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MAY 2026

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HOOKED ON TRADITION

GUTHRIE COUNTY ANGLERS OF ALL AGES REEL IN MEMORIES, FAMILY TRADITIONS AND PLENTY OF FISH

PAGE 6

FEEL BETTER, MOVE FREELY WITH ALLEN FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

PAGE 20

KING IS A YOUNG FAN OF OLD ROCK

PAGE 22

RHUBARB SEASON JUST GOT CRISPY

PAGE 29



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CONTENTS

FROM THE PUBLISHER	5
COVER STORY: HOOKED ON TRADITION	6
ASK GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES	11
LOCAL FILM REVIEWS	12
GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS SUMMARY	13
GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL SUMMARY	14
ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS SUMMARY	15
GCH BOARD SUMMARY	16
MARY J. BARNETT LIBRARY NEWS	17
ACGC SPORTS PHOTOS	18
BUSINESS: ALLEN CHIROPRACTIC	20
A YOUNG FAN OF OLD ROCK	22
NURSES, PATIENT CARE TECHNICIANS HONORED AT GCH	24
OBITUARIES	25
YESTER YEARS	29
RECIPE: JOLENE'S RHUBARB CRISP	30
WHERE IS IT?	31
AREA CHURCH GUIDE	32
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	33

ON THE COVER: Luke Swensen bass fishing from the dock.. Photo special to Guthrie Center Times



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BULLHEADS AND BRUISED EGOS

I was introduced to fishing as a kid by my brother Steve along the riverbanks. At least we called it fishing. We eventually caught some fish — mostly bullheads — but I will get to those aquatic gremlins in a moment.

Our first gear consisted of cane poles strapped to our bicycles as we bumped our way to the river. Later, we upgraded to some of Dad's old rods and reels. To my brother's everlasting frustration, I became remarkably skilled at snagging lines in trees, rocks and underwater obstacles.

We spent hot summer days dreaming about perch, bluegills and sunfish. Instead, we hauled in bullheads — nature's way of proving fish do not need to be attractive to survive. Most fish would not win beauty contests, but bullheads look like they already lost one.

If you have never encountered a bullhead, consider yourself fortunate. The black bullhead is a North American catfish with a square tail and the survival instincts of a cockroach. Also known as fiddleheads, yellowbellies, chuckleheads, mud cats or hornpouts, they will eat practically anything. They thrive in warm, muddy, low-oxygen water that would make other fish file for relocation.

Apparently, there are three types of bullheads — black, brown and yellow. I think we mostly caught black bullheads, the largest and most common species. They live everywhere from muddy rivers to



Shane Goodman

weed-choked ponds, which explains why they always seemed eager to consume our fishing trips.

This hefty olive-green catfish is common throughout Iowa lakes and rivers, especially in slow-moving water. Though not heavily sought by anglers, some people insist bullheads are a delicacy. Those people are far more forgiving than I am.

What I remember most is getting stung repeatedly by their fins while trying to unhook them. Years later, while fishing with my brother Brian, I started using a leather glove to handle bullheads. He still mocks me for it, probably because he enjoys pain more than I do.

For fans of quirky Iowa landmarks, the world's largest bullhead sits in Crystal Lake. The giant fish statue, built in 1958 by Carl Frick and Rush Gabrilson and re-

stored in 2007, stretches 12 feet long atop a pile of rocks. It may be the only bullhead in history people intentionally travel to see.

Thankfully, fishing in Guthrie County is about more than bullheads. It is about some great fish and is a fun activity, certainly, but it is also about slowing down, enjoying nature and spending time with family and friends — even if the fish are ugly and occasionally sting you. ■

Shane Goodman
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HOOKED ON TRADITION

Guthrie County anglers of all ages reel in memories, family traditions and plenty of fish.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Some people fish to catch supper. Some fish to catch something worthy of mounting on the wall. Others fish just for fun. Whatever the goal, fishing is a popular hobby in the area. People of all ages fish in many different ways. Some prefer low-tech, low-effort fishing, while others spend thousands of dollars on high-tech equipment.

