

Guthrie Center TIMES

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APRIL 2026

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SHOPPING, BROWSING AND SOCIALIZING

**LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS
ARE GEARING UP**

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**PIONEERS PUB & GRUB
OWNERS ARE READY TO
HAND OFF THE REINS**

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**FOURTH ANNUAL RED,
WHITE AND BLUE CRUISE IS
SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 16**

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**SAUSAGE AND CHEESE
BREAKFAST BAKE IS EASY,
FILLING AND PRACTICAL**

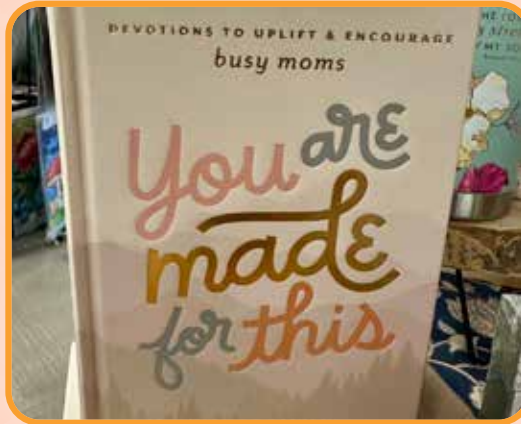
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- Mr. Rogers

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7:00 p.m. Senior Awards Night

Sunday, May 17

1:00 p.m. Commencement

AGCG High School Gymnasium

Class Colors: Black & Yellow **Class Song:** "Where'd All The Time Go" Dr. Dog **Class Flower:** Zennia

Front Row (L-R): Brexton Schneider, Thomas Skram, Xander Harwood, Angel Martinez, Oliver Wetzel, Lucy Knutter

2nd Row (L-R): Collin Stringham, Savannah Akers, Elizabeth Drake, Leaya Klemish, Shelby Gustin, Karlie Kautzky, Jacie Baker, Chelsea Kopaska

3rd Row (L-R): Allie De Witt, Irelyn Wirt, Becca Littler, Caydence Boals, Camdyn Richer, Jack Sheeder, Chase Slaybaugh, Ava Sneller

Back Row (L-R): Tanner Downing, Kade Sorensen, Blaize Dorsey, Max Trujillo-Garcia, Rohnin Grasty, Carter Dinkla, Charlie Christensen, Alex Doherty, Joe Crawford, Carter Richter

Not Pictured: Bryan Beer, Finn Billheimer, Luke Brincks, Natalie Inman, Kaylee Oberholtz, Hayden Rasmussen, Nicholas Stevens, Brennan Tunink, Eli VanUnen

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ON THE COVER: Teresa Kent has her hands full with purchases at last year's Guthrie Center Farmers Market. Photo by Shane Goodman



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A FRESH TAKE ON FARMERS MARKETS

For years, I dismissed farmers markets as little more than roadside produce stands — tables of fruits and vegetables, nothing more. I didn't cook. I didn't grocery shop. I didn't care.

Then, a few years ago, I wandered into a local farmers market, and my view changed. There was honey, still sweet from the hive. Bread, warm and crusty. Homemade jelly. Even wine. But the real surprise wasn't what was for sale. It was the atmosphere.

Farmers markets are not just about food. They are about people. Music drifts through the aisles. Vendors chat with regulars. Shoppers linger instead

of rushing. It is part market, part gathering — and entirely its own experience.

At its heart, a farmers market is a place where producers sell directly to consumers. But "farmer" is a broad label, and that is the point. Alongside fresh produce, you will find plants, baked goods, prepared foods and more.

Some markets are small and unassuming. Others — like the one in down-



Shane Goodman

town Des Moines — take over entire city blocks.

They are not permanent. They don't last all year. And that's exactly why they matter. Much like the Shamrock Shake I seem to seek out each spring, their short season makes them something to look forward to.

Farmers markets have been around for centuries, long before modern grocery stores reshaped how we shop. But in recent decades, demand for fresh, local food has brought them back.

And for the grammar-minded: It is "farmers market," not farmer's or farmers'. The Associated Press keeps it clean

— no possessive — so we do, too.

In this month's cover story, we take you inside some of the farmers markets of Guthrie County and introduce you to the people who make them worth the trip. ■

Shane Goodman
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SHOPPING, BROWSING AND SOCIALIZING

Local farmers markets begin in June.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

There is something special about locally grown fresh produce, homemade baked goods and art or craft items created by someone you know. That is part of the appeal of local farmers markets, which allow local vendors to sell directly to local buyers.

If a customer has questions about a particular product, those questions can be asked on the spot. Do these plants need direct sunlight? Are these tomatoes organic? Could you make one in Cy-clones' colors for next month?

Farmers markets also bring the opportunity for give and take between the buyer and seller. Whereas mainstream stores have fixed prices, it is common at a farmers market to hear conversations such as, "I'd rather sell it than pack it back up at the end of the day. Make me an offer."

And, perhaps best of all, farmers markets let the shopper browse and socialize in the fresh air on a (hopefully) beautiful sunny day.

All of that may help explain why farmers markets continue to pop up throughout the area. Here, some vendors and organizers of local farmers markets share their experiences and explain what makes each local market unique.

ADAIR FARMERS MARKET

Melanie Byers, president of the Adair farmers market, shared her thoughts on ways the group is trying to attract more attention and customers.

"We will have one market focused on America 250 with a Quilt of Valor ceremony, one public safety market with the fire department and police department, one with the FFA group, and others with other school groups. We are working



Ava Davis helps at the Windy Acre Farm table at the Casey farmers market.

with the extension office to set up workshops at a couple of the markets that demonstrate sourdough making, bulb planting and urban farming. We also have live music by Iowa musicians sprinkled throughout."

Byers added that the Adair market's location is ideal.

"Our location at the Adair City Park offers plenty of shade, 20- and 30-amp camper outlets and 110 outlets. We have a shelter with picnic tables, plenty of parking, a huge playground, bathrooms and a basketball court," she said. "At-

tendees often bring chairs to sit and hang out on the lawn to eat, and the kids come and play while their parents shop."

Byers pointed out that the market aims to benefit the entire community.

"Here in Adair, we have had a farmers market for the past two years, so we are still in our infancy. We wanted to find a day of the week and time of year that wouldn't compete with other nearby markets, since we also like to promote those. We regularly have about 18 to 20 vendors at each market, a local fundraiser offering a meal or a food truck,

and some form of entertainment with face painting, live music, kids' activities and more," Byers said. "Each market will now donate any proceeds from goodwill donations and vendor fees to local organizations, including our volunteer Adair Fire Department, the Boys and Girls Club, and school groups. We will have a special produce and craft market during our town's annual Chuckwagon Days celebration, which will be held at the Adair Fire Department on Saturday, June 20, following our town parade from noon to 4 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Fire De-



Hannah Lemke looks forward to farmers market season.

partment for new equipment needed.”

Byers noted that the market is attempting to join programs that allow customers to use existing food programs, to keep dollars local and meet nutritional needs in the community.

“This year, we are going through the application process to support the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, SNAP and WIC, helping people in need to access fresh food.”

HANNAH RAE'S HOME GOODS

Hannah Lemke of Guthrie Center creates scented products that she sells online and in-person. Last year, she participated in many of the area farmers markets, and she plans to do so again.

“I make soap, dish soap, car fresheners, air fresheners, and I’ve been working on making little counter sprays as well. I do both Guthrie Center and Panora farmers markets,” she said, noting that the markets are an effective way for people to see what is available right in their backyard.

“One of the best parts is just being able to visit with the customers and other vendors,” Lemke said. “In today’s world, where everything is so over-processed, it’s nice to be able to look at a neighbor and ask how something was made or grown. For me, especially since I make some skincare products, people will ask about ingredients or why I use certain ingredients, and if things are safe for children.”

Whereas fresh produce has a short season, Lemke’s products are available year-round. Although the bulk of her business happens online, she estimates



Homemade soaps are popular at Hannah Lemke’s table.

that approximately 25% of her sales happen at farmers markets. Lemke added that, for her business, there is simply no substitute for customers being able to handle her products and sample the various scents available.

Because most farmers markets happen outside, weather can be a friend or a foe. Lemke laughed when recalling a time when a sudden storm created chaos — but also humor — at an event she attended.

“It was storming to beat the band in Panora, so I went over to help another vendor at her table, and I fell right in the mud,” she said. “I was covered.”

WINDY ACRE FARM

Chelsea Bowman of Casey shared her enjoyment in participating in farmers market to sell various home-canned foods. Windy Acre Farm produces pickles, salsa, freezer corn, pickled peppers, pickled eggs, cookies, pizza sauce and “dilly beans” (pickled green beans).

