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PLACES TO GET AWAY

LOCAL MAN CAVES AND
SHE SHEDS TELL
PERSONAL STORIES

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YOU'LL FIND A LITTLE BIT OF
EVERYTHING AT HOMETOWN
BASICS IN CASEY

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THE COMFORT OF A SAVORY
LASAGNA BAKING IN THE OVEN
— ANY TIME OF THE YEAR

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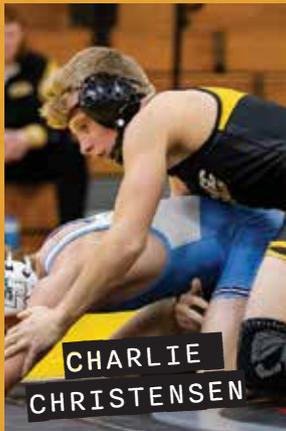
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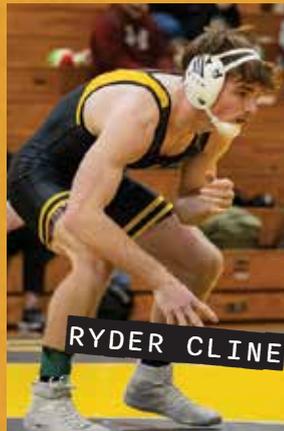
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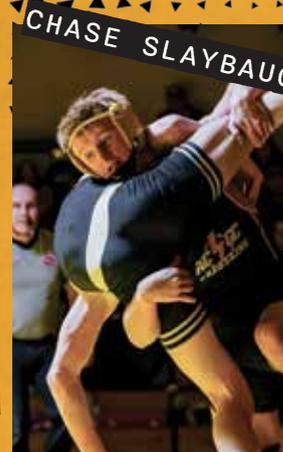
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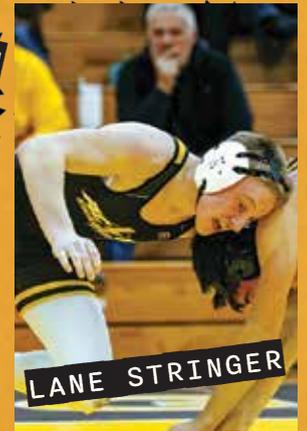
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ON THE COVER: Bill Byars at the bar in his man cave. Photo by Rich Wicks



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I'LL BE IN THE MAN CAVE

A man cave is a male retreat, a sanctuary of sorts for the masculine gender. It could be physically located in a spare bedroom, a den or even a tree house, but, quite often, the basement or garage are the man cave locations of choice where we men can do as we please. For the most part.

The man cave term was first used in 1992 in the Toronto Star newspaper by Joanne Lovering: "With his cave of solitude secured against wife intrusion by cold floors, musty smells and a few strategic cobwebs, he will stay down

there for hours nestled in very manly magazines and open boxes of tools. Let's call the basement, man cave." It then gained traction in 1993 with the "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus" book by John Gray.

The truth is that we men have stuff, and it is stuff that doesn't seem appropriate to our wives for the kitchen, family room or bed-



Shane Goodman

room. Beer signs. Foosball tables. Dart boards. Giant TVs. You get the idea.

But, just when we thought we had our own space, the female gender had to come up with one of their own, lovingly referred to as the "she-shed." I can't even pronounce it, but that's OK, as long as it doesn't infringe on my space.

I like my man cave. It's a great place to watch a game, read a magazine or take a nap. And, I am not alone. In this issue, we share the stories of other men who have created their own man caves. They may inspire you do to the same. And, to

balance things out and keep everyone happy, we feature a she-shed, too.

Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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PLACES TO GET AWAY

LOCAL MAN CAVES
AND SHE SHEDS TELL
PERSONAL STORIES

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

A well-known saying claims, “A man’s home is his castle.” There is something special about a place that is not accessible to everyone. For men, these spots are often called “man caves,” while “she shed” is a common term for the fairer sex’s getaway.

Some people use these places to get away from everyone else, perhaps to work on artistic creations or hobbies. Others use a getaway as a spot for quality time with select friends and family.

It seems that nearly everyone appreciates a place to get away from it all. Even Superman had his “Fortress of Solitude.” Whether it is a man cave or a she shed, and whether it is used for time alone or group get-togethers, many people enjoy having some type of refuge.

BILL BYARS

The basement man cave of Bill Byars of Adair is full of photographs, autographs and various memorabilia. But the main thing that fills the space is the memories. Every item recalls a loved one, trip or story that Byars enjoys sharing.

Byars has a treasure trove of knowledge and trivia about the various topics represented in his basement, including famous athletes and celebrities, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Adair-Casey school history, Tompleton Rye whiskey, “The Andy Griffith Show,” and the local pursuit of criminals Bonnie and Clyde, to name a few.

Byars explained how his man cave came to be in such an eclectic style.

“I grew up in the days of TGI Fridays, so my idea for a family room was to cover the walls with memorabilia, and now I’m having to get kind of selective about where I can put stuff,” he said. “I try to bring back something from vacation every year, and when I go to Sturgis and the Black Hills.”

Over the years, Byars’ pursuit of memorabilia and autographs has taught him not to be shy. Many of his best stories resulted from approaching a celebrity and simply starting a conversation.

Byars told of visiting one on one with William “The Refrigerator” Perry, who played in Super Bowl XX in January 1986 after the 1985 season by the Chicago Bears. Byars said Perry allowed him to try on Perry’s Super Bowl ring. For those unfamiliar with Perry, his “Fridge” nickname was not based on being a cool character, but rather



Bill Byars shows some of his father’s military items.



Byars is a proud Bomber.



The Dallas Cowboys have a prominent display.

on his imposing size. Byars quickly realized that included ring size.

“It was a size 23,” Byars said. “I got almost three fingers into it.”

Byars also told of enjoying lunch with Bob Lilly, a Hall of Fame Dallas Cowboys great from the 1960s and 1970s.

He has met many Baseball Hall of Fame players and has the memorabilia to prove

it.

“I had dinner with Tom Browning, who pitched a perfect game for the Reds. He autographed his book for me. He was a character. I met Bob Feller multiple times when I went to his museum,” Byars said. “I met Tom Seaver, Ernie Banks and Ozzie Smith. My favorite? Yogi Berra.”

Because the collection in the Byars base-

ment is so diverse, there is something to catch almost anyone’s attention.

“When people come down here for the first time, I just sit down while they walk all around and ask about some of the stuff,” Byars said. “There’s probably nothing that’s worth a lot of money, but it’s worth a lot to me.”

Byars has many autographed items,



"The Andy Griffith Show" items are a favorite of Bill Byars.

some of which are personalized.

"I've got Harley-Davidson stuff. I met the guys at 'American Chopper' and got their signatures. I've got golf stuff; I met Zach Johnson," Byars said. "I'm a big Dallas Cowboys fan from their earlier years. Pretty cool — I've met a couple of them in person. I've got a stadium seat from the old stadium. I've got old vintage posters from back in the day."

One section of the man cave is devoted to memorabilia and signed items from "The Andy Griffith Show."

"I've been to Mount Airy, Andy's hometown," Byars said. "I've got a plate from Aunt Bea's kitchen."

Despite the seemingly endless supply of stories and memorabilia lining the walls of Byars' basement, one collection is clearly the most meaningful. As Byars showed one corner of his space, he explained why it means so much.

"The rest of it I would consider a passion or hobby, but this is my ultimate prize. This is my father's stuff. He was a World War II vet, and he flew on a B-17 as a gunner. I had a guy make an exact replica of his plane. I had my brother-in-law make the stand, and in the center is an original oxygen tank from a B-17."

Byars admitted he never heard much from his father about World War II. Many wartime veterans are somewhat close-lipped. Eventually, Byars decided it was time to learn more.

"He very seldom talked about his time in the war. Long after he passed, I realized that I didn't know much about his service, so I started delving into it," Byars said. "I dug into obituaries of his crew members

and tried to find people who had photos of the crew, and they started sending them to me."

Byars learned how the crew's plane was named.

"The name of the plane was Jenny Lou," he said. "She was a country music star back in the day, and the pilot was smitten with her."

Byars also learned many details of his father's missions, including that he served as a waist gunner on the B-17 during 15 combat missions, including bombing runs over Italy, Sicily and Germany.

Byars pointed out a photo of his father arriving home from the war.