Regardless of how or why it is done, fishing is the source of many great stories. Some may be exaggerated, especially regarding “the one that got away.” But most people who enjoy fishing also enjoy talking about fishing, as long as they are not asked to reveal their secret spots.

Here are the stories of some local people who enjoy having a line in the water.

A YOUNG FISHERMAN WITH A SWEET SETUP

Daltyn Trotter of Casey is a young fisherman with a sweet setup for his hobby. His family’s favorite place to fish is a privately owned pond close enough to see from the family’s home. Daltyn often fishes there with friends.

“Usually, I just ride my bike out here about three times a week. I come with friends. We all ride our bikes out here,” he said. “I think this pond was stocked when it was made. We’ve caught bass, crappie, bluegill and a couple of perch.”

Daltyn said he has enjoyed fishing as long as he can remember and that everyone in his family fishes, including his younger sister. But he noted he has not taught her his tricks.

“No, Mom teaches her,” he said.

Despite his youth, Daltyn knows his stuff. While fishing the pond on a recent day, he described the pond’s underwater structure — including a dead tree that allows smaller fish to stay safe from larger fish. He also casually flipped his lure halfway across the pond while casting, as if he had done it all his life.



Daltyn Trotter casually casts his lure to the middle of the pond.

The pond, which has a small cabin and fire pit nearby, has become a family getaway.

“We’ve camped out here a couple of times,” Daltyn said. “I caught a snapping turtle out of here once but didn’t keep it. The biggest bass I’ve caught here is like 3 pounds.”

Like many fishermen, Daltyn is already amassing fishing equipment. His grandmother, Lynn, noted with a grin that Daltyn has developed a “bad habit” of collecting fishing poles. She also recalled a day when the fishing was slow, so Daltyn instead caught large frogs. The family later enjoyed fried frog legs.

Daltyn shared one of his favorite fishing stories from 2025 when he caught two large bass at a pond near Orient.

“My uncle took us out to a pond last year, and I caught two big bass,” he said. “I caught them using a plastic worm. I think one of them was like 5 pounds.”

A photo shows Daltyn holding both bass. Asked if he kept the fish to have them mounted, Daltyn shook his head.

“We cooked them up and ate them,” he said.

MEMORIES OF AN ANNUAL POND FISHING CONTEST HELD DECADES AGO

Kieth and Donna Merrill of rural Guthrie Center shared memories of an annual pond fishing contest held decades ago on the farm where they now live southwest of Guthrie Center. Kieth explained how the contest came to be.



Daltyn Trotter shows two large bass on a successful fishing day

“This was my grandfather’s farm, then my dad’s, then mine. During the dry part of the 1930s, they dug a pond with horses



The shore at the Merrill farm pond was crowded with kids, while the water was crowded with hooks and hungry fish.

and scrapers, and they piled it up around the edges. So it was never very deep. And the reason it was here is because there weren't very many ponds at that time. They started coming in later with bulldozers," he said.

The family pond is similar in size to the nearby Sutcliffe Woodland Pond, managed by Guthrie County Conservation. After the pond was created, someone decided it could be the setting for a fishing contest.

"I think the Izaak Walton League and the Adair Conservation Club probably got together and decided to do the fishing contest. My dad belonged to both," Merrill said. "Every kid that caught a fish got a prize. That was one of the rules. Merchants from nearby towns donated prizes."

Merrill said the event was not focused on catching trophy fish but on giving young anglers a chance to enjoy catching something. To ensure plenty of fish were available, fish were brought in before the



A posting for the 1958 contest at the Merrill pond.

event.

"The state hauled out a truckload of small bullheads and stocked it a day or



To ensure plenty of fish were available at the Merrill farm fishing contest, fish were brought in before the event.



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The Guthrie Center Lions Club would like to thank the following businesses, individuals, and families whose generous donations helped make the AC/GC After Prom possible.

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Luke Swensen bass fishing from the dock.

two before the contest. There were no big fish," Merrill said. "But the bullheads had only been in there for a day or two, so they were hungry."