The Windy Acre Farm team consists of Bowman, Kaylan Simmons and Bow-



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Kaylan Simmons shows products at the Casey farmers market.

man's daughter, Ava Davis.

"This is about the third year for us," Bowman said. "We've done the Casey farmers market for a few years, and then last year we got invited to do Adair, too."

Bowman now serves as treasurer for the Adair farmers market. She explained that a recent change in Iowa law covers farmers market vendors. The law, known as "Cottage Law," was passed in July 2022 and allows residents to sell non-hazardous, shelf-stable foods directly to consumers without a license or inspection. Producers can sell from home, online or at markets with no annual sales limit, provided products are properly labeled and prepared in a home kitchen.

Iowa's Cottage Law allows the sale of non-temperature-controlled items (baked goods, jams, jellies, candy, dried herbs, candies and some pickled/canned items) but prohibits items requiring refrigeration (such as meat, poultry, seafood, dairy, custards and cheesecake).

Bowman pointed out that the law requires vendors of food products to label items with key information.

"The cottage law was a big thing," she said, noting ingredients now have to be shown.

"There are food trucks, and there's typically some kind of singer every week. One week it's more pop and another week it's more hip-hop. We're also hoping to have some things that are more kid-friendly, like a face-painter," Bowman said.

Bowman noted that there will be additional events outside of the standard farmers market schedule.

"We did the Chuckwagon Days mar-



Canning in mason jars is a staple of Windy Acre Farm.

ket, and there's a Christmas Extravaganza in December," Bowman said. "That one helps out the Boys and Girls Club and the fire station."

According to Bowman, local farmers markets are gradually enrolling to accept more types of payment. She said that accepting the FMNP (Farmers Market Nutrition Program), WIC and senior bucks makes a big difference.

"Taking WIC and Food Stamps will bring in a lot more people, too," she said. "I think it will be a bigger and better year."

FAITH'S FASHION DESIGNS

Faith Hockenberry, operator at Faith's Fashion Designs in Guthrie Center, plans to again sell some of her apparel at the farmers market in Guthrie Center.

"I enjoy it a lot. We pack things up on Fridays to bring on Saturdays," Faith said.

Because only a small portion of her inventory is able to be at her table during a farmers market, most of Faith's sales come through orders for items to be printed later. With that in mind, she sometimes brings photos of clothing

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Iowa State Extension offers information at the Guthrie Center farmers market.

items and displays them on hangers.

Faith's mother, Patsey, often helps with the events and says Faith has made friendships along the way.

"Faith has done the Guthrie Center farmers market for three or four years. I think one of the important parts of Faith being at the farmers market is the chance to socialize. She really enjoys being able to talk with those who come to the market," Patsey said.

Listed below are the schedules of the various farmers markets in and near Guthrie County.

PANORA

The Panora farmers market will be held regularly every other Saturday, 9 a.m. The first will be June 6, and the final market of the season will be Sept. 26. There will be no farmers market in Panora on Aug. 1 due to Panorama Days. The time and dates of the Panora market will be 9 a.m. to noon on June 6, June 20, July 4, July 18, Aug. 15, Aug. 29, Sept. 12 and Sept. 26. The market is held at the Guthrie County Historical Village, 206 West South St., Panora. Vendors generally offer a variety of fresh produce, baked goods, honey, flowers, plants and handcrafted items.

In addition to the recurring farmers markets, Panora will hold a similar event on April 25. The seventh annual Spring Boutique expects more than 50 vendors at the Veterans Auditorium/Community Center in Panora 9 a.m. to

3 p.m.

GUTHRIE CENTER

The Guthrie Center and Panora farmers markets schedule on an every-other-Saturday rotation so shoppers can browse the offerings at each market on alternating weeks. The Guthrie Center farmers market will be held June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, Aug. 8, Aug. 22, Sept. 5 and Sept. 19. On each date, the event will run 9-11 a.m. on North Fourth St. in downtown Guthrie Center. For more information, email guthriefarmersmarket@gmail.com.

CASEY

The Casey farmers market will operate on select dates this summer. The scheduled dates include June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Aug. 29, Sept. 12 and Sept. 26. More details will be announced as June approaches.

ADAIR

The Adair farmers market will run 4-6 p.m. on Sundays, Aug. 16 through Oct. 11 at the city park, 308 Stuart St. in Adair. For more information, email hello@adairfarmersmarket.com.

STUART

The Stuart farmers market will be held on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. from mid-May through mid-October at the city park. For more information, email elizabethr6@aol.com. ■

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TIMES CARTOON



“Of course it’s all farm-to-table. We just don’t talk about the middle part where it sits in my van for three hours.”

EVENT

LOCALS GATHER TO CELEBRATE GUTHRIE CENTER

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

On the evening of Friday, March 13, the annual Celebrate Guthrie Center event was held at the Guthrie Center Activity Center. Following a meal catered by The Cabbage Rose, attendees heard updates from a variety of local groups and civic organizations, recognized the annual volunteer of the year, and witnessed the big reveal of the Guthrie Center RAGBRAI 2026 theme.

Representatives from organizations in the Guthrie Center community shared updates on Main Street Guthrie Center, Guthrie Center Area Development, Guthrie County Supervisors, ACGC Schools, Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce, Guthrie County Hospital, and the city of Guthrie Center.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Steve Smith. His nomination letter stated: “If something’s happening in town, chances are he’s involved. If you need help, he’s the first to step up. If you’re looking for advice or guidance, he’s always ready to offer it. We could try to list everything he’s a part of, but the list would be far too long — and we’d still miss something important. Whether it’s supporting the community, the school, the church, or simply lending a hand to someone in

need, he shows up. Guthrie Center is stronger because of him, and much of our success is rooted in his steady involvement and leadership. He’s an avid fan — cheering on the Chargers, Chiefs, and Hawk-

eyes — though we all know it was his Cyclone education that helped shape the outstanding man he is today. Most of all, he is one of Guthrie Center’s greatest champions. For all these reasons and more, we are proud to nominate Steve Smith for Volunteer of the Year.”

Smith and Jennifer Policky provided an update on plans for RAGBRAI’s overnight stay in Guthrie Center on July 20. The city expects as many as 35,000 cyclists and other visitors for the event, which will require a major effort to provide food, drink, entertainment and places to sleep or set up tents. The website www.guthriecenterragbrai.com was listed as the hub for all event information.

Policky and Smith also unveiled the city’s theme for the RAGBRAI event, “Where the hill are we?” emphasizing the slope of the city’s streets. ■



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10 SQUARED WOMEN AWARD \$15,000 TO THE GUTHRIE CENTER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

Special to Guthrie Center Times

The 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County began its 10th year by holding its 2026 first quarter meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at St Mary's Catholic Church in Guthrie Center. The group welcomed four new members this quarter.

Presentations were made by Panorama PTO, Little Panther Daycare and Preschool, and the Guthrie Center Firefighter's Association. After hearing all three presentations, the group announced that a total of \$15,000 has been awarded to the Guthrie Center Firefighter's Association. This donation consists of member contributions and several employer matches.

The Guthrie Center Fire Department (GCFD) is a public safety organization responsible for fire suppression, assisting emergency medical services, hazardous materials mitigation and technical rescue operations. The GCFD strives to provide immediate, organized responses to crises, serving as an essential pillar in the community.

This funding from the 10 Squared Women will be used to strengthen their communications. The funds will be used to help purchase new portable radios that will replace outdated ones. These new radios allow the department to greatly improve its communication both within their own department as well as within surrounding departments. They will function on multiple frequencies and wavelengths with more available channels resulting in



Brandon Peterson (GCVF), Brandon Schreiber (GCVF), Bailey Schreiber (10² Women), Rupert Markham (GCVF), Chief Cory Campbell (GCVF), Zane Boblett (GCVF), Kristen Crouthamel (10² Women), Chuck Cleveland (GCVF), Levi Derry (GCVF), Vicki Crannell (10² Women) and Brady Langgaard (GCVF).

clearer communication between multiple departments at one time.

"On behalf of the GCFD, we truly appreciate the support and partnership of the 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County in helping us achieve our mission of safeguarding the community and the volunteer men and women who make up this incredible department. This donation will directly strengthen our department's capacity to respond safely and effectively to emergencies with the updated com-

munications equipment to protect the public and the firefighters. We are sincerely grateful and honored to receive this donation" Brandon Schreiber, president of Guthrie Center Fire Department, said.

The Guthrie Center Fire Department encourages anyone interested in joining the department to reach out to any current member, city hall or their social media page for instructions.

