# ZIMMERMAN'S CAR IS LIKE NO OTHER

**Fulltime welder spends much of his free time in his garage working on the 1971 Chevelle.**

**BY RICH WICKS**

*Guthrie Center Times*

Justin Zimmerman of Casey says he grew up working on cars while learning from his father. Later, he took classes to learn more.

"When I was in high school, we bought a 1977 Nova that I kind of tinkered on," Zimmerman said.

After graduating from West Central Valley in 2004, Zimmerman eventually enrolled at Southwestern Community College. When he started taking classes, Zimmerman found a car that he immediately connected with. It was a 1971 Chevelle.

"I bought the car in August of 2012. I was going to autobody school at SWCC down in Creston and somebody in Creston had it for sale, so I bought it for \$3,000. Then, it sat in my garage in Dexter for five years, just doing a little stuff to it," Zimmerman said. "Then, we moved here to Casey in 2018, and I decided it was now or never, so I started pouring all my week-ends and money into it."

Zimmerman works fulltime as a welder but happily spends much of his free time in the garage working on his car. Along the way, he has made many modifications.

"It's a 1971 VIN, but I put a 1970 front clip on it because I like the two headlights and two taillights. I lowered the splitter and lowered the body line on the back," Zimmerman said. "I lowered the bumper and opened up the whole grill to get all the air to the radiator for the big block 496 I have in there. I shaved all the chrome off, all the drip rails, and flush mounted all the glass. The last six years, it's been every weekend. I did all that work right here in this garage. I painted it, body-worked it, metal-worked it."

In 2025, the car finally became drivable.

"I painted it on Father's Day weekend, and I had it running for the Good Guys show in Des Moines in July. That was the first official car show for it," Zimmerman said. "Now that I have it driving and painting, I can take it to more shows."

Although the car is being driven and in



Justin Zimmerman enjoys showing his 1971 Chevelle.



The interior is Zimmerman's next project.



A clean engine ready to roar.



Zimmerman added a flag decal.

shows, it is far from finished.

"It's still a work in progress. I've still got to do the interior, some back windows and stuff. Every paycheck I can put more money into it," Zimmerman said. "You're never done. You're always adding something. I do not like chrome, and I like matte color, so it's a matte finish. Also, I'm a Hawkeye fan, so I've got Hawkeye plates."

Zimmerman's philosophy is that the car was meant to be driven rather than sitting in a garage all the time. He also uses it to show the type of work he can do for others.

"I built it to drive it, so I want to drive it as much as possible," he said. "Big John

Customz is my LLC I have, so this is like my walking business card."

The hood and trunk open differently than most cars, which is a feature Zimmerman spent time on to get it just right.

"That's what took me the most time," he said.

Although some cars are restored to factory specifications, Zimmerman wanted his car to be unique.

"Mine, I want one of one. Nobody else in the world has this car," Zimmerman said. "That's what makes it so fun, is the creativity of building these cars. Yes, it's still a Chevelle, but it's just tinkered a little bit to what I thought a Chevelle should

look like."

Zimmerman said he plans to keep the Chevelle forever. He also enjoys hearing others voice their appreciation for the results of his long years of working on the car.

"I can't explain how much fun I had doing it. It's just me, late nights, alone, just my vision," Zimmerman said. "The best part was taking it to a car show and having somebody else say something about it. I had a complete stranger say, 'Hey, I like this,' and that six years felt like it was nothing. That's been the biggest reward is having people say, 'This is sweet.' That makes all those late nights melt away." ■





# YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 4, 1976

**ADAIR-CASEY ENTHUSIASTS.** Cheerleaders are an important part of any athletic event, and the gals at A-C reflect anxiety, enthusiasm and emotion. From left to right: Joni Scholl, Marilyn Harl, Amy Newman, Kathy Faga and Judy Christofferson.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 5, 1986

**WINNING SMILES.** Samuel Gibson (left) and Jason McIntire display happy smiles after receiving national recognition for their good deeds.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 14, 1996

**CHEER SQUAD.** Yell leaders for the Guthrie Center High School wrestling team this winter are front from left, Bethany Benton and Libby Benton. Second row, Tawnia Sheeder, Kerri Coffman and Dawn Trent. Back, Sarah VanMeter, Evie Menefee and Kari Schreck.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 1, 2006

**RELINQUISHING DUTIES.** 2005 Guthrie County Beef Queen Jodi Calvert, right, gave up her sash and title on Sunday to Michaela Jorgensen, the 2006 Beef Queen. Both girls are from Guthrie Center.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 17, 2016