The contest became a midsummer tradition from the late 1940s through the late 1950s for children 15 and younger. Merchants from Adair, Casey and throughout Guthrie County donated prizes.

Looking through old photos from the contests, Merrill recalled the large crowds the events attracted.

"The kids all had fun. We had a big crowd every year. Those kids came from a long ways away," Merrill said. "That's a lot of kids, and a lot of adults came to watch the kids so nobody got hooked or hurt. I can't remember how old I was when it started, but I was 18 when it end-

ed."

Merrill said he participated in the contest one or two years and noted that people were welcome to continue fishing after the contest ended.

"There was some work to it. The pond was in a pasture, so we had to keep the cows away from there and make a place for parking cars out in a pasture," he said.

Merrill also remembered some of the event's attractions.

"In some of the later years, you could buy ice cream. Either Exira or Audubon was still making ice cream, and they had it in a tent. And they had pop in nickel bottles," he said. "The pond is still down there. Could we do it today? I don't know. Kids today might not be excited over catching fish like that."

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Luke Swensen shows a fresh catch.

AN AVID MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL IOWA ANGLERS TEAM

Luke Swensen of Guthrie Center is only 12 years old, but he has already learned a lot about fishing and has seen a few unusual things happen while on the water.

“One time I was fishing with my cousin, and he caught about a 5-pound bass,” Luke said. “We all freaked out because we were so little, and that was the biggest fish we’d ever seen.”

Like many anglers, Luke started fishing young. He said everyone in his family fishes, including his 8-year-old brother. Luke cannot clearly remember his first catch but believes it was probably a bluegill when he was 3 or 4 years old.

Luke is now a member of the Central Iowa Anglers team, led by Jeremy King. He said there are approximately 40 members and explained the basics of the organization and its tournaments.

“It goes through middle school and high school. I just joined this year. I

like to use crankbaits, jerkbaits and soft plastic baits,” Luke said. “Once a year, you pay a small fee, and then you get to go into any Iowa fishing tournament. It’s just you and a partner and a boat. We’re currently working on a fishing boat right now to use in bass tournaments all over central Iowa.”

Luke also explained how tournament scoring works.

“You need five fish, and then you combine all their weights, and the highest weight wins,” he said.

Luke noted tournament organizers make every effort to keep the fish alive so they can be released after weigh-ins.

“You either have a box in your boat that gives the fish oxygen, or you can tie on a basket to the side of the boat,” Luke said. “The biggest bass I’ve caught is right around 4 pounds.”

Luke said the Central Iowa Anglers also participate in ice fishing, although he has not yet tried it with the team.

Besides tournaments, Luke enjoys fishing with family members.

“I like when we go up to Swan Lake near Carroll to catch a bunch of crappie. The limit is 25,” he said. “But usually, if we eat fish, it’s probably wall-eye.”

Luke also described some unusual moments he has experienced while fishing.

“Last year, we were fishing at a pond, and I had a medium bite and lost the crankbait,” he said. “But then we came back about two months later and found the crankbait. It washed up on the shore.”

Fish are not the only creatures Luke has reeled in.

“I’ve caught a couple of frogs,” he said.

Luke encourages kids who have never tried fishing to give it a shot. He said it helps to start young and to get on the water early in the day.

He also described one especially un-

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usual catch.

"I was using a crankbait, and I caught a small bass, probably about 5 inches long," he said. "As I was reeling it in, a bigger bass, probably about a 3-pounder, came up and ate that fish with the crankbait, so I caught two fish at once."

WHERE TO FISH IN GUTHRIE COUNTY

Guthrie County Conservation Director Brad Halterman and Conservation Officer Jeremy King shared information about fishing opportunities in Guthrie County.

"In Guthrie County, the Middle Raccoon River is excellent fishing. Bass, walleye, crappie, bluegill and catfish are all popular fish being caught. The South Raccoon River is also a popular fishing area. Catfish are the main fish sought in the South Raccoon," Halterman said.