10 Squared Women has now contributed a total of \$445,500 since its incep-

tion in 2017. The group meets quarterly on the fourth Tuesday in February, May, August and November. Members in attendance hear from three organizations drawn at random from a pool of member-nominated organizations and then vote that night on the winning cause.

The group currently has 138 members and approximately 20 organizations nominated. To learn how to get involved, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc> or email 10squaredgc@gmail.com. ■

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TWO KIDS MOVIES. AN ULTRAVIOLENT FILM. AND TALES OF WOE.



"Midwinter Break"



"Hoppers"



"The Bride"



"Reminders of Him"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

Since I reviewed 10 movies last month, I will take it easy on you this month with only a handful of new films opening,

"MIDWINTER BREAK"

(most likely headed to streaming soon)

This is an interesting movie that will pull you in deeper and deeper as the movie methodically unspools. It is a small film with little to no promotion that I can recall. Leslie Manville and Ciaran Hinds play an old couple on a trip to Amsterdam for a weekend away from home. We find that she is not a happy woman but a very strong Catholic with a secret plan. This is a quiet and sad movie about a couple who have maybe fallen out



of love. It is a film that is wonderfully acted with a unique story. **Grade: A-**

"HOPPERS"

(in theaters)

I see fewer kids movies these days, but "Hoppers" pulled me into the theaters with a great teaser trailer. A young girl who is a spunky environmentalist is inspired by a local pond and all of the creatures that live in it. When the community wants to get rid of the pond, she starts a crusade to save it. This is a well-made animated film with a strong and important message. **Grade: A-**



"THE BRIDE"

(in theaters)

In Warner Brothers' latest update of their legendary horror film vault, we get

this update of "The Bride of Frankenstein." The film claims that Mary Shelley wrote "Frankenstein" on a bet, and we all know how much that decision probably repaid her handsomely. Here we see a woman who has also been brought back from the dead, several times. Jessie Buckley, Christian Bale, Annette Bening, Penelope Cruz, Perter Sarsgaard and Jake Gyllenhaal star for Gyllenhaal's sister, Maggie, who wrote and directed the film. It is a dark, crazy and ultra-violent film that has little to offer most moviegoers. **Grade: D**



"REMINDERS OF HIM"

(in theaters)

Romance author Colleen Hoover gives us the story of a young woman who was just released from prison and is walking

home. We quickly understand that something bad has happened and that she literally has no one to help her. Her attempts to find work are met with closed doors, but she finally finds an opportunity at a local coffee shop. From there, her tale of woe unspools. It's an interesting story, and the movie is actually better than it needed to be. **Grade: B+**



"PROJECT HAIL MARY"

(in theaters)

Based on the best-selling book by Andy Weir ("The Martian"), "Project Hail Mary" is the story of a high school science teacher who is pulled away from his day job by the government to help save our planet. Our planet and many others are at risk of dying, and the government needs someone with the skills and intellect to save



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"Project Hail Mary"



"The Pout Pout Fish"

us. The less I tell you, the better off you are, but what I can state is that the story is great, the filmmaking is breathtaking and Ryan Gosling is brilliant in this role. Sue and I saw it in a packed IMAX house, and it was a spectacle for sure. See it and be amazed.

Grade: A-



younger audience than a lot of the recent animated hits. Nick Offerman lends his distinctive voice to the lead role. **Grade: B+**



I'll be back next month with some early summer movies for you. ■

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



"THE POUT POUT FISH"
(in theaters)

My old friend and retired school teacher Kathi Millin told me that this a wonderful story. I took a chance on the movie, and I enjoyed it, but it is definitely targeted to a

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GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS APPROVE \$6 MILLION WAGON ROAD PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

MARCH 17 - CONTRACT FOR P28/WAGON ROAD PROJECT, SIGN REPLACEMENT, ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARIES

During the regular weekly meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, County Engineer Josh Sebern discussed the proposed contract for the P28/Wagon Road Project LFM-P28 (2)-7X-39.

"Today, we have for consideration the contract for the P28 asphalt overlay," Sebern said. "Just as a reminder, the contract amount is \$5,972,000. Henningsen Construction is out of Atlantic."

The supervisors unanimously approved the contract.

Sebern also said the county will receive \$9,900 through the Traffic Safety Improvement Program for sign replacement.

Jotham Arber spoke about a request for the supervisors to consider a financial oversight agreement with Guthrie County First Responders.

"What we're looking for from the county is a partner, an auditor, if you will," Arber said. "We're not asking for any tax dollars."

The supervisors approved the agreement as proposed.

The supervisors discussed Resolution 26-27, a measure adopting fiscal year 2026-27 salaries for elected officials in Guthrie County. Supervisor Brian Johnson voiced his perspective on the matter.

"I'm going to be a no vote on the resolution, and I'll take my own blame for it. Last week, I didn't follow the extent for

which we were voting. I would not have voted for a 5% increase, especially for supervisors," Johnson said. "I just think we're approved by the citizens of this county. It's their money, and I would use the word transparency. So I'll be a no vote today."

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong discussed a mailing sent to property owners explaining the tax levy. Auditor Dani Fink said one page of the mailing listed the incorrect fiscal year, so the county will post a correction on social media and the county website.

The supervisors approved Resolution 26-27, with Johnson voting no.

The supervisors also discussed procedures for when certain county departmental offices may close due to weather or other situations. Each department head can post updates on that department's page on the county website. For more widespread closures, the supervisors will determine closures and communicate the status via the website and Facebook.

MARCH 24 - ANNUAL URBAN RENEWAL REPORT APPROVED

The supervisors approved the annual urban renewal report and the fiscal year 2025 GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) report.

The supervisors discussed setting a public hearing for the fiscal year 2027 county budget. The date of April 21 at 9 a.m. was selected. Auditor Dani Fink asked to wait on officially publishing the notice of that hearing until she has a chance to talk with each department to

be sure no changes are needed. The supervisors agreed to the request.

MARCH 31 - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, NATIONAL CONFERENCE REQUEST

The supervisors heard from County Engineer Josh Sebern regarding planned replacement of the Thompson 71A bridge during their March 31 meeting.

"This would be the bridge over the Middle River, on White Pole Road, east of Casey. The deck on the bridge is quite bad. You wouldn't guess it to drive over it and look at it, but you get underneath, and you notice the salt crystals on the bottom side of the deck, so it's fully penetrated with salt," Sebern said.

"This is something we've been talking about for five or six years, at least," Supervisor Mike Dickson said. Sebern agreed.

"We know it's getting to the point that we have to do something," Sebern said. "So we're going to work on replacing that, using federal dollars. It's scheduled to be replaced in 2027."

Sebern explained that the Department of Transportation (DOT) agreement simply documents that the county agrees to abide by all DOT regulations for the project. Sebern also noted that because of traffic volume, the new bridge will be 40 feet wide.

The supervisors unanimously voted to approve the DOT funding agreement.

Sebern also mentioned his plans to attend a national conference in Dallas, Texas, in April. He said he will submit a written request for approval from the supervisors.

APRIL 7 - INSURANCE RENEWAL, BRIDGE LOAD LIMITATIONS, NOXIOUS WEED LIST

During the April 7 meeting, Jennifer McMillan addressed the supervisors regarding the Iowa Governmental Health Care Program (IGHCP).

"Currently, IGHCP serves 55 entities in Iowa with 13,000 total members," McMillan said. "Overall, your costs have increased, on average, by 4.21% over the years that you've been in IGHCP, so for about 15 years now."

McMillan shared usage data for Guthrie County.

"Guthrie County has performed very well this year, with a 52% loss ratio, with 93 average employees and 260 average covered members," McMillan said.

Supervisor Mike Dickson commented on the improvement reflected in that data.

"That's a huge improvement from where we were just two or three years ago, because we were over 100%," he said. Dickson also noted that the county has a "healthy" fund balance which could be used if claims are increased in a particular year.

The supervisors voted to approve the insurance renewal as presented.

The supervisors set a public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Guthrie County budget. The hearing will be 9 a.m. on April 21.

Veterans Affairs Administrator Beth Watson provided a quarterly report on services provided through her department.

County Engineer Josh Sebern discussed two proposed resolutions that the supervisors then approved (Resolution 26-28: Posting of Bridge Load Limitations; and Resolution 26-29: Posting of Noxious Weed List).

Sebern was asked if there are any concerns with county roadways that will be involved in RAGBRAI's trip through the county in July. Sebern said there are no issues that he is aware of.

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

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ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS DISCUSS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the March 18 joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, curriculum director Karla Mahaffey shared information and survey results regarding the high school class schedule that was newly implemented this school year.