**MODERN BANKING.** Construction is set to be complete by April at the new Guthrie County State Bank building.

## 5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Feb. 25, 2021

**10 SQUARED WOMEN MAKE DONATIONS.** After hearing three presentations in August, the Guthrie County Arts Council was chosen to receive the third-quarter funding. For the fourth-quarter donation, after a few surveys had been completed and input gathered, it was decided that the group would donate to two nominated organizations, with members deciding to give their \$100 donations to either Tori's Angels or the Guthrie Center and Panora Fire departments. The group is proud to announce, that once all the checks had been collected from members and several employer matches, a lump sum of \$11,300 was presented to Guthrie County Arts Council in September (third-quarter donation). \$7,650 to Tori's Angels, \$1,650 to Guthrie Center Fire Department, and \$1,650 to Panora Fire department were presented in December (fourth-quarter donations). ■



# OBITUARY

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



## FORREST PAUL SCHNOBRICH

1942-2026

Forrest Paul Schnobrich, 83, affectionately known as "Brick" to his friends and family, passed away on Feb. 5, 2026, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, leaving behind a legacy of love, wisdom and passion. Born on Nov. 22, 1942, in the small town of Avery to Everall and Winona (Gailey) Schnobrich, Forrest was raised in the nurturing community of Casey, where he developed

a lifelong love for sports and education.

Forrest's journey through life was marked by his devotion to his family. He was united in marriage to Carolyn Smith on Aug. 6, 1966, and together they were blessed with two daughters, Amy and Tracy. His family later grew to include wife, Carol Ann, whom he married on July 21, 1992. Carol Ann brought two stepchildren, Brett and Bryan Cushman, who respected and thought highly of Forrest, into the fold, and together they enjoyed a life filled with joy and companionship. Forrest was a devoted grandfather to Bryce, Brock, Lauryn, Becca, Tate and Trey. You could find Forrest in attendance at their various activities throughout the years. They will fondly remember the stories he shared and the love he had for them.

Forrest's educational pursuits were a testament to his love for learning and athleticism. He graduated from Adair-Casey High School in 1961, where he excelled in all four sports, with a particular

passion for basketball. His academic talents took him to Northwest Missouri State University, where he joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and further honed his leadership skills.

After college, Forrest embarked on a career in education, teaching and coaching at Atlantic High School from 1965 to 1967. His life took a turn when he was drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War in 1968. He served his country with pride and was honorably discharged in 1970 as an E-4. Forrest continued his teaching and coaching career in North English and West Union until 1973, when he returned home to become an insurance agent for Mertes Insurance in Adair and eventually becoming owner of the Insurance Store Ltd. His dedication to his clients was unwavering, and he continued to serve them until his passing. Forrest's entrepreneurial ventures also led him to own Scooters and Brick's Cafe in West Des Moines and Grimes for a time.

Forrest's commitment

to his community was evident through his membership at the Casey United Methodist Church and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of which he was a founding member, and these churches provided him with hope and inspiration. His active involvement in various organizations such as the Adair Lions Club, Adair Chamber, VFW, American Legion, Casey Service Club, and the Independent Insurance Agents of Iowa, where he served as past president, showcased his dedication to service. He was particularly proud of his work with the Guthrie County Hospital Board and Foundation, the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, and his contributions to the Guthrie County Youth Association and the Boys and Girls Club of Central-Southwest Iowa. He was also a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star and a Shriner.

Forrest "Brick" Schnobrich will be remembered not only for his professional achievements and

community involvement but more so for the warmth and wisdom he brought into the lives of those around him. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide his family, friends and community for generations to come.

Preceded in death by his parents, Everall and Winona Schnobrich, and his beloved in-laws, Byrle and Deloris Spillers, along with his brother-in-law James Kirkpatrick.

Left behind to remember Forrest are his wife, Carol Ann, his daughters Amy (Bill) Littler, Tracy (Kelly) Troster, stepsons Brett (Dee Welch) Cushman and Bryan Cushman, grandchildren Bryce (Chelsea) Littler, Brock (Cloe Hoyt) Littler, Lauryn Troster, Becca Littler, Tate Troster and Trey Troster, sisters-in-law Tana Kirkpatrick and Sheila (Mark) Edwards. Also left behind are all the friends and colleagues he had made through the years. Forrest's memory will be cherished by all who knew him. His loving, wise and passionate nature touched the lives of many, and his

absence will be profoundly felt.