Halterman said the easiest way to get a fishing license is through the Go-OutdoorsIA app, which also includes fishing regulations, weekly fishing reports, fishing atlases and information about fish species.

He noted anglers are responsible for knowing and following all applicable

regulations, including catch limits and catch-and-release areas.

King said the Middle Raccoon River is one of the county's most significant fishing resources and can be divided into three sections: the area running through Whiterock Conservancy and Springbrook State Park, Lake Panorama and the river below the lake.

"Springbrook Park and Springbrook Lake is one of the more popular areas with public access," King said. "It's a relatively small lake, but it's a pretty lake, and water clarity is pretty good most of the year."

King said a type of lily pad introduced about a decade ago helped improve water quality and fishing conditions.

"Anytime you have cleaner water, you have more vegetation growth, which is very important to any body of water," he said. "It provides oxygen and provides cover and food for little fish and helps curtail shoreline erosion."

King said the main fish species at Springbrook include crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass and catfish, although catfish are caught less frequently.

"The bluegill population in there is pretty darn good," he said. ■

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A: You are correct. Each Friday in the Times Vedette, we share birthdays and anniversaries for the following week of people with past or present ties to the area. To submit yours, or to notify us of any corrections, email rich@gctimesnews.com.

Q: WHAT EXACTLY ARE THESE "SLOW SUNDAY DRIVES" AT WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY? AND WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO DRIVE MY SIDE-BY-SIDE IN IT?

A: Whiterock Conservancy hosts a series of Slow Sunday Drives each year. The first one of 2026 is on Sunday, May 17, starting at the Historic Garst Farmhouse, 1390 Highway 141, Coon Rapids. The two- to three-hour ride will begin at 1 p.m. and travel the trails of Whiterock Conservancy. Price per vehicle is \$30, cash only. Participants must pay at registration and provide a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Parking is available for trailers in the overflow lot of the Bur Oak Visitors Center, 1436 Highway 141 in Coon Rapids. Organizers say to arrive early so the event can start at 1 p.m. Watch the website and event page for any weather updates. If the trails are wet, the Slow Sunday Drive will be canceled or rescheduled. Private ATVs are only allowed on Whiterock land during the Slow Sunday Drives; visitors may not bring their own ATVs on the land outside of this event. Call the Whiterock

Conservancy office at 712-790-8221 or email guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org for more information.