Mahaffey said discussions about the new class schedule began early in the school year and that initial reactions were tempered with the mindset to “give it a little time.”

Mahaffey shared data from recent surveys of teachers and students — specifically sophomores and juniors — about the current class schedule. Teachers were surveyed in February, and students were surveyed in early March. She said freshmen were not included because they had not experienced the previous schedule, and seniors were excluded because they will not be enrolled in future years.

Mahaffey shared preference data, along with notable pros and cons of the current schedule. She noted that the pros and cons were presented as written by survey respondents.

Of the 17 teachers who responded, four (24%) prefer the current class schedule, while 13 (76%) prefer a five-block schedule.

PROS IDENTIFIED BY TEACHERS INCLUDED:

- More time for students to improve

- their grades
- Full-year core classes
- More teacher preparation time

CONS IDENTIFIED BY TEACHERS INCLUDED:

- Mismatched schedules (even days are always behind)
- Lack of content retention
- Mondays are difficult

Of the 85 students who responded, eight (9.4%) prefer the current schedule, while 77 (90.6%) prefer a five-block schedule.

PROS IDENTIFIED BY STUDENTS INCLUDED:

- Longer class periods, especially for labs
- Better preparation for testing
- More opportunity to get to know teachers early in the year

CONS IDENTIFIED BY STUDENTS INCLUDED:

- Less flexibility in class selection
- Managing eight classes
- Lack of content retention

Mahaffey recommended exploring a different high school class schedule for the next school year.

Board member Kris Langgaard said the high school is not seeing the expected improvements in class offerings or test scores.

“Neither one of those things happened, so it doesn’t make any sense,” Langgaard said.

Board member Matt Van Meter said the

focus should be on developing a schedule that best meets the needs of students and teachers, rather than simply reverting to the previous schedule.

“Since we’re making a change, we might as well study it and move to whatever you think is best, not just fall back. We need to be moving to the best option available,” he said.

High School Principal Cody Matthewson shared feedback about a recent threat that resulted in a school lockout. He explained that because the two students identified as the source of the threat were not in the county, the situation was classified as a lockout rather than a lockdown. A lockdown occurs when a threat is present on campus, he said. Matthewson added that widespread reporting of the situation as a lockdown caused additional concern.

“That one word changed everything,” Matthewson said.

Guthrie Center Elementary Principal Tandem Eischeid reported that a small shed at the school was blown away during a recent windstorm.

As part of the consent agenda, the Guthrie Center board approved the resignations of Wade Monthei (custodian/nutrition), Amber Wetzel (teacher/instructional coach), Savana Fuller (assistant softball coach) and Bob Bolton (high school government/history teacher), as well as contract recommendations for Rhys Pate (high school principal) and Taylor Luther (activities director/at-risk).

The Adair-Casey board approved the resignation of Rick Blake (social studies teacher).

Public hearings on the proposed 2026-27 tax rate were set for Wednesday, March 25 at 6 p.m. at the ACGC High School media center and at 7 p.m. at the junior high library, 3384 Indigo Ave., Adair. ■

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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES ILLEGAL PARKING ON OAK STREET

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the March 23 regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, the councilmembers discussed vehicles that have been illegally parked on certain areas of Oak Street.

"I had two complaints about the no parking sign on Oak Street. When you turn off Fifth onto Oak, there is a no parking sign there," Councilmember Carolyn Masters said. Councilmembers noted that Oak Street is especially busy now with heavy equipment traveling to and from the hospital's ongoing construction project.

Mayor Mike Herbert recommended calling the sheriff's department if illegal parking is seen, so the officers can respond to the situation.

In other news, a public hearing was held on the proposed property taxes. No citizens addressed the council, and no

written comments had been received, so the hearing was promptly closed.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith reported that the city received a check from the insurer for the repair needed at the fire hall for damages caused when a vehicle ran into the corner of the building during a winter storm.

Arrasmith also noted the city will receive a \$5,000 grant from the Guthrie County Community Foundation to help purchase playground equipment.

The council set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. on April 13 regarding the city's proposed budget.

The city council meets regularly on the second and fourth Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. The public is welcome. ■



Mike Herbert



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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Guthrie County Hospital is undergoing important construction improvements. For the most up-to-date photos, progress reports, and project details, visit our construction website page anytime. We're updating it regularly so you can follow along every step of the way!

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For more information, scan the QR code or visit guthriecountyhospital.org



HEALTH

GCH REPORTS ON HR AND TRAINING DATA

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the March 26 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson summarized the hiring and personnel status.



Mary Anderson

“We are doing very well in the recruitment area. We are down to four job openings,” Anderson said. “That’s the least number of job openings we’ve had since I started here, so that’s great.”

Chief Nursing Officer Mandy Schiefert reported on positive feedback from patients. Clinical Safety and Quality Coordinator Danielle Lauzon shared data on quality improvement measures.

Schiefert also reported on the hospital’s implementation of practices known as



Mandy Schiefert

Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB). “We are starting the last classes of MOAB,” Schiefert said. “So, hopefully, we’ll have all staff completed with that training by the end of the year.”

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery gave a reminder of upcoming fundraiser events, including the annual Handbags and Bingo event on April 10 and the golf tournament on July 14.

It was noted that hospitals may begin seeing some supply shortages as a result of the war in Iran. UnityPoint Health is recommending that hospitals strive to keep enough supplies to get through if shortages endure.

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

2026 Summer Day Camp

Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost	Date/Time	Camp Theme (Grade Completed)	Cost
June 1 st 9:30am-3:30pm	Springbrook K-3rd	\$20	July 2 nd 9am-12pm	Robot Revolution K-3rd	\$20
June 10 th 9am-3pm	Discover STEM K-3rd <i>Lunch included</i>	\$25	July 9 th 9am-12pm	Spy Camp 4th-8th	\$20
June 11 th 9am-12pm	Art Exploration K-3rd	\$20	July 16 th 9am-1pm	Kids in the Kitchen K-3rd	\$20
June 18 th 9am-3pm	Pen to Pasture 4th-8th <i>Provide own lunch. Happening in Green Co.</i>	\$20	July 23 th 9am-12pm	Summer Fun K-3rd	\$20
June 25 th 9am-12pm	Invent STEM 4th-8th	\$25	July 28 th 9am-12pm	Summer Fun 4th-8th	\$20

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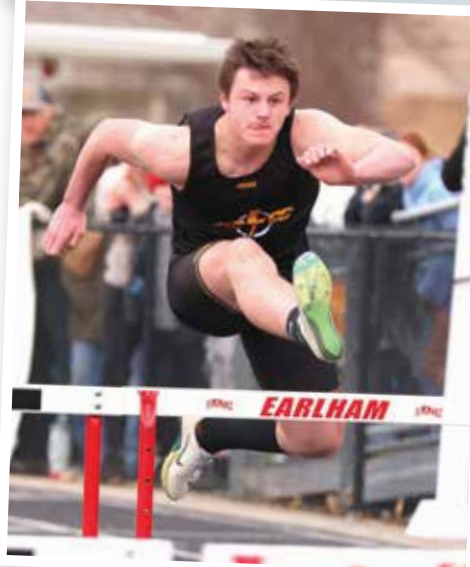
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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

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ACGC SPRING SPORTS TEAMS 2026



BOYS TRACK AND FIELD: Back row: Gavin Steensen, Talon Noland, Aaron Langgaard, Preston Kent, Keegan Gettler, Creighton Suhr, Cayden Akers, Lane Stringer, Carson Lovelace, Hudson Gilland, Andrew Baumert, Reece Emgarten, Brandon Carlson and Ryan Martens. Middle row: Will Skram, Coy Gruber, Brayden McCormick, Morgun Nolte, Nathan Van Effen, Cameron Mazingo, Garrett Lemke, Jonny Kading, Jameson Pfrang, Dayton Crawley, Bryce Benda and Cole Van Meter. Front row: Thomas Skram, Collin Stringham, Angel Martinez, Max Trujilio-Garcia, Kade Sorensen, Brexton Schneider, Joe Crawford, Jack Sheeder, Xander Harwood, Brenna Tunink and Luke Brincks.



BOYS GOLF: Back row: Sayer Bireline-Huss, Preston Kent, Miah Dominguez and Ryan Martens. Front row: Keaton Morris, Easton Gettler, Ryne Noland and Ryder Lane. Not pictured: Cash Suhr.

2026 SPRING SPORTS GUIDE

SCAN TO VIEW A DIGITAL COPY OF OUR SPRING SPORTS GUIDE!



GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD: Top: Meranda Gruber and Nora Langgaard. Middle row: Laurin Davis, Kennedy Reinhart, Tessa Slaybaugh, Lillie Lauzon, Caydence Boals, Savannah Akers, Elizabeth Drake, Chelsea Kopaska, Brynlee Seeck, Megan Underwood and Kiera Boals. Front row: Olivia Mahaffey, Brooklyn Schafer, Blair Brown and Cadence Petersen. Not pictured: Becca Littler.



GIRLS GOLF: Back row: Rylee Robson, Carrie Downing, Alli Wiers and Kahsyn Tearney. Front row: Lucy Knutter, Ava Sneller and Allie DeWitt. ■

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PIONEERS PUB & GRUB OWNERS ARE READY TO HAND OFF THE REINS

Colleen Conrad will continue to remain active in Casey, particularly in historical research and community develop programs.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

The most recent census places the population of Casey at slightly less than 400 residents. Meanwhile, the community sits in a county with a population of approximately 10,000. With those numbers in mind, one might assume there would be little or no downtown businesses in Casey, but that assumption would be wrong. Colleen Conrad is a major reason why.

Conrad grew up in Casey and wanted to do something to rejuvenate the business district. Approximately 10 years ago, she and her husband, Corey, through Conrad Ventures LLC, began buying and renovating buildings in Casey. Conrad said that a favorite quote that relates to her efforts in Casey is, "I can do things you can't do. You can do things I can't do. Together, we can do great things."

Conrad recalled how her efforts in downtown Casey began.

"Years ago, I was trying to find out some things about my hometown, and I came across author Thomas Duncan, and I hadn't realized that he was a famed author in the 1950s, and he was born and raised in Casey. His book back then was a national bestseller," she said. "I was just in awe of him. He went to Harvard and Drake. He worked at The Des Moines Register. And when I was growing up, the library was the Duncan Memorial Library, named after him," she said. "So, I grew up going to that library, but I had no clue who he was, and it made me realize how quickly history can be forgotten."

Conrad then started getting interested in the condition of her hometown community.

"It costs so much to fix these buildings," she said. "There are so many talented amazing people who would love to have a



Pioneers Pub & Grub, located at 618 Mc Pherson St, Casey

business in town, but they can't afford to fix these up, so that was a big goal."

Conrad initially wanted to purchase just the old Mary's Café building, but to get that, she had to purchase a total of six buildings.

"Ironically, that building is the one that hasn't been done yet because it has to be worked on with the city and the sewer system, so it's just been on hold," she said. "Mary's Café has a history going way back to the 1920s. But I think it stopped being Mary's Café about the early 1990s."

Some of the six buildings purchased by the Conrads have opened as businesses, while others are still in the works. Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar is one of the completed projects. The building was renovated, held a grand opening in January of 2024, and

was sold to Ryan and Sara Wahlert in the summer of 2025.

Pioneers Pub & Grub is another business the Conrads have renovated/created, and they are now ready to hand off the reins to someone else. Conrad explained that it was never the goal for the couple to own and operate the businesses long-term but rather to get things rolling and then allow others to take over. She added her intention is to keep the business open during the search for a buyer, however long that may take.

Conrad Ventures also created a pocket park in downtown Casey and is continuing efforts to renovate the corner building known by locals as the onetime location of the aforementioned Mary's Café.

The Conrads are not the only business



Pioneers blends a historic feel with the modern.

owners in Casey who have invested in renovating buildings to operate businesses in the community. Nowadays, Casey supports many downtown businesses. The city offers a variety of shops and services, including choices for health and beauty,

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Colleen Conrad takes pride in the Casey community.

clothing and household needs, food, beverages and tasty treats.

Conrad pointed out that she has no plans to turn her back on the community she cherishes. She plans to remain active in Casey, particularly with her interest in historical research. She also focuses on helping the community develop programs to support area residents in need to help with housing, food insecurity and other challenges.

Looking back over a decade of involvement in helping to rehabilitate Casey's downtown, Conrad recalled a moment that hardened her resolve.

"I remember when I first said I wanted to buy Mary's Café and I said, 'I'm going to make Main Street great,' and this other gentleman just laughed at me. And that's all it took. I was like, 'Just watch me,'" she said.

Conrad also heard rumors early in the process, as some misunderstood what she was doing.

"When I got involved, I was surprised that some people thought I had different intentions. I remember one rumor was that I was going to tear down all the buildings and put up windmills," Conrad said. "Lots of funny stuff."

Conrad is also involved in helping address local issues such as food insecurity and the need for affordable housing.

"Someone told me, 'You know what, Colleen, you're a visionary.' I love that



Renovation of the Pioneers building.

word," she said.

No one need worry that Conrad will be bored when Pioneers is sold. She plans to continue looking into the history of the Casey community and its residents. She also plans to remain involved in the current events of the community.

"I have lots of other goals in my life. I plan to travel when my husband retires. The goal has always been to save these buildings, rehab them and make them functional, and show people, even in other towns, and then pass the torch," Conrad said. "I guess we'll see what the future brings." ■

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SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Thank you to everyone who participat-

ed in our Peeps Diorama Contest. We appreciate everyone who invested their time and creative energy to make the contest a success. Our prize winners in the adult

contest were the Craft and Connect group of Nicki Herbert, Cheryl Knauss and Alicia Pauley; Amber Wetzel won second prize. In the youth category, Everly Copeland placed first with Guinevere Wetzel winning second place and Alaina Copeland in third place. Please stop by to pick up your diorama and your prizes.

Each Friday, the library has a preschool story hour for preschool children of all ages and their caretakers. April story hours themes are moon/outer space on April 17 and Earth Day on April 24. Story hour meets at 10 a.m. to read stories and do a craft project.

Other youth events for the month include LEGO Mania Day at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15 and Creation Corner on Wednesday, April 29 at 2 p.m.; youth of all ages are welcome to attend these events.

Youth may start registering for the MJB Library's Summer Reading Program, which will be during the month of June. Just go to the MJB Library website and click on the Summer Reading Program tab. This summer's theme will be Plant a seed, Read!

In terms of adult programming, the evening book club, Reads Well With Others, will meet on Tuesday, April 28 at 5 p.m. to discuss "Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk" by Kathleen Rooney. The library has copies available for check out for anyone who wishes to participate in the book clubs.

Canasta Class will meet from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, to play Hand, Knee and Foot Canasta. No experience is necessary to join the group.



Cribbage players meet each Monday morning from 9-11 a.m. Bridge class meets each Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. Both groups welcome card players of all skill levels to join them.

Adults looking to join some new groups might be interested in the cardmaking club, which meets the third Thursday of each month and will meet April 16 from 9-11 a.m. Led by Judi Zimmerline, the cardmaking club meets to create, handmade, one-of-a-kind greeting cards. All equipment and materials are supplied for a \$5 fee.

Cookbook Club will also meet on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m. to sample and discuss recipes from the book "Homestyle Kitchen." Those who wish to participate are asked to stop by the library during regular hours to choose a recipe from the book to prepare and bring to cookbook club.

Nation Library Week is April 19-25. The theme is Find your Joy at the Library. In the meantime, stop in and find your joy at the MJB Library. ■

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION



Input Session:

- ▶ April 22, 2026
- ▶ 5:30pm-7:00pm
- ▶ Guthrie Center Activity Center

Questions:
Contact Becky Peterson
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Q: WHY IS STATE STREET IN GUTHRIE CENTER SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS TANK HILL?

A: State Street in Guthrie Center is sometimes referred to as Tank Hill due to the historical presence of a water tank that was located there. This name reflects the significance of the water supply system in the community's development. The water tank was essential for providing water to residents, contributing to the overall development of the area.

Q: WHAT YEAR WAS THE GUTHRIE COUNTY REC FORMED?

A: According to the Guthrie County REC, the cooperative has been bringing electricity to rural Iowa for more than 75 years. In the 1930s, nearly 90% of urban dwellers had electricity compared to only 10% of the rural population. Private utility companies, which supplied electric power to most of the nation's consumers, argued it was too expensive to string electric lines to isolated rural farmers. In 1935, the Rural Electric Administration (REA) was created to bring electricity to rural areas like the remote counties in Iowa. In 1938, nine area farmers represented the first Guthrie County REC Board of Directors. They adopted articles of incorporation, bylaws and policies that have governed the electric cooperative over the years. Then and now, members gather every year for the annual meeting of members, where they have a voice in choosing their cooperative directors and in how Guthrie County REC is governed.

Today, Guthrie County REC serves more than 4,600 members in Adair, Audubon, Cass, Dallas, Greene and Guthrie counties.

Q: IS THERE A WAY TO GET NOTIFICATIONS FOR WHEN WE SHOULD LOWER OUR AMERICAN FLAGS TO HALF-STAFF?