"That was the day he came home to surprise Grandpa and Grandma. My grandfather was in World War I in the trenches in France," Byars said. "That picture was taken in September 1945."

Through years of research, Byars discovered that some records of his father's military service had been destroyed in a fire, but he was glad to learn what he could.

"My father earned four Bronze Stars," he said.

SUZANNE MICHAELS

The she shed of Suzanne Michaels is, quite literally, a shed. And it is likely to serve three purposes: storage, a she shed for Suzanne and a man cave for her husband, Troy.

Suzanne explained that when she and Troy bought their home in Guthrie Center, there was a shed in the backyard that had fallen into disrepair.

"It was really falling apart. There was a lot of straw and stuff in there, so that's why

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Suzanne Michaels is eager for the shed's completion.

I thought it had been a chicken coop," she said. "The guy across the street said it was a shed that came from one of the cabins out by Lake Panorama."

Since the shed was in rough shape, the couple nearly took the easy option of getting rid of it.

"My husband wanted to burn it and put a garage in, and I said, 'No, it's so cool, the shape of it.' So we took it down to just the shell, and then we got lots of big cement blocks and gradually started jacking it up," Michaels said. "We made a rock foundation."

As the couple slowly worked on the shed, they encountered various obstacles along the way.

"My husband framed all this out. We put on a roof, but then a tree branch fell and damaged it," Michaels said. "And we put in a little wood-burning stove that we hauled down from Minnesota. Last year we ran



The wood stove will make the shed usable in all seasons.

into some water issues. There have always been issues with trying to get the darn thing finished. We've been working on it about eight years. But we've been working on the house, too, so this doesn't get the time."

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As Suzanne and Troy Michaels worked on their shed, they encountered various obstacles. Here repair was needed after a tree limb damaged the roof.

Since the couple wants the shed to be for more than just storage, Michaels has been selective about the appearance and color scheme.

“My brother came and did the ceiling a year or two ago, and he insulated it. And the doors came from a salvage place in Des Moines. I took them all the way down to the wood and then painted them,” she said. “I think we’re going to put in workbench areas so we have room to work on things. My husband makes bows, so he can do some of that out here.”

Another expected use for the shed relates to the couple’s love of gardening and landscaping.

“We’ll probably do a lot of plant potting out here,” Michaels said. “And we’re artists.”

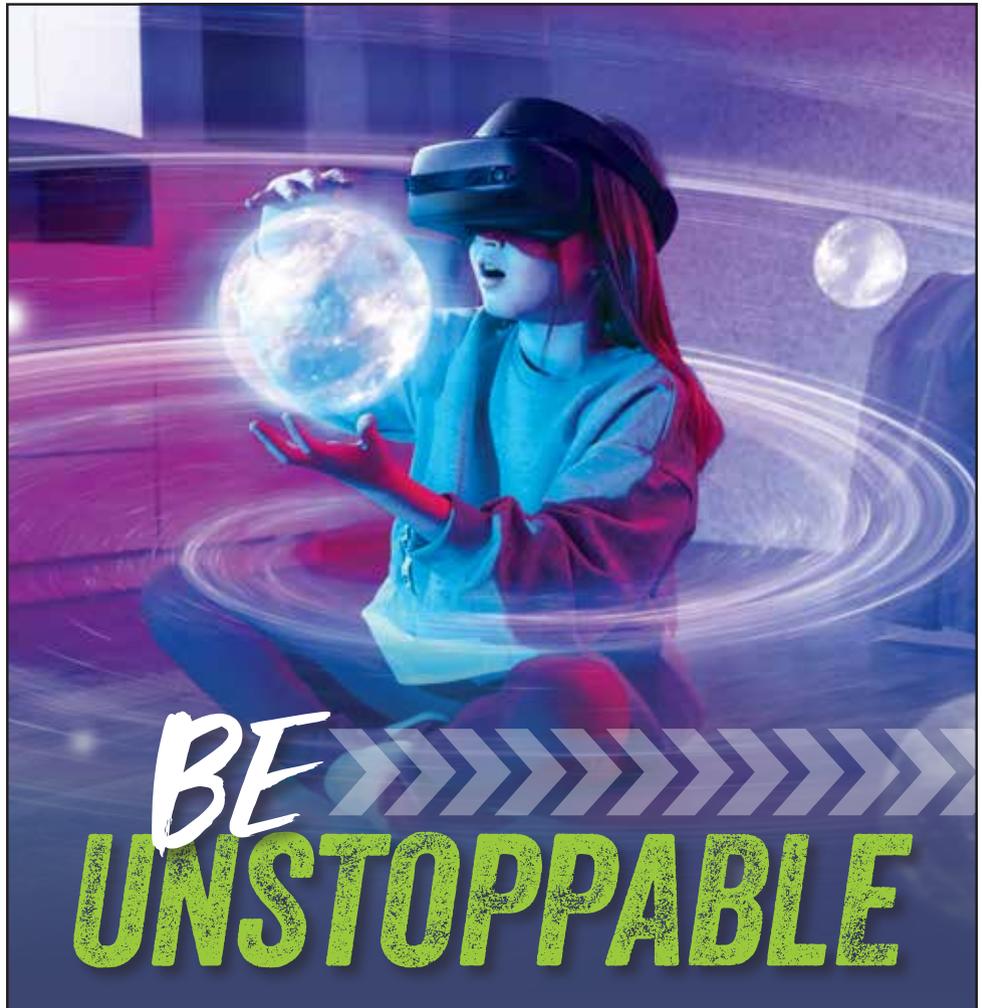
After eight years, the couple would like to get the shed completed, but there is no



Early stages of framing up the shed.

clear timeline.

“It’s close,” Michaels said. “But every time something in the house needs to be done, this becomes a lower priority.” ■



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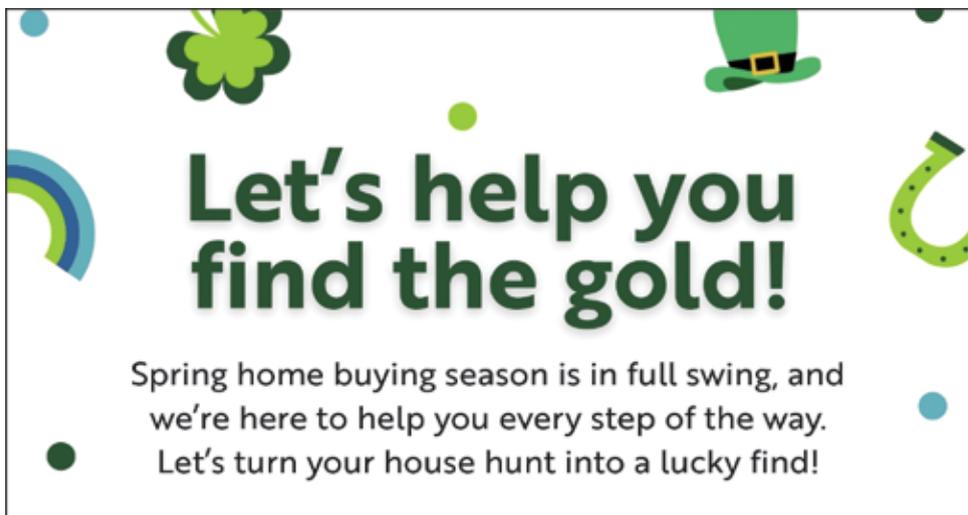
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HEALTH

GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR GCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Guthrie County Hospital held a ceremonial groundbreaking on Wednesday, March 11 for the construction project that is about to begin. Prior to the outdoor groundbreaking, speakers offered remarks to attendees in the Sneakers Café.

Speakers included GCH Foundation/Marketing Director Dennis Flanery, GCH Trustee Mike Underwood, Guthrie County Supervisor Steve Smith, GCH CEO Chris Stipe and USDA State Director Mike Sexton.

Flanery noted that he was born in the hospital 64 years ago when the hospital was only 11 years old. He said he is excited to see what the hospital and campus will look like when the project is completed.

Stipe said the project is expected to take 2.5 years, and he asked for the community's patience throughout the process. ■

BUSINESS

NEW OWNERSHIP SOUGHT FOR PIONEERS PUB & GRUB IN CASEY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Colleen Conrad isn't just selling a restaurant — she is passing on a piece of Casey's history. The owner of Pioneers Pub & Grub, 618 McPherson St. in Casey, is looking for a new buyer but promises the pub will stay open for diners and community events until the right person comes along.