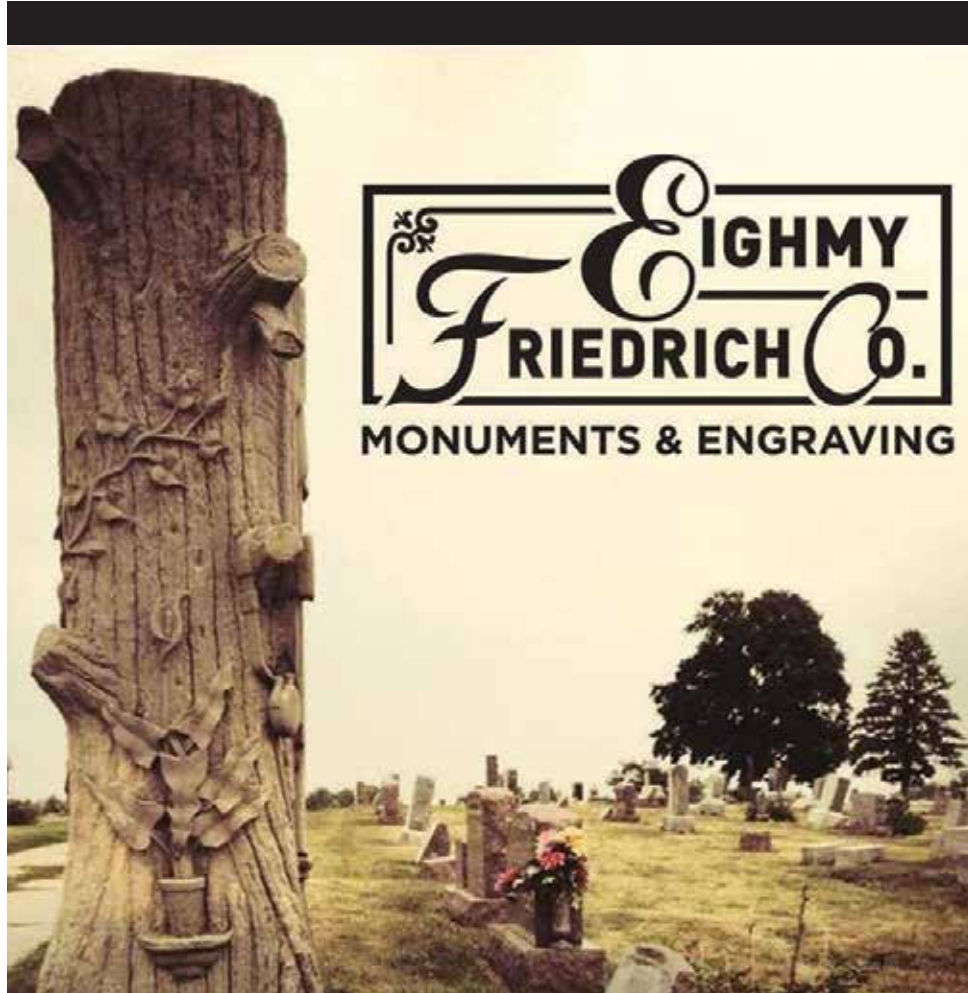
Q: I NOTICED THAT THE GUTHRIE CENTER WATER TOWER WAS LOOKING REALLY DIRTY. WHAT'S GOING ON?



A: In early May, the city's water tower was undergoing a cleaning. The tower is now getting a fresh paint job in time for thousands of visitors during RAGBRAI's stop in the city in July.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE ATTENDED THE HANDBAGS AND BINGO EVENT?

A: The fourth annual Handbags and Bingo event was held at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds on April 10. A total of 37 tables were reserved with more than 310 people in attendance. The theme was Pajama Party, and many participants dressed for the occasion. The event was a fundraiser for the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation. ■



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DRAMA, MARIO, TUSCANY, NORMAL AND THE MUMMY



"The Drama"



"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie"



"You and Me & Tuscany"



"Normal"

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

"THE DRAMA"

"The Drama" stars two beautiful people (played by Robert Pattinson and Zendaya) who meet in a cute way, have a nice relationship and naturally decide to get married. The stress of that decision and all that accompanies it put their relationship to the test right up to, and including, the wedding.

"The Drama" has moments of humor and lots of craziness with its share of angst and darkness.

GRADE: B+



"THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE"

"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" is the sequel to "The Super Mario Broth-

er's Movie," two movies that will confound me right up to my death bed. It is only marginally more coherent than the first film, but you need to be a whole lot younger than I am to even start to understand (or care about) this mess of a movie. I will score this for the kids younger than 12.

GRADE: B-



"YOU AND ME & TUSCANY"

"You and Me & Tuscany" is a romantic comedy about a young woman (played by Halle Bailey) who has a habit of getting into the homes of people who are out of town — or the country — in this movie. When she sees the opportunity to sneak into an empty Italian villa, she jumps at it. A family in this small-town setting assumes she is the fiancée of the owner of the villa, which quickly gets messy when

she falls in love with another man. The movie is full of fluff, fun and lots of Italian cooking. It redeems itself late in the film and ends up being much better than I expected. **GRADE: B**



"NORMAL"

"Normal" is an interesting action crime thriller film starring Bob Odenkirk (and Henry Winkler of "the Fonz" fame in a small role) that takes place in the corrupt small town of Normal, Minnesota. Odenkirk is the new sheriff in town. When he investigates a bank robbery in his first few days, his own deputies open fire on him, revealing that the town's law enforcement is compromised. Inside the bank, he discovers a big secret — a cache of cash, gold bars and military-grade weapons. They are tied to a criminal operation connected to Japanese gangsters — really bad guys who have come to this small town to take what they feel is theirs.