A: Here is one you may want to consider: <https://halfstaff.org>. The volunteers at Halfstaff.org seem to provide accurate and timely information on properly displaying the flag of the United States of America, listed out by state. Their website says, "The United States flag represents all the people of America as does our organization. We do not support any political candidate, nor do we endorse any religious organization. This website was created out of a need. Over the years patriotic Americans have desired to show the proper respect for their American Flags. The problem has been in the inability to obtain timely information on when and how to fly their American flags. We base our notices on the Flag Code of the United States of America."

Q: WHAT YEAR DID GUTHRIE CENTER FIRST GET ITS OWN ZIP CODE OF 50115?

A: The U.S. Postal Service introduced ZIP codes on July 1, 1963. This system was designed to improve the efficiency of mail sorting and delivery. Guthrie Center has had the ZIP code of 50115 since it was assigned by the U.S. Postal Service in 1971. ■

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CRUISING FOR A CAUSE

Fourth annual Red, White and Blue (RWB) Cruise is set for Saturday, May 16.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Some are called ATVs. Some are UTVs. Some are called quads or side-by-sides or offroad vehicles. But whatever they are called, many rural Iowans call them fun to ride. And a group of local riders has found a way to merge that fun with fundraising.

Preparations are underway for the fourth annual Red, White and Blue (RWB) Cruise in Guthrie and Adair counties. The event is held by the Omar B. Shearer American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 124 of Guthrie Center. The cruise is set for Saturday, May 16, departing at 10 a.m.

Auxiliary members (and event organizers) Robyn Van Zee, Amy Brummer and Carrie Dideriksen are not veterans, but they come from families that include veterans. All three also enjoy riding ATVs for fun.

"I ride side-by-sides, but not like these two," Brummer said. "Not as often or traveling out of state like they do. When they first brought this idea to our Auxiliary, it was kind of scary, but everything worked out."

"We've ridden in Nebraska, South Dakota, the Black Hills, Wisconsin, Arkansas twice, Colorado twice, Tennessee, and about a year from now, we're going to Moab, Utah," Van Zee said.

Van Zee explained the timing of the local event.

"We want to have it before Memorial Day, in honor of Memorial Day," she said. "We are the American Legion Auxiliary. Our main focus is to honor the veterans and active service members and serve our community."

When the first cruise was held in 2023, the Auxiliary was unsure how much participation the event would attract, but they were overwhelmed when approximately 250 people participated. The past two years have seen more than 100 riders each year. With that level of participation, and with the generosity of local sponsors, the Auxil-



Amy Brummer, Carrie Dideriksen and Robyn Van Zee hold the 2024 sponsor banner.

ary raises funds to support many worthy causes in the area.

Many of the causes funded through the ride are veteran-related, but others are scholarships and helping citizens in need.

One of the reasons for the success is that participation comes from well outside the local area.

"We've had people come from Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas. They're willing to travel. The weather's just starting to get nice," Van Zee said.

The organizers have tweaked the event over the years based on what riders prefer. They added that the event's success depends on the many local volunteers who make everything run smoothly.

"The first year it seemed like we all went to one stop together. Now we spread it out, for dust control, for one thing," Dideriksen said. Safety is also enhanced by spreading out the riders.

Van Zee said most of the riders enjoy the freedom of choosing a path rather than being told to follow a certain route. After all, the point is to get out in the country to enjoy fresh air and socialize with friends and neighbors.

"And, in an attempt to not bombard the businesses with 150 people all at one time, we've made it so the riders can go wherever they want to go in whatever order they want," Van Zee said.

The three organizers said warming weather seems to be part of the event's success.

"This is the first big event after the winter months," Dideriksen said. "We always kind of compete with graduations and things. It's for anybody and all ages. Our group continues to enjoy doing it."

The cruise welcomes riders on side-by-sides, quads and other vehicles to register and join in the fun. The ride begins at the Guthrie County fairgrounds in Guthrie



ATVs are decorated for the occasion.

Center. Six destinations are participating in the cruise, including Blue Goose Tavern (Adair), Rustic Tap (Fontanelle), Wreckers or Checkers (Fontanelle), Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar (Casey), Casey Creamery



Brent Hall, Cathy Kuster and JD Kuster at the 2024 Red, White and Blue Cruise.

(Casey) and Short's Place (Menlo).

Registration will be 8:30-9:45 a.m. prior to the ride. Cost is \$25 per participant. There will be a poker run option, a 50/50 raffle and other raffles. Door prizes and poker hand prizes will be given at 5 p.m. when riders return to the fairgrounds.

Common stops along the ride are the Freedom Rocks on the route. Van Zee pointed out a very fortunate timing that occurred during a prior year's ride, when riders were able to watch one of the Freedom Rocks being painted.

"We just happened to be going by while artist and Iowa State Representative Ray 'Bubba' Sorensen II was painting it for Memorial Day," Van Zee said.

Camping is available at the fairgrounds for those interested. Questions about the event can be directed to Robyn Van Zee at 402-740-9804 or alapos124@gmail.com. ■



Break time during the RWB Cruise.

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OBITUARY

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TIM LEE

1964-2026

Tim Lee, 61, of rural Coon Rapids, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026, following a valiant six-year battle with a rare form of intestinal cancer.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Coon Rapids with Father Patrick Behm officiating and Jeff Hachmeister serving as lector. Casket bearers will be

Zachary Lee, Braden Foster, Lane Namanny, Pat McAlister, James McGovern and Logan Kellow. Honorary casket bearers will be Ed Ciano, Bob Warnke, John Shannon, Al Heiderscheid and Jeff Hachmeister. Interment will follow at the Coon Rapids Cemetery.

Visitation was held at Annunciation Catholic Church in Coon Rapids from 5-7 p.m. on April 9. Additional visitation was held at the church from 9:30-10:15 a.m. prior to the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Swan Lake Foundation, the Coon Rapids-Bayard School District or Main Street Coon Rapids in Tim's name.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Coon Rapids, and online condolences may be left for the family at www.dahnandwoodhouse.com

Timothy Owen Lee was born Dec. 15, 1964,

in London, England, to Harold and Antonia "Tosh" Lee. Although the family lived in Boston at the time, Tim's birth coincided with his father's work trip abroad. In 1971, the family moved permanently to London, where Tim attended the American School in London. He spent many formative summers in Coon Rapids, where his grandfather, Roswell Garst, had co-founded the Garst & Thomas Hybrid Seed Company.

Tim attended Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts, earning a Bachelor of Arts in history and politics with a minor in English language and literature. It was there he developed a lifelong passion for 16th-century poetry and the works of Shakespeare.

As an adult, Tim returned to his roots in Coon Rapids to build upon his family's legacy. Over the next three decades, he immersed himself in business and agriculture, serving as chairman of the board

of Iowa State Bank in Sac City and managing a large farming operation in Carroll County from 1991 to 2022. In the late 1990s, he teamed up with Al and Barry Heiderscheid to launch TAB Concrete, tackling residential, agricultural and commercial projects for more than a decade.

Tim celebrated a personal milestone in 2021 when he married Paige Huntley. He built a home south of Coon Rapids inspired by Tim's interest in Etruscan architecture, and the couple made their home there. The couple shared a deep commitment to local education; while Tim served as school board president, Paige served as the CRB district's School Business Officer, frequently sitting side-by-side at board meetings.

An avid student of world, political and U.S. Civil War history, Tim also collected rare sports cars, antique firearms and Roman Etruscan glass art. He was a dedicated pool

player, competing in leagues for more than 30 years, and enjoyed bowling and golf in his earlier years.

Tim's leadership extended to numerous organizations, including the Swan Lake Foundation, the Roswell and Elizabeth Garst Foundation, the Coon Rapids Golf Association Board, the Coon Rapids-Bayard Board of Education, and the CRB Education Foundation. He was a life member of Pheasants Forever and the National Rifle Association, and a member of the Iowa Bankers Association.

Tim's philanthropy left a lasting mark on the community. His generosity supported the restoration of the Garst Ponds — the Coon Rapids Golf Course, Swan Lake State Park, and the Riverside Park Trail resurfacing. He was a cornerstone of the CRB Educational Foundation and a champion of the Main Street Coon Rapids initiative, restoring

downtown buildings that now house local staples like the New Hope Bargain Shop, the Post Office, and the Raccoon River Social Club. Lee also partnered with Bryan Spangler on the purchase and subsequent renovation of the Northside Rec building, working hand in hand with the Main Street Coon Rapids organization to reopen the historic Northside Rec business.

The Coon Rapids area has benefited immeasurably from Tim's enthusiasm and leadership; his presence in the community will be impossible to replace.