For Conrad, the restaurant was never the main goal. Through her company, Conrad Ventures, she has spent the past decade reviving Casey's historic buildings, turning neglected spaces into thriving homes and businesses. From restoring the Heritage Building — now apartments and shops like Revel Spa — to helping launch and ultimately

sell Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar, her work has reshaped the town's landscape. The three buildings that house Pioneers Pub & Grub are the next step in that vision.

Even as she steps back from daily restaurant life, Conrad plans to remain deeply involved in Casey. She says she is committed to historic preservation, affordable housing and community programs supporting families in need. Her hope is to find a buyer who shares her love for the town and its heritage, ensuring that Pioneers Pub & Grub remains not just a business, but a vibrant part of Casey's story.

Those interested can contact Conrad at conradisugal96@gmail.com or 515-491-2772. ■

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Q: WHY IS THERE SUCH A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN GAS PRICES IN PANORA AND GUTHRIE CENTER? THE WEEK OF FEB. 22-28, GAS WAS \$2.79 PER GALLON FOR UNLEADED AT CASEY'S IN PANORA. THE PRICE AT CASEY'S IN GUTHRIE CENTER WAS \$2.59 PER GALLON. ACROSS THE STREET AT SPARKY'S, THE PRICE WAS \$2.39 PER GALLON. BUT NOW, WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS, THE PRICE ON MARCH 3 IS \$2.99 PER GALLON AT ALL THREE STATIONS.

A: We are told that there are several factors. A big one is the wholesale cost of fuel and when a station places its order. One station may order fuel on Tuesday and a station from the same chain may order on Friday. If the price is higher, they will pass that cost on. Stations that sell more fuel may also be able to get better wholesale prices. Demand is yet another factor. Gas at a station near a major highway or interstate is also likely higher than one a few miles down the road. Even the cost of marketing or the real estate where the station is located can impact the prices, and they are going to be set at whatever makes the most sense for that individual station.

Q: HOW MANY CANS OF SOUP WERE COLLECTED FOR THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES ANNUAL "SOUPER BOWL" PROGRAM?

A: Guthrie County Outreach Coordinator Rhonda Huggins at New Opportunities told us the annual "Souper Bowl" program, which ran Jan. 20 through Feb. 11, collected a total of 848 cans of soup. Guthrie County State Bank matched donations can for can.

"We so appreciate this event and look forward to it every year. The donations help us to stock up the pantry for our clients," Hug-

gins said. "Thank you so much to everyone involved."

Q: IS THE BURN BAN STILL IN EFFECT?

A: As of 10 a.m. on March 6, Guthrie County and Adair County are no longer under an open burn ban. To see the updated status of burn bans or other important notices from the Adair and Guthrie County Emergency Management Agency, visit <https://iowa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/c22956334fd8435080ed-851f549c5263>.



Q: I HEARD THAT WITH ALL THE CONSTRUCTION GOING ON, ACCESS TO THE HOSPITAL HAS CHANGED. HOW SO?

A: Guthrie County Hospital is implementing temporary access changes for patients while the new construction progresses. All patients visiting the GCH Specialty Clinic should use the entrance located just south of the ambulance bay. Parking for GCH Specialty Clinic appointments is located in the lot south of the ambulance bay. Signage is posted to help guide patients to the correct entrance and parking areas. The GCH Clinic - Guthrie Center has temporarily relocated to the trailer south of the hospital. Pediatrics, which is offered on Tuesdays only, has also moved to this temporary location on its clinic day. A newly designated parking lot is available directly adjacent to the trailer, providing access for all GCH Clinic and Pediatric appointments. Patients are encouraged to allow a few extra minutes for parking and navigation during this time. Guthrie County Hospital staff will be available to assist anyone needing direction or support. For questions, contact the hospital's main line at 641-332-2201 or visit www.guthriecountyhospital.org for the latest updates. ■

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DRACULA. MELANIA. ELVIS. STATHAM. AND YET ANOTHER ‘SCREAM’ MOVIE



“Shelter”



“The Testament of Ann Lee”



“Melania”



“Solo Mio”

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

“SHELTER”

While Jason Statham is not anywhere close to obtaining an Oscar nomination, most of his films are action heavy with less depth to the stories than most major releases. “Shelter” is an exception to that rule. In this movie, he plays a man in hiding, living off of the coast of some wonderful ocean. One day he witnesses a boat collapse, and he goes out and manages to save a young woman from a sure drowning. This rescue brings him to the attention of the bad guys who have been trying to find where he has been hiding. The rest of the movie is him going to great lengths to avoid these bad guys and make sure that they don’t get either him or this young woman killed. “Shelter” is an above-average Jason Statham film, and it is entertaining, which is, quite frankly, a little surprising. **Grade: A**



“THE TESTAMENT OF ANN LEE”

This is one of the year’s strangest movies. The movie stars Amanda Seyfried, who has been in a lot of good movies this year, and it tells us a true story about a woman who became the leader of the Shaker Movement. This religious movement was a spin-off from the Quakers with each having some unique rules for their congregations. I believe the Shaker Movement to be long gone, but they are still known for unique, high-quality wooden furniture. This is an interesting look at an odd splinter religion. Sey-



fried gives a brave performance as one of its early leaders. **Grade: B+**

“MELANIA”

This month’s other oddity is “Melania,” which gives us a well-scrubbed look at our current first lady — a former model who may or may not have found her husband, and our current president, at a Jeffrey Epstein party. According to this film, she could be one of the best first ladies. I would much rather have seen a movie that gives us a less-than-sanitized look at the woman. Her full story has to be more interesting than this movie. **Grade: C**



“SOLO MIO”

One of the year’s biggest surprises for me is “Solo Mio,” a Kevin James vehicle about a man preparing to marry his fiancée in Rome. No secret here; she leaves him standing on the altar and devastated. Since the trip and honeymoon were both prepaid, he stays and goes it alone. That changes when he meets a new woman. This is not your typical, silly, slapstick, Kevin James film. This man is hurting, and this woman is filling a void for him, and we just go right along with it all. It turns into a charming film and a real crowd pleaser. **Grade: B+**



“DRACULA”

How many Dracula movies have been made? Siri tells me it is more than 170. I am not sure if that includes this new film, which goes deeper into the story and gives us a different angle — a love story. The angle is unique and has moments,

but the movie runs out of gas about three quarters in, and that’s where the silly and misplaced special effects take over. It is also when I mentally checked out. **Grade: C**



“SEND HELP”

Horror director Sam Raimi gives us an almost unrecognizable Rachel McAdams as a nerdy assistant to a new boss (Dylan O’Brien) in “Send Help.” After being reluctantly added to a team business (golf) trip, she and the team are all but wiped out in a mid-air collision. Her boss is incapacitated, so she works to keep him alive and nurses him back to health. Without giving anything away, at this point, the film flips the table on the audience. This plot device left me shaking my head and asking, “Why”? **Grade: C**



“WUTHERING HEIGHTS”

I grew up looking at the spine of this book in our living room bookcase, never reading it or even asking what it was about. So, here’s what I discovered: It is about a beautiful young woman and her husband whose lives are interrupted by another man who takes a serious interest in the man’s wife. This threesome is played well by three beautiful people. IMDB shows at least 20 adaptations of this literary classic. Not sure how I missed those? This adaptation has a strong cast with Margot Robbie and her suitor played by Jacob Elordi. The sex is steamy and kinky at times as



these two men continue to woo this possibly insatiable young woman. The movie is well-made, well-cast and well-acted but falls flat when everyone has their clothes on. **Grade: B**

“GOAT”

This is an animated movie about a team of animals playing in a championship basketball game, but they have added a new player. This one is a goat, playing off of the nickname “greatest of all-time” (the GOAT). The animation is wild and crazy, and the characters are all well drawn in an over-the-top animated style, but the story is soft. Most young audiences are not going to know or care, but the adults do. For the inevitable sequel, the writers should spend a little more time on the story. **Grade: C**



“CRIME 101”

Every once in a while, you see a movie that you know nothing about, and it blows you away. “Crime 101” is one of those. I knew nothing about the film, other than it had a strong cast. Chris Hemsworth plays a thief angling for his last big score. Halle Berry is an insurance exec slowly falling off the corporate ladder. Barry Keoghan is an assassin on the hunt for his next target. And the always reliable Mark Ruffalo is a cop growing more disillusioned by the day. This will be on my (next) year’s “Best Of” list. **Grade: A**



“EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT”

This is another of those films that



"Dracula"



"Send Help"



"Wuthering Heights"



"GOAT"

will blow you away. I was between high school and college delivering high-end office furniture in Sioux City the summer Elvis died. His death was announced on the radio as we parked the truck for the day. We just sat there in silence. I thought about that day as I watched Bas Luhrmann's new Elvis concert film. It is an amazing movie and shows us a performer at the top of his fame and the top of his game. This film provided one of the most fun experiences I have had this year. **Grade: A**



"Crime 101"

series... "Scream 7." I found "Scream 6" mildly entertaining, but I took one step too many in watching "Scream 7." Sue tapped out quickly so I braved it alone, and the movie started out



"EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert"

well. Sometimes, it is amazing how quickly a movie can take a dive, but this one was really quick. It has a dumb plot, too many jump scares and acting at the level of, well, any of the second through fifth "Scream" movies. **Grade: D**



"Scream 7"

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 WEBSITE, BAGLEY LIBRARY CLOSURE, FIRST RESPONDERS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

FEB. 17 - COUNTY WEBSITE ALLOWS BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met in regular session Feb. 17. No citizens addressed the supervisors during the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

County Treasurer Brenda Campbell provided a departmental update and semi-annual report.

The supervisors held a budget workshop discussion. Anticipated funds balances and expected revenues versus expenses were noted.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong pointed out that the county's new website has been in use for a year now. She noted that the Board of Supervisors' meeting schedule and

agendas are publicly posted on the website, and she suggested that other departments that hold public meetings could post their calendars on the county website before meetings as well.

"It gives an opportunity as we constantly talk about wanting to be more transparent to the public," Armstrong said. She said she will contact all department heads with this request.

FEB. 24 - SUPERVISORS LEARN ABOUT PLANS TO CLOSE BAGLEY LIBRARY

County Auditor Dani Fink shared information she learned regarding the Bagley Public Library.

"I had a member of the Bagley Library reach out to me this morning and she okayed for me to share this with you guys," Fink said. "She said that the city of Bagley has deemed the library building unsafe, changed

the lock on the door, and at their noon meeting tomorrow will allow them to go in and remove any of their personal items, turn in any keys, and will take over any business the library needs to conduct and will start selling off the contents of the library at their discretion."

Fink added that library staff asked to meet with Supervisor Brian Johnson and herself.

"Dani, they have a meeting at 5 o'clock tomorrow night. I'm going to go to that," Supervisor Brian Johnson said. "They say the foundation is bad on the building, and it's unsafe to go into. I can't think of another place to go. I think it's incredibly sad."

In other news, a bid opening was held regarding Project LFM-P28(2)-7X-39, which is the Wagon Road project between Panorama and Stuart. County Engineer Josh Sebern opened and read the bid amounts. The seven bids ranged from approximately \$6

million to \$7.5 million.

"We will take these documents, compile all the information and propose award of contract next week," Sebern said.

"I'm glad to see that many bids come in and are very comparable," Supervisor JD Kuster said.

The supervisors heard an update on improvement and repair projects at the county fairgrounds and the fiscal year 2027 funding request.

The supervisors also held a budget workshop discussion.

MARCH 3 - SET HEARING ON TAX LEVY

The Supervisors set a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Property Tax Levy for March 24 at 9 a.m.

The supervisors held two public hearings regarding portions of "Casey Road" (350th Street) east of Stuart. The county proposes to

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change a portion of the road to Service Level B and to vacate a portion of Casey Road/350th Street. No citizens voiced concerns during either public hearing.

The supervisors voted to approve the service level change and road vacation as proposed.

The supervisors awarded contracts for the planned P28 Wagon Road Rehabilitation project and bridge replacement.

A budget workshop discussion was held to consider various portions of the upcoming year's budget.

MARCH 10 - UPDATE ON FIRST RESPONDERS

Public Health Director Jotham Arber provided an update on Guthrie County First Responders.

"We have First Responders now in our northern parts. We have Bayard now responding fully; we have four responders in Bayard. We have two in Bagley, we have two in Jamaica, and there are four in Yale," Arber said.

Arber also provided an update on First Responder classes ongoing.

"We're doing that in Adair and in Bayard. We meet on Monday and Wednesday nights in Bayard, and

then they're meeting on Monday in Adair," Arber said. "As of February, our students had the highest grade point average and the highest pass percentage, so kudos to them."

Arber shared that these efforts are helping to decrease response times for those in need of medical assistance.

"The goal is to help the ambulances, and I think we're seeing that," he said. "Our ambulances are working really well with the First Responders."

Supervisor Steve Smith asked about availability of First Responders in the west central portion of the county, since that is an area with generally longer response times.

"Yes, we have two First Responders that are west of and in what I would call the dead zone. So they would be able to respond directly to patients," Arber said.

County Auditor Dani Fink also shared information during the budget workshop session.

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

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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

PHOTOS BY MARK RENO UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



No. 2 Jonny Kading defends the floater against Panorama on Jan. 23.



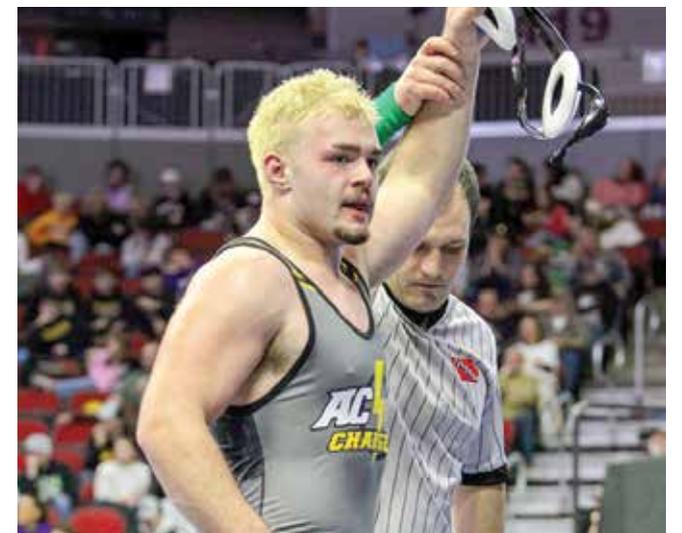
No. 10 Reece Emgarten embraces the Panorama contact on Jan. 23.



No. 1 Thomas Skram looks for a pass against Panorama on Jan. 23.



The ACGC boys wrestling team won the District 2 championship. From left to right: Charlie Christensen (144), Ryder Cline (150), Carter Richter (120) and Lane Stringer (157). Photo courtesy of ACGC wrestling.



ACGC's Carter Richter (215) placed sixth at the 2026 IHSAA State Wrestling Championships.



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- March 28 Guthrie County Extension STEM Fest Bountiful Baskets
- March 31 GCH Auxiliary Baked Potato Bar
- April 10 GCH Foundation Handbags & Bingo Fundraiser
- April 11 Bountiful Baskets
- April 14 Guthrie Center Chamber Meeting

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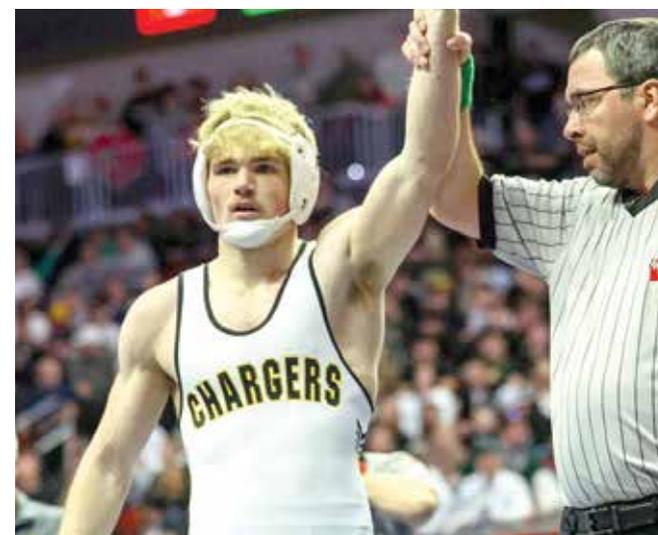
...nship, qualifying six wrestlers for the state tournament in ...arter Richter (215), Jack Sheeder (285), Chase Slaybaugh ...stling.