Visitation with viewing was held from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, at the Casey United Methodist Church in Casey. A Celebration of Life service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, also at the Casey United Methodist Church.

Interment with cremains immediately followed the service at Dalmanutha Cemetery, rural Casey, where full military honors were accorded. There was a luncheon at the Casey Community Building following interment.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Forrest Schnobrich Memorial Fund. Memorials will be designated to organizations that were meaningful to Forrest during his lifetime. Contributions may be sent in care of Johnson Family Funeral Home & Crematory, P.O. Box 246, Stuart, Iowa 50250.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.johnsonfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.johnsonfamilyfuneralhome.com). ■

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# OBITUARIES

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**LEE A. SIEDELMANN**  
1956-2026

Lee Alan Siedelmann, 69, son of Eldonn and Shirley (Hocamp) Siedelmann, was born Sept. 23, 1956, in Greenfield. He passed away Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

Lee attended Adair-Casey Schools. Following high school, Lee worked many odd jobs. In 1980, he married Denise Newton in Atlantic. They made

their home in Casey. In 1999, Lee started working at Cardinal IG Company in Greenfield. Denise passed away in 2002. He retired from Cardinal IG in January of 2023. For the last 4.5 years, he has made his home in Guthrie Center with his special lady friend, Yolanda Brittain.

Lee loved gravel traveling, deer hunting, old ford muscle engines, motor sports and music. One of his favorite bands was Godsmack. Lee always made people smile, and he was a friend to all.

Lee is survived by his sons, Jason Hastings of Council Bluffs; Alan Siedelmann and his life partner Katie Huff of Greenfield; and Neal Siedelmann and fiancée Brooke Wilson of Greenfield. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Shelby, David, Ryan, Brayten, Haley, Brynnlee, Macyn, Jaxsyn, Austyn, and Aaron and Pruett Newton; and great-grandson, Jake; sister, Lori Siedelmann

and significant other Dwight Lahey of Des Moines; and his special lady friend, Yolanda Brittain of Guthrie Center and all her family; Rose Mellott "mother-in-law tootn twin"; sister-in-law, Olivia "J Widow" and many other brother and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and so many other good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Denise; step-son, Aaron Newton; and brother, J. Randy Siedelmann.

Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Cremation will follow the services. Visitation was Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial of his cremains will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family. ■



**DAVID DEAN SHROYER**  
1958-2026

David Dean Shroyer, age 67, of Guthrie Center, passed away on Dec. 23, 2025, in Largo, Florida. David was born on May 3, 1958, in Guthrie Center, to Ruth (Derry) and Tom Shroyer. Dave drove a truck for many years, owned and operated the family farm, and worked for

Guthrie County Roads as a maintainer operator before going on to become the owner of M&L Service and an ice cream shop with his wife, Tami. He was known for his no-nonsense advice and for always looking out for the community's best interest rather than profit.

David shared 50 years of marriage with his high school sweetheart, Tami (Bowman). He was a loving father to Denise Reno (Mark) and Chris Shroyer (Lexie), as well as a father figure to Mikel Wierick. He was also a proud grandfather to Seth Reno (Sarah), Dustion Bush (Keisha), Makenna Wierick (James) and Austin Wierick (Abby).

He is survived by his stepmother, Peg Shroyer of Panora; siblings Dennis Shroyer (Paula) of Panora and Diane Andresen (Virgil) of Guthrie Center; brother-in-law Dale Bowman (Pam) of Martinsburg, Iowa, James Bowman of Prudenville,

Michigan; sister-in-law Cheri Bowman of Ayrshire, Iowa; stepbrothers Dan VanWinkle (Deb) of Panora and Don VanWinkle (Dawn) of Panora; along with extended family, nieces, nephews, and many friends who will miss him dearly.

David had a special fondness for tractors — especially red ones — and found joy in the simple things that reflected his hardworking spirit. He will be remembered for his loyalty to family, his strong work ethic, and his quiet passions that brought him happiness.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Ed Middleton; and his brother-in-law, Dana Bowman.

A Celebration of Life was held on Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. Family and friends were invited to gather and remember David, sharing stories and honoring a life well lived. ■



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# OBITUARY

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## PAUL PIEPER

1941-2026

Paul Pieper, 84, of Stuart passed away on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026. Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22 at the All Saints Catholic Church in Stuart. Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 23 at the All Saints Catholic Church in Stuart. Luncheon will immediately follow the Mass. Private family burial will be held in the Calvary Cemetery in Stuart. Memorial contributions will be

divided equally between the Stuart Public Library, the Stuart EMT, the Stuart Fire Department, and Stuart Police Department Community Programs. Online condolences may be left at [www.johnsonfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.johnsonfamilyfuneralhome.com).