Survivors include his wife, Paige (Huntley); his sons, Zachary B. (Hanna) Lee of Lake View and Nathan Lee of Ankeny; his sister, Amy Lee of London, England; and many cousins and friends.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Tosh Lee, and his grandparents, Roswell and Elizabeth Garst, and Hugh and Amy Lee. ■

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OBITUARIES

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JAMES H. BOHLENDER
1939-2026

James H. Bohlender, 86, son of Harold and Thelma (Lundstrom) Bohlender, was born April 23, 1939, in Guthrie Center. He passed away peacefully with family by his side on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center.

Jim spent his early years in Guthrie Center until his father purchased a farm near Menlo. Jim attended elementary school there until the family moved to a farm south of Guthrie Center. Jim spent his high school years at Guthrie Center High School where he enjoyed playing basketball and football. He graduated in 1957.

He went to work for the Iowa Highway Commission for three years and then for Hogan Chevrolet as their parts

manager. He married Joan Harris of Panora in April of 1959. To this union, three children were born: Deborah, Cindy and Rod.

On Jan. 1, 1966, Jim and his father formed a partnership in farming. Unfortunately, Harold died four months later. When they were not busy farming, Jim and Harold enjoyed bowling together. Jim was an excellent bowler and had the first perfect game ever at the Guthrie Center bowling alley in 1979. The ball he used is still on display there. Chronic back problems eventually forced Jim to give up his passion for bowling.

Over the years, Jim served on the Guthrie Center Extension Board, was president of the Guthrie Center Bowlers Association and president of the Booster Club.

In 1992, Jim married Lynda (Werner) Schreck. The couple moved to Indianola in 1993 where Jim worked at the Ready Mix Plant, becoming a plant manager in 1994. After 13 years, he retire. Jim and Lynda moved back to his farm in Guthrie Center. He went on to fulfill his dream of having a cow/calf herd and farm with his grandson, Clay Blass.

Jim's back problems eventually forced him to his recliner, as walking became difficult. He spent many days watching

out the front window for neighbors driving by while on their way to work or out farming. Sometimes they would wave, knowing Jim was watching.

He loved his family, farm, country and the Iowa Hawkeyes. He was a lifelong fan and traveled with Lynda to many games in Iowa City

Preceding Jim in death were his parents, Harold and Thelma; daughter, Deborah Rosenbeck; stepson, John Schreck; his sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Larry Billick; brother, Charles J. Bohlender; father and mother-in-law, John and Dardy Werner; and brothers-in-law, John and Mark Werner.

He is survived by his wife, Lynda; daughter, Cindy (Steve) Blass of Coon Rapids; son, Rod (Tracy) Bohlender of Polk City; step-sons, Doug (Holly) Schreck of Clive and Kevin (Marcie) Schreck of Guthrie Center; and step-daughter, Sheila (Clint) Dickey of Cedar Falls. He is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cremation has taken place, and private burial of the remains will be held at a later date per Jim's wishes.

Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center, is entrusted with his services. ■



CHARLES 'CHUCK' KESLER
1947-2026

Charles Kesler, endearingly known as Chuck by his friends and family, passed away peacefully at the age of 78 on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026.

An afternoon of remembrance for Chuck was held from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 105 North Fourth Street, Guthrie Center. Friends

and family were invited to gather and share their memories and Chuck's favorite, a hot beef meal.

Chuck was born in Stuart on Sept. 15, 1947, to Zada (Vandevanter) and Fred Kesler. He grew up on a farm near Monteith with his five siblings. He found great joy in the country life by driving tractors and helping on the farm.

After attending Guthrie Center High School, he held a variety of jobs throughout his life with his primary work being manufacturing/factory work to include AMF, Oscar Meyer, IBP, Hy-line, and Tones Spices.

On March 8, 1969, Chuck married Barbara Jean Wilson. From this union, their daughter Jennifer Sue Kesler was born on Oct. 10, 1969. Later, the couple divorced but remained friends. He spent most of his adult life in the Monteith area and eventually moved to Grinnell. In 2002, he then settled into his home in Guthrie Center.

Outside of work,

Chuck had a passion for collecting coins, antiques, vintage tractor models and classic cars. In his younger years you could find him fishing with his family, camping, gardening, playing cards and riding his motorcycle, never shy about enjoying a little extra speed along the open road.

Chuck is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Kesler of Guthrie Center; granddaughter, Breanna Kesler of Mankato, Minnesota; his sisters, Barb Mains of Redfield, Sally (Dan) Tripp of Parker, Colorado and Teresa (Lony) Jensen of Casey; brother, Denny (Linda) Kesler of Ames; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Zada and Fred Kesler; his sister and brother-in-law, Charlotte and Joe Kopaska; his nephews, Mark Kopaska and Bradley Mains; his brother-in-law Bill Mains; and his sister-in-law Joan (Graves) Kesler. ■



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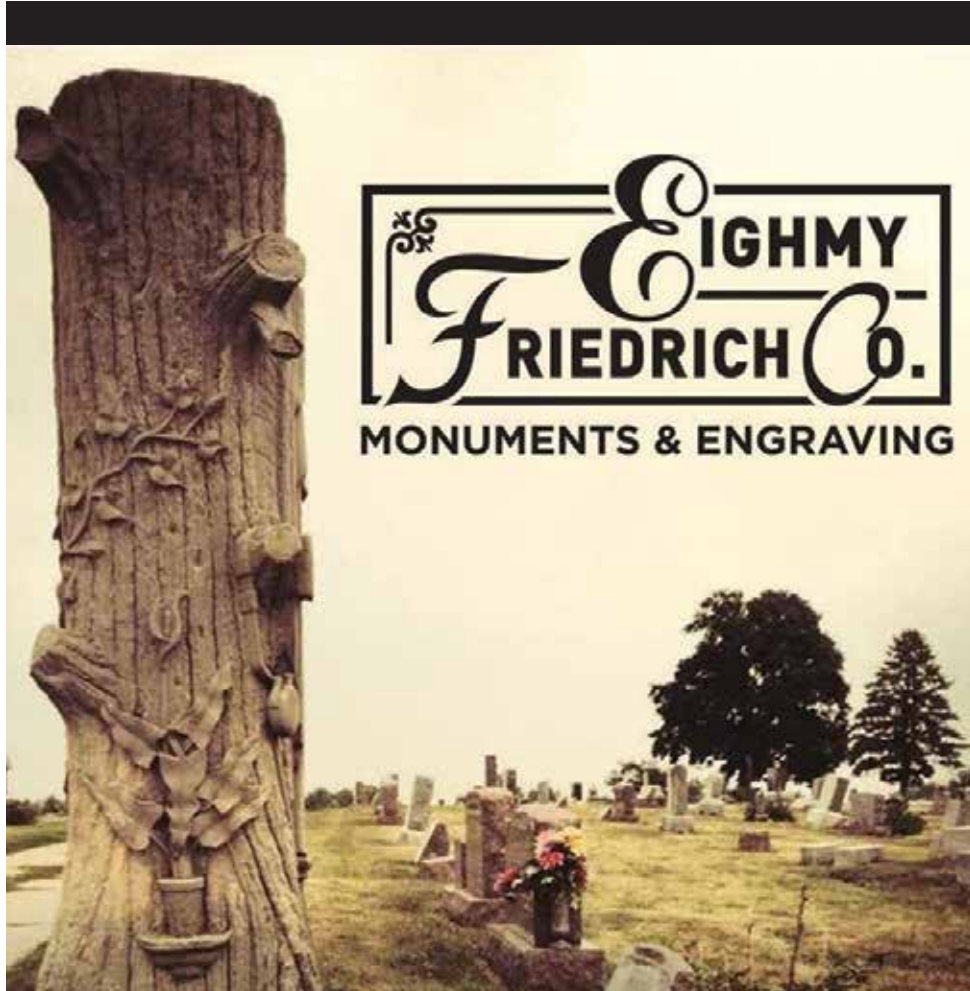
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OBITUARIES

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JACK DEE WOLFE

1949-2026

Jack Dee Wolfe, 76, was born on Oct. 4, 1949, to Clarence (Pete) Sidney Wolfe and Bessie Juanita Green in Jefferson. He passed away Saturday, March 21, 2026, at his home in Guthrie Center.

Jack grew up in Guthrie Center, and he attended Guthrie Center Schools. He was united in marriage to Marilyn Dee Twidt on June 12, 1976.