No. 12 Kailee Kautzky dribbles through the trap during their regional playoff game on Feb. 17.



No. 32 Camdyn Richter puts up a shot during the regional playoff game against Panorama on Feb. 17. ■



ACGC's Ryder Cline (150) placed eighth at the 2026 IHSA State Wrestling Championships.



No. 10 Karli Kautzky drives into the paint against Panorama during their regional playoff game on Feb. 17.

PHOTOS BY MARK PENNINGTON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES UPDATES ON PROPERTY COMPLAINTS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

FEB. 23 - PROPERTY COMPLAINTS

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, Compliance Officer Wes Clark updated the council on the status of complaints about two properties.

"Our ongoing one at 907 Grand St., that we've been getting complaints from the neighbors, I've gotten letters from all the neighbors," Clark said. He added that he is awaiting further instructions from the city attorney.

Clark also shared information on unsanitary conditions at 303 Prairie St. He said the conditions have been a concern for quite some time and have not improved.

"I'm working with the Region 12 inspector now," Clark said.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith said that, during the recent snowstorm, a truck had failed to navigate the curve on Highway 44/State Street near the fire hall and bumped into the corner of the building. She said this has occurred before, and she suggested possibly installing some type of barrier between the street and the fire hall. She also will contact Art on State to see if any insurance covers the large mural on the side of the fire hall in case it would ever be damaged.

The council discussed possibly having another 25 mph sign installed on Oak Street, due to excess speed, especially by vehicles heading west (downhill) toward Highway 25.

Council members voiced sadness at the

passing of longtime Guthrie Center Mayor Denny Kunkle.

MARCH 9 - LACEY BUILDING CLEANUP

Streets Department Chief Darrin Sloss shared information on the cleanup efforts at the long-vacated Lacey building on State Street.

"A little over 50 man-hours were put into it in two days; approximately 10 tons of materials were removed," he said. Sloss added that the process went fairly smoothly.

In other news, Sloss said he will post additional "25 MPH" signage on Oak Street as previously discussed by the council.

The council voted to approve a "general agreement" with Region XII to serve as Housing Inspector for Guthrie Center.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith provided an update on RAGBRAI planning for the July 20 event. She noted that the preliminary plan is for many of the largest groups of riders to stay overnight at the fairgrounds, although smaller groups will likely end up in many other areas. She noted that the largest group (sometimes called a "charter") is a group of approximately 1,500 cyclists, and that charter will bring in about 17 semi-trailers. Arrasmith added that charging cyclists for staying overnight in tents on homeowner lawns and similar areas is not allowed.

A public hearing on the Fiscal Year 26-27 Property Tax Levy is set for March 23 at 6:30 p.m., immediately prior to the regular council meeting on that date. The public is welcome. ■

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BY BETH ROGERS

Special to Guthrie Center Times

We had a wonderful "Take Your Child to the Library Day" on Feb. 7. Casey Public Library and Betterment hosted this event, which gave parents, grandparents and kids a chance to explore our great library and find out all we have to offer. Cookies and lemonade were served by the CPL Betterment Committee, and several of our young patrons helped with crafts and demonstrated a variety of fun activities. The Moreland family won the \$25 in Casey Bucks that was generously donated! We still encourage parents to bring their child in and "check us out!"

KNIT YOUR OWN SOCKS!

We have an instructor offering to teach "Knit your own socks!" in three to four sessions. She will provide a basic pattern, teach "casting on" that is best for the sock, the heel stitch that wears well, the

heel turn (where the heel shapes the beginning of the foot underneath), adding the instep, and shaping the instep. At the end is "shaping the toe" and the Kitchener stitch that closes the toe. If interested in joining, please email caseylib@netins.net.

NEW BOOKS AT CPL

"The Quiet Librarian," by Allen Eskens
"Dear Debbie," by Freida McFadden
"Return of the Spider," by James Paterson

MOVIES

"The Chosen," seasons 1-5, (a historical drama based on the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, set in 1st-century Judea and Galilee)

"Roofman"
"Wicked-For Good"
"Now You See Me-Now You Don't"

"WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?"



Casey Public Library and Betterment hosted "Take Your Child to the Library Day" Feb. 7.

PROGRAM

Mark your calendar for April 11, as John Liepa from Humanities Iowa will give his "Iowa's Ethnic Heritage, or "Who Do You Think We Are?" program at 2 p.m. here at

the library. Refreshments served.

The Casey Public Library is located at 604 McPherson St. in Casey. Phone number is 641-746-2670 and website is www.caseypubliclibrary.weebly.com. ■



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HEALTH

GCH TRUSTEES ACCEPT BID ON STUART REHAB BUILDING PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the Feb. 26 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, the trustees reviewed the seven bids received on the planned upgrade project at the Stuart Rehab building. The lowest bid was \$289,000 from GTG Construction of Des Moines. The trustees voted to accept that bid. The project is expected to be completed by June 8.

The trustees also voted to formally approve the purchase agreement for the Panora clinic and the loans related to that purchase.

CEO Chris Stipe shared the progress on the hospital's new website. He added that the website will include updates on the status of the hospital's construction project as it proceeds.

"Our new website will probably go live a week from today," Stipe said. "It will continue to evolve and grow."

Stipe added that, overall, the hospital is running very well.

"Pretty pleased with all of our organizational goals, our finances, our patient satisfaction, our quality in-

dicators," Stipe said. "We're just in a good place. I kind of pinch myself that all of those things are going so well."

Regarding the hospital construction project, Stipe said the kickoff is coming up soon.

"We're eager to dig in, get the construction fence up and really start getting into the project," he said. "Groundbreaking is March 11, 2 p.m."

Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson summarized results of the annual employment engagement survey.

"Our overall score was a 74. Last year it was a 61, so it came up 13 points, and that is amazing," she said. "It really shows that some of the things we have implemented throughout the last year have really made a difference."

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



Chris Stipe

EDUCATION

ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS SET HEARINGS ON SCHOOL CALENDAR, TAX RATE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the Feb. 23 joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, a public hearing was set for March 18 at 7 p.m., to be held at the high school media center. The hearing will be on the 2026-2027 school calendar.

The boards also set a public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 tax rate. The hearing will be March 25 at 7 p.m. at the Junior High library.

Joe Nichols and Nick Efkamp of Vibes Audio spoke regarding the new sound system to be considered for the high school gym. The Guthrie Center board voted to approve the system as described.

Principal Ed Den Beste noted that junior high students are working hard on the play "The Scene of the Driftless Swifter," which will be performed on March 17 at 6 p.m. He also said a new handicap toilet was installed in the junior high women's restroom.

Guthrie Center Elementary Principal Tandem Eischeid announced that the Presbyterian Church donated a piano to the

elementary school.

High School Principal Cody Matthewson gave kudos to students who participated in the state wrestling and All State Speech recently. He also noted that the senior trip will be March 15-22.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen said he is reviewing candidates and will schedule interviews for head football coach and athletic director positions, as well as high school principal.

"High school principal interviews will take place at the end of the first or second week of March," he said.

The Guthrie Center board approved the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Express 3500 12-passenger van from Bob Brown Chevrolet.

Adair-Casey board member Randy Carney noted that the booster club golf outing is set for June 26, starting at 10 a.m.

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

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MARY J. BARNETT LIBRARY NEWS

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BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

The MJB Library has planned a family-friendly event for “Peep-le” of all ages. On Saturday, March 21, the MJB Library invites patrons to join us from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to build a diorama featuring Peeps marshmallow characters.

The challenge is to construct a shoebox-sized diorama featuring at least one Peep, inspired by a family-friendly book, movie, TV show or creative theme of your choice. Using recycled materials, magazines, paint, pipe cleaners and other craft supplies, teams should bring their Peep-ster-piece to life.

Here are the rules:

1. Diorama must include at least one Peep Marshmallow candy.
2. Entries must be family-friendly.
3. Diorama base must be no larger than a shoebox and must be free-standing.
4. Dioramas must be either constructed at the event on Saturday, March 21, or constructed at home and submitted to the library by close on Friday, March 20.
5. Teamwork is welcome. This is an all-age contest. We encourage families and friends to work together.
6. Entries will be displayed from March 23 to April 2. The winner will be selected on April 1.
7. Please pick up your entry between April 4 and 11. Unclaimed entries will be discarded.