Paul Frederick Pieper was born on Oct. 22, 1941, to Marvin and Alene Pieper in Stuart. He attended the Guthrie County one-room schoolhouse and St. Mary's Catholic School in Stuart, and graduated from Stuart High School in 1959. He later graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in engineering.

Paul began his career in Des Moines building grain bins before returning to the Stuart area. Paul purchased his first farm and began the work he loved most.

The best decision Paul ever made was marrying Sharon Van Der Sluis. They married young and began a wonderful life adventure together that led to a remarkable 63-year marriage. Together, they farmed full-time

and raised four boys, building a family that grew to include 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Paul loved the land and built a seed-selling business. He enjoyed tilling the soil, working with fellow farmers, and being surrounded by wildlife. Paul also raised a lot of livestock over his farming career: stock cows, bred heifers, feeder cattle, lots of farrow to finish hogs, a few milk cows and even a horse or two. As he grew older, the wildlife became his pets — feeding deer in the front yard and raising different varieties of fish in his pond. They also loved sitting on the front patio of their beautiful farm, feeding birds and hummingbirds, and simply enjoying the view.

Paul loved to fish, especially at Lake Okoboji, but it was less about what he caught and more about being in nature, surrounded by friends and family. The fishing guides always said that he was a week too late or a week too early. However, we always

managed to catch a few fish and create some great memories. That's where he was happiest — together, sharing stories, laughter and time.

Mo and Gonzo were his two favorite dogs, Paul would make special trips just to get his furry friends French fries or salted nut rolls. Paul was proud of his community and served on the school board and the care center committee, and re-activated the Penn Stuart Pioneers 4H chapter. A lot of Guthrie County Fairs followed afterwards.

Paul enjoyed playing cards at the 5x80 Country Club and dominoes with his grandchildren. He appreciated the small joys of life — especially fruit and ice cream.

Paul was a mentor to young farmers and a trusted listening ear for friends and family. He took pride in hearing others' ideas and was always a shoulder for anyone who needed to talk things through.

One of his great joys was his pickup trucks. He truly loved his trucks — and some of you may not know this, but Paul was colorblind, so he relied on Sharon to help pick out the color and then tell him what it actually looked like.

After retiring from farming around 2006, Paul discovered a new passion: woodworking.

In his shop, he created special projects for family and friends — each one made with care and pride. Paul was also a regular at coffee in Stuart, where he loved swapping stories with friends around the table.

He always had a sense of humor and loved to play practical jokes on friends and family. Laughter was a big part of who he was.

Paul and Sharon also enjoyed spending 14 winters in Texas, where they formed many lifelong friendships.

Paul showed us what a good life looks like: love your family, care for the land, serve your community, and always make time for others. His legacy lives on in the farm he cherished, the projects he built with his hands, the lessons he shared and the family he loved so deeply. We will miss his stories, his laughter and his steady presence — but we are forever grateful for the life he lived and the example he left us.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Alene Pieper; father and mother-in-law, Ray and Mary Van Der Sluis; sister, Kathy, and brother-in-law, Gene Fitzgerald; brother-in-law, Bill Wagner; and sister-in-law, Jan Reeser.

Paul is survived by his wife, Sharon, of nearly 63 years, and their four

children: son, Kevin, and Valerie Pieper and their children, Kadie Schuler and Jeremy Owings, and their children, Dalton (Diana), Clayton, and Alicyn Vogel (Stephanie); Lucas and Caitlyn Pieper and their sons, Griffin and Lachlan; Jeremy and Stephanie Wells; Josh and Rachael Wells and their sons, James and Flynn; Lauren and Brant Bonnesen and their children, Aurora, Harper and Briar; Lindsay Pieper; Jessica and Matthew Moss and their children, Martin and Amelia; son, Brian, and Candace Pieper and their children, Sunny and Chris Brown, and their children, Violet, Ivy and Sage; Beau Pieper and (Mary), Izzy Pieper and (Zac); son, Darin, and Carole Pieper and their children, Betsy and Jesse Pieper-Ledbetter, Jake and Ashley Conner and their children. Rhiley, Daisy and Laehn; son, Ben, and Kim Pieper and their children. Olivia and Lincoln. Paul is also survived by his siblings, Annette and Embree Edgington; Lori and Jerry Southmayd; Leo and Jeri Pieper; Marty and Sandy Pieper; and David and Diana Pieper; brother-in-law, Verle, and Shari Van Der Sluis along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends. Friends meant the world to Paul, and he is survived by many. ■