After graduation, Jack drove creamery truck for a few years before going to work as a welder at Parker Industries. He transferred to Agri-Drain Corp in 1988. Jack enjoyed building trailers, woodworking, camping, fishing and watching old westerns.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; his step-mom, Mary Wolfe; his step-dad, Robert Green; his wife, Marilyn Wolfe; his brother, Jerry Wolfe; and his great-grandson, Bradley Dean Pieper-Wolfe.

He is survived by his son, Bradley (Lorie) Wolfe of Exira; daughters, Bobbi Jo of Guthrie Center and Amy Wolfe

of Bethany Missouri; brothers, Ed (Sandi) Wolfe of Exira, Eldon (Cheryl) Wolfe of Guthrie Center, Junior (Candy) Wolfe of Guthrie Center and David (Claudia) Wolfe of Bayard; grandchildren, Erika Goehring of Springfield Oregon, Dawn (Gabe) Williams of Exira, Mercedes Wolfe of Guthrie Center, Bryan Wolfe of Bethany, Missouri, Kyle Pollard of Princeton, Missouri, Mathew Pollard of Princeton, Missouri, Christopher Thomas of Bethany, Missouri; and many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Guthrie Center. Visitation was on Thursday, March 26, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. at Twigg Funeral Home in Guthrie Center. ■



LISA SHERWOOD

1949-2026

Lisa Sherwood, 44, passed away on March 20, 2026, at Panora Specialty Care following a year-long battle with cancer.

Lisa was born on May 29, 1981, in Des Moines to Jay and Francine Sherwood. She was raised on a farm west of Guthrie Center, and she graduated from Guthrie Center High School. She was a dedicated member of the community, working first at the Guthrie Center Redemption Center and later in the deli at Hometown Grocery.

Lisa had a passion for the outdoors, especially

hunting and fishing with her family. She also found great joy in cooking and baking treats for her friends and loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her brother, John. Lisa is survived by her children, Jon and Danny; her parents; her aunts, Sheba and Glenda; and her extended family in Arkansas. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

A visitation was Friday, March 27, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. at Twigg Funeral Home in Guthrie Center. ■

YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 7, 1976

END OF THE TRAIL. A 1,360-pound buffalo owned by Lloyd Laughery, Guthrie Center, left, was butchered by Roger Jensen at his locker in Adair. The animal had escaped and was running wild in Bear Grove township. It was too wild to catch and was shot after a three-hour hunt.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 2, 1986

KIDS AND KITES. Branden Coffman (left), 2-year-old son of Randy and Nancy Coffman of Guthrie Center, gets some tips on kite-flying from his brother, sister and a friend. The four took advantage a great kite-flying day Tuesday to get their kites in the air at Riverside Park. Helping Branden are his brother, Chris, 6 years old; his sister, Brandi, and a friend, Kirstin Ehm, 5-year-old daughter of Maurice and Diane Ehm.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 10, 1996

GROWIN' 'EM BIG! Wilson Mikkelsen holds a monster parsnip he recently unearthed along the north side of his garage in Guthrie Center. The vegetable was 20 inches in length.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 26, 2006

DAYCARE VIEWS LIFEFLIGHT. Dawn Norgart's Daycare group visited the Iowa Methodist Lifeflight Helicopter at Guthrie County Hospital Helipad last week. Each child was able to watch the helicopter land, meet the Lifeflight staff, tour the helicopter and sit in the pilot's seat. From left to right, Cooper Andersen, Anna Lauritsen, Kaden Shook, Samantha Sloss and Sam Madsen.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 20, 2016

CLEAN UP DAY. Working around Guthrie Center on Clean Up Day, Sunday, April 17 were Jim and Becky Carico, Tim and Judy Hilgenberg, Cheryl Batschelt, Bill and Marcia Priestley, Debbie Menning, Pam Kunkle and Pat Sleister.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, April 8, 2021

NEW OWNERS AT GC EATERY; RENAMED CAFE ON THE HILL. A change in ownership took place last week in the restaurant business in Guthrie Center. The former Barnyard Breakfast is now Cafe on the Hill. The new owners are Bill and Sarah Messinger. Sarah Messinger thought of the name. ■

RECIPE

SAUSAGE AND CHEESE BREAKFAST BAKE IS EASY, FILLING AND PRACTICAL

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Guthrie Center Times

Mornings get busy, which is why I love having a breakfast recipe I can rely on. This one checks every box for me. It is incredibly easy to make — just mix, pour and bake — with simple ingredients I usually already have in the fridge. No complicated steps. No mess. No standing over the stove while trying to get ready for the day. I love the idea of cooking once and enjoying for days.

What I appreciate most is how protein-packed this recipe is. Between the eggs, sausage and cheeses, it is the kind of breakfast that actually keeps you full and focused all morning. I am not reaching for a snack an hour later, which makes a big difference on

busy days.

It is also perfectly sized for real life. The recipe makes enough for two people to enjoy breakfast for a couple of days, which means less cooking and more convenience. Or, double the batch and freeze some for future quick meals. I can warm up a slice and have a hot, satisfying meal in minutes. Easy, filling and practical — exactly how breakfast should be. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

SAVORY SAUSAGE AND CHEESE BREAKFAST BAKE

Ingredients:

- 8 large eggs
- 1/4 cup water
- 2/3 cup cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 package of Jimmy Dean breakfast sausage cooked, crumbled
- 1 teaspoon Nature's Seasoning

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a small baking dish (8-inch by 8-inch works well). Blend eggs, water and cottage



cheese for 10-15 seconds in a blender. Combine with mozzarella and sausage and pour into the prepared baking dish. Spread evenly. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until the center is set and the top is lightly

golden. Rest for 5 minutes, then slice and serve. Vary this recipe by adding sauteed onions, peppers or mushrooms. Pictured is the original recipe plus a version with peppers and mushrooms.

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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is the back side of the water tower chair in Adair. This was carved by Bear Grove Chainsaw Carving and was completed in November of 2025. Kris Laidley was the first person with the correct answer. Have a guess on where this month's photographed image is at? It's an easy one. Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com.



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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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
641-746-2734
www.idwlcms.org/congregation.php?id=29



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

GUTHRIE CENTER

Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church
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641-332-2408

First Christian Church
105 N. Fourth St., Guthrie Center
641-332-2571
Christian.org



First United Methodist Church
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
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www.immanuelgc.org



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POLL CLOSING JULY 1, 2026.

See rules and vote at <https://gctimesnews.com/best-of-2026>



Make your voice heard and cast your votes in the 2026 BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY poll. This contest is being hosted by Big Green Umbrella Media and the results will publish in the September issues of Lake Panorama Times, Panora Times and Guthrie Center Times.

FOOD & DRINK:

- Place for Pizza
- Spot for Dessert
- Spot for Breakfast
- Lunch Spot
- Dinner Spot
- Ice Cream Place
- Bar
- Coffee Shop
- Mexican Restaurant
- Happy Hour
- Bartender or Server (Name a person)
- Wine Selection
- Place to Buy Meat
- Coldest Beer
- Caterer
- Food Truck

AUTOMOTIVE:

- Car Wash
- Auto Service Center
- Auto Parts Store
- Vehicle Detailing Business

COMMUNITY:

- Pastor (Name a person)
- Teacher (Name a person)
- Coach (Name a person)
- Church
- Daycare
- Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- School
- Park
- Community Festival
- Camping Spot
- Place to Hold an Event
- Elected Official
- Employer
- Customer Service (overall)
- Local Artist (Name a person)
- Nonprofit
- Volunteer (Name a person)
- Unsung Hero (Name a person)

SHOPPING:

- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Place to Purchase Gifts for Her
- Pharmacy
- Grocery Store
- Nursery or Garden Center
- Hardware Store
- Florist
- Farmers Market
- Farmers Market Vendor

ENTERTAINMENT:

- First Date Spot
- Parent/Child Date Spot
- Place to Take Mom & Dad
- Place to Take Kids or Grandkids
- Place for a Field Trip
- Bowling Alley
- Golf Course
- Local Band or Musician
- Place to Take Your Dog

HEALTH/BEAUTY:

- Hair Salon
- Doctor (Name a person)
- Nurse (Name a person)
- Dentist (Name a person)
- Chiropractor (Name a person)
- Eye Doctor (Name a person)
- Veterinarian (Name a person)
- Health Club/Gym
- Dance Studio
- Massage Therapist (Name a person)
- Esthetician (Name a person)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Bank
- Photographer
- Barge Service
- Realtor (Name a person)
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Landscaping Company
- CPA (Name a person)
- Insurance Agent (Name a person)
- Senior Living Facility
- Home Builder
- Home Improvement Contractor
- Plumber (business)
- Electrician (business)
- HVAC Company
- Lawn Care Business
- Attorney or Law Firm
- Financial Planner
- Pest Control Company
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