Teams who come to the library on March 21 should bring a shoebox and any other supplies they would like. The library will provide some craft supplies and Peeps for participants to use. Pre-registration is appreciated.

Plans are underway for our summer reading program. This year's theme is Plant a seed, Read! The reading program will take place in June. Registration is now open to sign up for all the fun.

Some highlights that are planned for participants include several programs that are paid for with funds received through Communities 4 Children and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children's neighborhood/Community Network Mini Grants. Those programs include Science Heroes on Monday, June 8; Mesozoic Adventures by Toby Kid Funny Farm on Thursday, June 18; and the Summer Reading Program Prize Party and Mega Foam Cannon by Absolute Science on Friday, June 26.

Community members are invited to join any of the MJB Library's ongoing programs and groups. Weekly adult groups include Cribbage on Monday from 9-11 a.m. and bridge class on Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. On Monday from 4-6 p.m., Craft and Connect meets to work on craft projects and socialize.

For preschool, weekly story hour meets each Friday at 10 a.m. In March, the themes will include spring on March 20 and bunnies on March 27. Join us for a craft and stories.



Participants of the LEGO Mania challenge proudly show off their leprechaun traps. Logan (center) won the prize for best trap, which was a copy of the book “How to Catch a Leprechaun.”

Remember to add the library's monthly events to your calendar as well. On the second Tuesday of each month, the afternoon book club, Between the Covers, meets at 3 p.m. The fourth Tuesday of the month, the Reads Well With Others evening book club meets. On March 24 at 5 p.m., the group will be discussing Sandwich by Catherine Newman. Books for book clubs are available for checkout at the front desk.

Card-making class, which takes place on the third Thursday of each month from 9-11 a.m., will be on March 19. Remember that all materials are provided for a \$5 fee to cover the cost of supplies needed to design one-of-a-kind greeting cards. Also, on the third Thursday at 6 p.m., the cookbook club meets

to sample and discuss recipes from the cookbook chosen for the month. The March cookbook will be “Taste of Home: Pizza, Pasta, and More.” Stop by the library to select a recipe to make and bring to the meeting.

The regular monthly events for youth include Creation Corner, which will be on Wednesday, March 18 at 2 p.m. Registration for the event is appreciated. Youth of all ages are welcome.

To register for events, visit the MJB Library website calendar at www.guthriecenter.lib.ia.us

A reminder that the Friends of the Guthrie Center Library are having a membership drive. Those who pay their \$25 membership dues by March 31 are entered in a drawing for a bag of literary treats valued at \$100. ■



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A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING AT HOMETOWN BASICS

In some ways, the business is like an old-fashioned general store, since it is possible to buy beer, scented candles, toys and clothing all in one place.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Hometown Basics, 624 McPherson St. in Casey, is one of those stores that can be difficult to describe; it's much easier to see for yourself. Owner Stacey Wedemeyer, who also runs the Casey Creamery, shared how Hometown Basics came to be.

"My husband and I actually were interested in buying this building eight years ago, but the owner wasn't ready to sell it. We originally planned for this to become the Casey Creamery. So, we got the other building instead. But then, in 2024, she was ready to sell this building. We didn't know what we were going to put in here, but we decided that we should purchase the building and then figure it out."

The building needed plenty of work before it could open as a retail business, but the couple plunged right in. They also worked to preserve the historic look of the building. Hometown Basics opened in June of 2025.



Stacey Wedemeyer welcomes everyone to check out the store.

"We kept the original brick walls and put a whole new front on the building and new flooring," Wedemeyer said. "The

idea is to have a place for people in or around Casey to come in and get basic things, whether you need an outfit, or a



Casey shirts are a hot item at Hometown Basics.



Women's clothing at Hometown Basics.

gift for someone, pantry items, beer and wine, and we wanted to also be able to showcase other businesses' items, so we

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



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have some vendors in here.”

In some ways, Hometown Basics is like an old-fashioned general store, since it is possible to buy beer, scented candles, toys and clothing all in one place.

“We currently have six vendors,” Wedemeyer said. “The Cozy Scrub Company, Casey Candle Company, Hannah Rae’s Home Goods, Dub P Apparel, Kreative Impressions, and now B & D Designs is our newest vendor.”

Asked about top-selling items, Wedemeyer said that depends on the time of year.

“People stop in a lot for Guthrie County Quality Meats. They don’t have to drive to Guthrie Center,” she said. “During football season, Dub P apparel sells like crazy. People like the Adair-Casey Bombers apparel; I just can’t keep it in stock.”

Wedemeyer is glad for the help of her daughter, Peyton Froehlich, who works parttime in the store and handles the social media and marketing. The store has a Facebook presence, as well as Instagram, TikTok and a website (hometownbasics.com).

Perhaps the best-kept secret at the location is the rental unit above the store.

“We call it the Brick Street Loft. It’s an Air BnB, but we also rent it out privately,” Wedemeyer said. “It’s a newly reno-



The kids’ corner has toys and books for tots.

vated rental loft with two bedrooms, one bathroom, a pull-out couch, full kitchen, washer and dryer, WIFI and smart TVs.”

Because the store is relatively new, Wedemeyer continues to adjust the store hours and offerings to match what her customers want.

“Our standard hours are Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., fluctuating with kids’ appointments and activities, but we always post the hours on Facebook. I think this summer, we might be doing more of a Wednesday



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through Sunday schedule,” she said. “We have some new vendors coming in. We try to keep new things coming in all the time, and we do events, like the Sip & Shop events on Thursdays.”

For a store with such a short history, the building itself has plenty. Wedemeyer enjoys sharing the story of the building.

“A lot of people enjoy coming in and remembering that this building used to be Max and Myrna Whetstone’s grocery store,” she said. “Then, the family that owned this building after the Whet-



Beef sticks and beverages at Hometown Basics.

stones had it still as a grocery store. And their kids — now grown up — came in and they wanted to go in the back room because they remembered where they played. There’s still writing on the walls back there from when they were kids. It’s been painted, but you can still see it.”

Wedemeyer invites everyone to stop in to browse and to make suggestions of items the store could carry.

“We try to keep a little bit of everything. That way, people don’t have to make a trip to Des Moines,” she said. ■

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MAINBUILT

STEPHENS PUT DOWN ROOTS WITH THYME TO GROW

Natalie Stephens of Guthrie Center has had a lifelong love of baking and gardening.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Natalie and Dave Stephens of Guthrie Center are relatively new to town, but the area has grown on them.

"We moved here in 2018. Before that, we were in Yale," Natalie said. "I actually came from Michigan. Dave came from Oklahoma. It's been nice to be back in that small-town feel. I love it."

Stephens explained that after moving to Guthrie Center, she found herself needing a hobby.

"He worked 50 or 60 hours a week, and I was home taking care of the dog, the cats, the grandkids, always staying busy, and I was interested in the farmers market," she said. "I knew that I would love to teach people how to grow their own food. I would love to answer questions. One of my sayings is 'gardeners unite.' So, I named my Facebook page for this 'Thyme to Grow' because it's always time to grow."

Stephens recalls that in 2018, the backyard was just that: a basic backyard. With a lifelong love of baking and gardening, Stephens knew what she needed to do.

"When we bought this place, it was just a grass backyard, maybe a small garden spot. So, we bought a rototiller and tilled up the rest of the grass," she said.

Stephens began growing a garden and baking items to sell at the farmers markets in the area. Early last season, Stephens was offering more baked goods than plants.

"Last year, I went to Panora markets and Guthrie, so every Saturday, we did them, and it was too much. I made some killer monster cookies, with eyeballs and bats. I was selling out of them every week. And I made pecan poppers. They are five-ingredient cookies, and those were selling out, too," she said. "But I got burned-out on all the baking."

Over the past eight seasons, more and more of the Stephens' yard has gradually



Natalie Stephens holds a young plant.

been turned into production of some sort, whether it be berries, tomatoes, herbs or flowers. Although that creates more work, there is a side benefit.

"We're trying to eliminate as much grass mowing and weed whipping as possible," she said.

With that in mind, Stephens is focusing more on the garden produce. Although she doesn't follow all of the strict guidelines to label her items as organic, she knows her produce is close.