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# OBITUARY

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**DALE LEE GROVE**  
1937-2026

Dale Lee Grove, son of Walter John Grove and Hazel Marie (Barnhouse) Grove, was born on Mother's Day, May 9, 1937, on the family farm, 2½ miles north of Guthrie Center. He was raised alongside 16 brothers and sisters. Dale rode a horse to Seeley No. 7 Country School through the eighth grade before attending Guthrie Center High School, where he graduated in 1955. Following graduation, Dale enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He proudly served from 1956 to 1959 at Twenty-Nine Palms, California, as an Artillery Weapons Repairman, attaining the rank of Corporal (E-4).

Upon returning home, Dale met his beloved wife, Dorothy Marie French. Truth be told, Dale was Dorothy's school bus driver, and fellow students quickly learned that the first seat on the bus belonged to her. Following Dorothy's graduation, the two were united in marriage and shared more than 62

wonderful years together.

As the son of a farmer, Dale spent his early years working on the family farm, learning the values of hard work, responsibility, and perseverance. From a young age, he helped with daily chores and was always willing to fix or repair whatever needed attention. His dedication to doing things right was evident throughout his life. Perhaps best illustrated by winning the Pinewood Derby for and with the help of his sons Eric and Daryl and his nephew Eldon, not once, not twice, but four times! When Dale was involved, things were done to perfection; there was simply no other option.

Dale enjoyed working alongside family and friends, remodeling the family home as well as the homes of his children and grandchildren. His unwavering dedication and devotion to family became the foundation of his life and the legacy he left behind, one of service above self. Dale did not raise his voice to seek attention; he was a gentle giant of a man who spoke softly, unless he was cheering at his grandchildren's sporting events. He was the center of his family's world and the pillar by which they measured the standard of human kindness. Dale's dedication to his family, faith and community will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. As he faithfully served his church as an Elder, Trustee and Sunday School teacher of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Guthrie Center and devoted 40 years of service to the Guthrie County Road Department. There was no job he wouldn't do himself.

If Dale asked you to do something, he was right there alongside you. He never shied away from hard work.

Dale is faithfully survived by his wife, Dorothy Marie Grove; son, Eric Lee Grove (Linda) of Guthrie Center and grandsons, Dalton Lee Grove (Kayla) and Spencer Grove (Becca Renslow); daughter, Sheila Grove Kearney (Alan) of Guthrie Center; daughter, Nicole Grove Lyall (John) of Guthrie Center and granddaughters, Erica Grove and Elissa Grove, and great-grandson, Corser; grandson, Colby Dale Grove (Mryia Boodry) and great-granddaughters, Milly, Cora Lee and Ida; and son, Daryl Grove (Marta) of Fayette and grandchildren, Makenna, Gavyn and Brody Grove. He is also survived by his sisters, Beverly Bowman of Des Moines, Patricia (Gary) McCool of Mt. Vernon, and Janice Grove of Jefferson; sister-in-law, Virginia Grove; brother-in-law, Stewart (Mary) French of Jefferson; along with many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his parents-in-law, Richard and Agnes French; infant sisters, Fern Mildred and Mary Joann; sisters, Evelyn (Erven) Pohl, Esther (Wally) Bohlender, Marguerite (Lyle) Pickle, Marie Jarrell Grove, Bethene Phillips, Gladys (Gene) Rasmussen and Beulah (Leland) Andersen; brothers, John (Lillian), Arthur (Jean), Gerry (Fran), Lawrence, Delbert and Jerry Grove; brother-in-law, Max Bowman; sister-in-law, Kathleen (Merle) Whetstone; and his beloved son-in-law, John Lyall. ■



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- City of Guthrie Center
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# OBITUARIES

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## SEAN MICHAEL MASON

1994-2026

Sean Michael Mason, a  
man whose laughter was  
as infectious as his welding

torch was hot, left this world  
surrounded by his loved  
ones Jan. 4, 2026, in the same  
city he was born on Dec. 13,  
1994.

Sean was the guy who  
could find humor in  
everything from a stubborn  
bolt to stubborn children.  
Speaking of children, he  
lives on through his two  
kids, Scarlett and Kane,  
who inherited their dad's  
mischievous twinkle. They  
say laughter is the best  
medicine, and Sean's kids  
have an eternal prescription.