"I don't put any artificial sprays on my stuff. If I do spray, it's dish soap and water, and maybe some essential oils, or diatomaceous earth. Nothing that you can't ingest," she said. "I've got perennial fruits; I've got asparagus back there. I have rose bushes. I have lots of stuff that pollinators love. Last year, I grew flower bouquets. I grew zinnias and sunflowers. I've got all these different things."

Another benefit to the couple's large garden is that it attracts many animals.

"I've had butterflies and hummingbirds all over the place," Stephens said.

Because Stephens has developed a green thumb, she often ends up with more fresh produce than she could use. But, that is easily solved, as she gives produce away to friends and neighbors and/or donates extra to New Opportunities.

Besides being a vendor approximately once a month at either the Guthrie Center or Panora farmers markets, Stephens plans to have a small seasonal produce stand on the porch at the couple's house at 803 Prairie St., allowing customers to shop on the honor system. She explained that the setup works especially well during mid- to late-summer when so much fresh produce is ripening every day.

This year, Stephens aims to participate in



A colorful bounty.



Monster cookies are popular.

the Guthrie Center farmers market, but she does not plan to participate in others, at least not on a regular basis. Stephens explained that her baking and gardening is a hobby rather than a business.

"It's seeing people enjoy what you've created. That really makes a difference; I enjoy that. I've been a baker since I was 3 years old. My mom sold wedding cakes, and I was her helper. As soon as I could reach the table, I was making snickerdoodles," Stephens said. "I don't want to do just the baked goods, even though they sell really well. I want to do the produce and flowers and herbs and things like that. I like to grow yellow tomatoes because they're easier on your stomach. And I like to grow lots of varieties of things that you can't find at the store."

For more information, Stephens can be reached at 641-757-2513 or emailed at buzzyrules3000@yahoo.com. ■

YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 17, 1976

NEW ICC OFFICER. George Hemmen, formerly of Polk County, has been assigned fish and game officer for Guthrie and Audubon counties by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

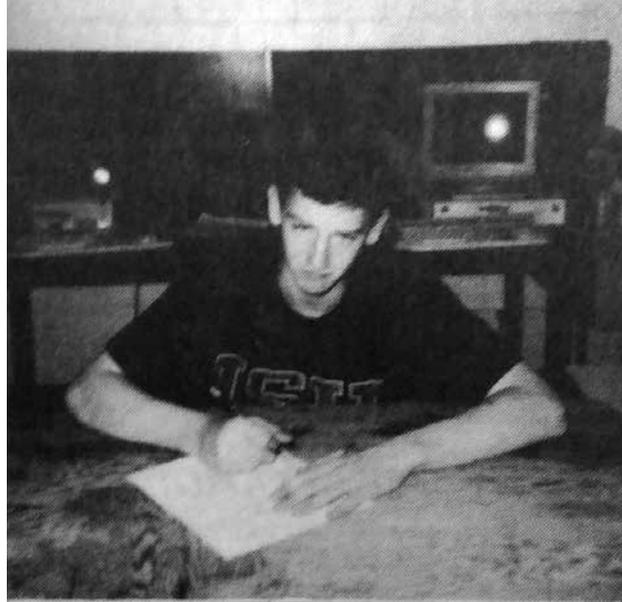
40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 12, 1986

TESTING THE WEATHER. Guthrie Center grade students Billy Donovan (left) and Tim Masters check out the weather Wednesday morning as they wait for their school bus. Wednesday's weather was a mixture of rain and snow as the "Ides of March" take over the weather picture. Temperatures Sunday ranged up to near 70 degrees as area residents lined up at car washes to get rid of the winter grime.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 6, 1996

RISING STAR. Barry Bradford, a sophomore at Guthrie Center High School, had been interviewed along with six other district winners from around the state to receive the Rising Star Award, according to Jim Calvert, FFA adviser.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 15, 2006

HONORED BY ORANGE LODGE. Vicki Friedrich, Coon Rapids-Bayard second grade instructor, was surprised during the CR-B teachers' in-service March 1 with a special presentation. Orange Masonic Lodge in Guthrie Center selected Mrs. Friedrich for its annual Excellence in Education Award. C. W. Thomas of Guthrie Center, right, presented her with a plaque. Mrs. Friedrich has been the driving force behind the CR-B Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Program for 25 years. Special guests at the presentation were her husband, Rich Friedrich, left, and her parents Don and Doris Laughry, all of Guthrie Center.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 30, 2016

ZIPP'S PIZZARIA IN ADAIR WINS STATEWIDE CONTEST. Zipp's Pizzeria, located in Adair, has been owned by Jim and Tammy Zimmerline since 2012.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, Feb. 25, 2021

ALL THAT JAZZ — AND MORE — AT ACGC. There was music and motion last Friday night at ACGC High School as the Swing Choir, Men and Women's Choirs and the Concert Choir were joined by the Jazz Band for some musical entertainment with a performance from the Winter Guard mixed in. Pictured, Isabelle Rouse plays her trumpet solo during a Bruce Pearson arrangement of "Coyote Blues." ■

OBITUARIES

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JEAN BIRELINE

1940-2026

Jean Bireline, age 85 of Adair, died on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at Exira Care Center in Exira. She was born Jean Annette Noland on March 16, 1940, at the Adair Hospital to Charles and Dora (Hall) Noland. She grew up on a farm south of Adair and attended schools in the Adair area and in 1957, was crowned the first ever FFA Sweetheart at the Adair High School. She would marry her high school sweetheart, James (Jim) Bireline on Nov. 23, 1957. Jean and Jim lived on the Bireline family farm in the “little house,” where they farmed in partnership with Jim’s parents for many years. In 1970 they moved to the “big house” where Jim and Jean raised their

family and took over the farming operation. In addition to growing row crops, they fed and finished cattle for decades. Although Jean loved the cattle business, she complained that the feedlot was too close to the house and spent hours “swatting flies” to keep her home pristine as always. She and Jim remained on the family farm until a few years ago when they sold their home in the country to next-generation Birelines — Alex and Emma. The Bireline family farm will be a Heritage family farm in 2027, carrying on its proud family farming tradition.

Jean was a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church until it closed, hosting Sunday noon family meals at her home after church for many years. She is currently a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Adair. Her passion was her family and the farm. She worked alongside Jim in the fields — disking, field-cultivating, chopping hay, driving tractors and grain carts, and combining. Son, Steve, claimed she was “one of the best grain cart operators around.” Later in life, she loved preparing meals and snacks to take to the field during spring planting and fall harvest. The Bireline farmers were

amongst the few who “put on weight” during their busy season because Jean fed them so well.

Jean and Jim were avid Adair-Casey Bombers fans. They attended countless sporting events and other activities — enthusiastically cheering on their children and grandchildren. Jean was the family historian. She compiled every article and picture for every grandchild and lovingly created a scrapbook chronicling their school years, which she gifted to each of them at high school graduation.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, James Bireline; parents, Charles and Dora Noland; parents-in-law, Art and Emma Bireline; brother, Rex Noland; sisters-in-law, Connie Noland and Marilyn Chesnut; brothers-in-law, Neil Lundy and Ray Chesnut; niece, Melodie Rubel; great-nephew, Aaron Rubel; and great-niece, Stacey Carney.

She is survived by her sister, Sandra Lundy; children, Steve Bireline and wife, Tammy, Linda Mackrill and husband, Kurk, and Lori Westergaard, all of Adair; grandchildren, Wes and Jenny Mackrill of Waukee, Jason Huss and Amanda Bireline of Casey, Tracy Mackrill, Marcus

and Stef (Bireline) Fagan, Chris and Tessa Bireline, Andrew and Rebecca Mackrill, all of Adair; Brett and Taylor Westergaard of Casey, Alex and Emma Bireline of Adair, Brett and Brenna (Westergaard) Trecker of Roselle, and Connor Westergaard of Ankeny. She is also survived by great-grandchildren, Cydney Shriver and husband, Eric, of Harlan; Saige Huss and fiancée, Dustin Engel, of Avoca; Hauper and Sayer Bireline-Huss of Casey; Monroe, Nixon and Lettie Fagan, Reu and Beau Bireline, Banks and Benson Bireline, all of Adair, Blaire Trecker of Roselle and Hank Westergaard of Casey; great-great-grandchildren, Ezra and Enzo Shriver and Reini Engel; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Jean was about to welcome two more great-grandchildren into the Bireline fold.

Memorial services were held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, at Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Adair with burial following at St. John’s Lutheran Cemetery north Adar. Visitation was held on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m. at the Schmidt Family Funeral Home in Adair with the family present.

Memorials can be made in her name and will be designated at a later date and can be left or mailed to the Schmidt Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 523, Atlantic, IA 50022. ■



DENNIS R. KUNKLE

1951-2026

Dennis Forest Kunkle, aged 74, was the son of Forest and Beverly (Sloss) Kunkle. He was born on Aug. 16, 1951, in Iowa and passed away Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center in Des Moines.

Denny graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1969, then earned his degree at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. On Aug. 22, 1970, he married his high school sweetheart, Pam Priestley, at the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center. The couple lived in Maryville while Dennis attended school, and, after graduating, they returned to Guthrie Center. Dennis and his father ran Central Motors, a car dealership in Guthrie Center. When the dealership closed, Dennis worked at NAPA in Guthrie Center before joining Guthrie County State Bank as a computer technician, where he remained until his retirement in 2016.

During his younger days,

Dennis enjoyed golfing and won a few tournaments at the Panorama Golf Course during its early years before it had a clubhouse. He also served as Mayor of Guthrie Center for an impressive 36 years, from 1983 to 2019. Dennis cherished Guthrie Center and always maintained his youthful enthusiasm for driving around its streets to see what was happening.

Dennis was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center and spent many years volunteering with the Guthrie Center Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife, Pam Kunkle of Guthrie Center; his sons, Matthew (Kari) Kunkle of Corinth, Texas, and Mark Kunkle of Guthrie Center; four grandchildren, Zachary, Jake, Elizabeth and Austin; his brother, Doug (Vicki) Kunkle of Wichita Falls, Texas; and his sister, Debra (Joel) Hade of Indianola. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Dennis was cremated, and memorial services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, at the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center. Visitation was from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, at Twigg Funeral Home in Guthrie Center. His remains will be privately buried at Union Cemetery in Guthrie Center.

Memorial donations may be made to the Guthrie Center Christmas Lights fund, in care of Guthrie County State Bank — a beloved project Denny started with his city team more than three decades ago. ■



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OBITUARY

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MONA JEAN (MCLUEN) SELLMAN

1928-2026

Mona Jean (McLuen) Sellman was born on Dec. 11, 1928, to John and Bessie (Dupuy) McLuen in Dale City, Guthrie County Iowa. She passed away on Feb. 17, 2026, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

Mona grew up in the Dale City area until they moved to Guthrie Center once her dad became the first manager of the Guthrie REC. She attended Guthrie Center

schools and graduated in 1946. Family enjoyed hearing stories of her years in school and playing girls 6-on-6 basketball. Her senior year, they played at the State Tournament at the Drake Field House and ended up fourth in the tournament. The story was also told that she had a suitor who came to all of her games that had fallen in love with her.

She married that suitor, Ronald Sellman, on April 4, 1947, in the Kansas City area. To this union, three children were born. Mona and Ronnie lived in a few other places in the state but ended up most of their lives in Guthrie County, Iowa. Mona and Ronnie enjoyed planting big gardens so they could freeze food for the winter months.

Mona worked many jobs as a farm hand, babysitter and in 1972 she started working as a home health aide. She started with New Opportunities, then Department of Human Services and finally Guthrie County Public Health. When she "retired" in 2004 from

Guthrie County, she continued to work for Fiedler Home health in Scranton for three more years. She loved working with her "old folks" and helping them stay in their home as long as possible. There were many times some of her "old folks" were younger than she was, but she loved them and was so caring.

She spent several years traveling with the Guthrie County State Bank Heritage Club with her traveling buddy, Neva Langgaard. They traveled the United States and shared so many laughs and good times. She enjoyed watching sporting events on TV and in person. She attended many Iowa Hawkeye Football games in Iowa City with friends and family, especially in the years when tickets were inexpensive. She attended her last one in her late 1980s with her three children at the coldest game in Hawkeye current history. Every year, both Mona and her family took the trek to the Iowa State Fair along with family and friends to enjoy all

the fair had to offer along with her famous tailgate lunches.

Mona was a member of the First Christian Church of Guthrie Center and was the financial secretary for the board and helped with many Harvest suppers. She was also a 50-year Eastern Star member of chapters in Guthrie Center and Linden.

She celebrates her life with her children, Nick (Marilyn) Sellman of Stuart, Pam Rumelhart of Guthrie Center, and Jo (Ken) Rasmussen of Guthrie Center; grandchildren, Niel (Veronica) Sellman, Kristine Rogers, Tim (Jen)

Rogers, Catherine Rogers, Joseph Rasmussen, Amanda Rasmussen and partner Brandon Schade, Chelsie Rumelhart, and Ben Sellman and partner Rachel Long; great grandchildren, Ashton (Gary) Blohm, Kaylee Sellman, Kierra Rogers, Kaden Rogers, Kinnick Rogers, Jaylynn Sellman, Coralynn Sellman, Theo Schade and Sam Schade; great-great grandchild, Eli Blake Blohm; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, parents in law, her one and only Ronald, brothers and sisters-in-law Don and Darlene McLuen and

Wayne and Mildred McLuen, and two great grandchildren, Devon and Eli Sellman.

Mona would tell us to not cry for her as she lived a very long life. We should celebrate her life with smiles and memories. At the end of the day, she would offer to pack up some of that food for us, tell us to go and take care of our families and remember her love for us.

Funeral services were Friday, Feb. 20, 2026, at 2 p.m. at The First Christian Church in Guthrie Center with a visitation one hour prior to services. Interment will be at Morrisburg Cemetery in Stuart. ■

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THE COMFORT OF A SAVORY LASAGNA

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

Guthrie Center Times



Jolene Goodman

There are few things in life more comforting than a warm kitchen filled with the savory aroma of lasagna baking in the oven — any time of the year. It is the kind of smell that draws everyone in, pulling family members from each corner of the house to ask, “Is it ready yet?”

This hearty lasagna has become a true family favorite in our home. With rich layers of seasoned meat, creamy ricotta, tender pasta and plenty of melted cheese (I suggest adding more than what this recipe calls for), it is the ultimate comfort food. Lasagna is more than just dinner — it is a tradition. This dish has even been selected as our dinner for Christmas and Thanksgiving many years, as it truly is a treasured recipe — and the leftovers taste even better the next day. This recipe represents the simple joy in sharing something homemade and delicious with the people you love. I need to warn you, though, the sauce takes some time to cook, but it is well worth the wait. Enjoy! ■

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

LASAGNA

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground hamburger
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley, divided
- 1 28-ounce can whole tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 1 14.5-ounce can Italian-styled stewed tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 1 six-ounce tomato paste
- 1 eight-ounce can tomato sauce
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- Water to boil noodles
- 12 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 1 large egg white, beaten
- 2 cups cottage cheese
- ½ cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 15-ounce carton fat-free ricotta
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese



Directions:

- Brown hamburger and drain grease. Set aside. In the same pan, coat with cooking spray, sauté onion and garlic for 5 minutes. Add beef back in. Add 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped whole tomatoes and next six ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Uncover and simmer for 15 minutes. Set aside.
- Boil water and cook noodles for 12 minutes or until “al dente.” Drain and set aside.
- Preheat oven to 350 F. In another bowl, combine 2 tablespoons parsley, egg white, cottage cheese, parmesan cheese and ricotta cheese.
- Spray a 9-inch by 13-inch pan with cooking spray and spread 1 cup tomato/beef mixture on the bottom of the pan. Place 3 noodles on tomato/beef mixture, top with half of cottage cheese mix; then 2 cups of tomato/beef mixture, and 2/3 cup of mozzarella. Repeat. Place another layer of noodles on top, then spread with remaining tomato/beef mixture.
- Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 1 hour. Then, sprinkle with 2/3 cup of provolone and bake uncovered for another 10 minutes. Take out of oven and let rest for 10 minutes.

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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is the cowboy silhouette at the Guthrie Livestock Pavillion in Guthrie Center. Danielle McNeill was the first person with the correct answer. Have a guess on where this month's photographed image is at? Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com. ■



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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
Our messages:
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
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www.idwlcms.org/congregation.php?id=29



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

GUTHRIE CENTER

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641-332-2408

First Christian Church
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