He was the second born  
to Traci Hodges, making  
him a brother not once but  
twice to Alannah Bradley  
and Alexandra Fisher. The  
trio could be found causing  
a ruckus, their laughter  
echoing into the hearts of  
those who had the pleasure

of knowing them.

Sean's sisters blessed him  
with being "Uncle Sean."  
From teaching them bad  
words to getting them a  
present when they were sick,  
Blayze, Havyn, DJ and Bobby  
can all attest that he was the  
coolest uncle around.

Sean's departure leaves  
a void in the world, but  
his humor will echo in  
our hearts forever. As the  
curtains fall on Sean's time  
with us, we remember a man  
whose love for his family was  
pure.

Curtain call, Sean, take a  
bow — you've earned your  
standing ovation.

Visitation was held at  
Twigg Funeral Home in  
Guthrie Center, Sunday, Jan.  
11, 2026.

A Celebration of Life will  
be held at a later date. ■



## LARRY DALE JAMES

1942-2026

Larry Dale James went to  
be with the Lord in heaven  
on the morning of Jan. 25,  
2026. He was 84 years old. He

lived in Casey. He spent the  
last couple of years staying  
at the New Homestead in  
Guthrie Center.

Larry was born to Dale  
James and Mavadelle  
Christofferson. Later, he  
had a sister named Janice.  
He spent his younger years  
living with Mavadelle  
and her husband, Arno  
Kristofferson. He went to  
school in Guthrie Center and  
in Audubon.

Larry joined the Army and  
spent two years in Germany.  
While there, he met his wife  
of 60 years, Gisela. Before  
coming back to Guthrie  
Center, they had two  
daughters, Roswitha (Rita)  
and Anita.

Larry had many jobs  
through the years. He also  
had a very large family; Rita  
had three children, Amanda,  
Allan (Nellie) and Adam

(Erin). Anita had a daughter,  
Andrea.

Larry also had 12 great-  
grandchildren: Kaden,  
Lilly, Taylor, Stella, Faith,  
Alizabeth, Kaylin, Timothy,  
Jessie, Madeline, ZynLee  
and Remy. He also had  
three stepsisters, Dalen,  
Susan and Cheryl, and two  
stepbrothers, Mike and Jeff.  
He had multiple cousins,  
nephews and nieces. He had  
lots of friends and family.

Larry had many hobbies.  
He loved fishing, hunting  
and going on long rides.  
Everyone who he met  
became a friend. He also had  
an ornery side to him.

He was preceded in death  
by his parents; his daughter,  
Anita; and his sister, Janice  
and her husband, Tommy.  
Burial of cremated remains  
will be at a later date at  
Dalmanutha Cemetery. ■





RECIPE

# PAIR SIMPLICITY AND FLAVOR WITH SEAFOOD SPAGHETTI

BY JOLENE GOODMAN  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Some recipes come from a well-worn family card, while others are born on a busy weeknight when you need dinner to feel special without being complicated. Shrimp spaghetti falls squarely into that second category for me. It's the kind of meal that looks impressive on the plate but comes together quickly — perfect for those evenings when you want something comforting, a little indulgent and absolutely reliable. I love shrimp because it cooks fast and pairs beautifully with simple ingredients. Toss it with garlic, olive oil, a hint of heat and a squeeze of lemon, and suddenly an ordinary box of spaghetti feels elevated. This is the dish I reach

for when I want a break from heavy sauces but still crave big flavor. It is light enough for warmer months, yet cozy enough to enjoy year-round. Simple, satisfying, and full of flavor — this shrimp spaghetti is proof that a good meal doesn't have to be complicated to feel special. Find more quick dinner solutions by visiting [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net). ■

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



Jolene Goodman

SHRIMP SPAGHETTI

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 4-6

Ingredients:

- 1 pound spaghetti noodles
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup avocado oil
- 1 package (12 ounces) raw shrimp
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder, divided
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 cup frozen or fresh spinach
- bread, for serving

Directions:

- Cook spaghetti noodles according to package instructions. In skillet over medium heat, add



butter, avocado oil and shrimp. Mix in 1 table-spoon garlic powder and paprika. Remove shrimp after they begin to turn pink; set aside. Add chicken broth, Parmesan cheese, heavy cream, remaining garlic powder, onion powder and spinach to skillet; mix well. Add shrimp back to skillet to finish cooking. Mix in noodles and serve with bread.

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**First United Methodist Church**  
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# WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is a horse-drawn road grader that is located on the north side of Buttler Storage on Prairie Street in Guthrie Center. Ken Partlow 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). ■



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