GRADE: B+



"LEE CRONIN'S THE MUMMY"

I don't have a clue who Lee Cronin is, but I really don't care to see any more movies from him. "The Mummy" is a bloody, gory mess of a film. We are in-



"Lee Cronin's The Mummy"

troducted to a young America family living in Cairo with young children. When a daughter is stolen by a creepy looking lady, the family grieves her loss and struggles to move on. Fortunately, or maybe not, they find their daughter eight years later. She is not in great, or even good shape. The film goes down from there. "The Mummy" is creepy and has a few good moments but goes way too far.

GRADE: C- ■



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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SUPERVISORS APPROVE DOT BUDGET AMENDMENT, RECEIVE UPDATE ON WAGON ROAD PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

APRIL 21 - BUDGETS, WAGON ROAD PROJECT

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on April 21. A public hearing was held on the fiscal year 2027 budget. No members of the general public spoke during the hearing. Auditor Dani Fink reported on the budgetary status.

"Taxable value has increased from the 2024 year to the 2025 year by \$52 million countywide," Fink said. "Also, a comparison of levy rates from the last two fiscal years, you can see that years 2025 and 2026 stayed consistent, and then a slight drop in General Basic, General Supplemental and Rural Basic for 2027."

When the hearing closed, the supervisors unanimously adopted Resolution 26-30 to certify taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong shared information on the communication plan regarding the P28/Wagon Road construction project. She said the project is expected to begin on or around May 18 with an expected completion date in mid to late summer.

"Currently, there's been some patch work done to prep us for this big project," Armstrong said. "May 1, we are targeting for a social media and website campaign launch. I will email the press release to local media and to stakeholders."

She explained that stakeholders include those impacted by the project, including school districts and businesses along the routes impacted. She added that while signage will likely say "closed to through traffic," those living along the route and campers at Nations Bridge Park will be allowed to drive to and from where they need to go.

"May 8 — this is 10 days out from the start — that's when the postcard is going to drop to adjacent landowners," Armstrong said. "So, they'll have more than a week's notice."

Armstrong added that wording will be included in the communication acknowledging the inconveniences and delays that come with such a road project and thanking the public for their patience while the project goes on.

APRIL 28 - DOT BUDGET, FIRST RESPONDERS AD HOC COMMITTEE

County Engineer Josh Sebern summarized the county's Fiscal Year 2027 Iowa DOT (Department of Transportation) budget and the county's five-year plan.

"This (DOT budget) goes in at the same time as the county five-year program, so they go hand in hand," Sebern said. "It's an aggressive five-year program, where we are utilizing a significant amount of federal funding. There's \$11 million in federal funding in here. Nine million of that is federal bridge."

The supervisors voted unanimously to approve the DOT budget, five-year plan and mowing contract extension.

Supervisor Brian Johnson shared a matter for the board to consider.

"As you know, for about a year now, I've been attending First Responders meetings as an ad hoc member. They asked me at the last meeting if I would join the board. They're having trouble finding qualified people that don't have a conflict to join," Johnson said. He asked that the matter be added to the agenda for the supervisors to discuss at the May 5 meeting.

The supervisors set a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget amendment. The hearing will be at 9 a.m. on May 19, immediately prior to the regular meeting of the supervisors on that date.

As part of the consent agenda items, the supervisors approved payroll change notices with pay increases for three employees in the Secondary Roads department (Wade Downing, new rate \$30.71 hourly; Andy Johnson, new rate \$28.66 hourly; and Jeremy Wolfe, new rate \$28.96 hourly).

MAY 5 - \$600,000 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, JOHNSON APPROVED TO JOIN FIRST RESPONDERS BOARD

County Engineer Josh Sebern summarized the bids received on the bridge replacement project BROS-C039 (103)-8J-39.

"This is for the bridge near Sutcliffe Woodland in Bear Grove Township. It is currently closed. We received three bids with the low bid of \$599,652," Sebern said. He noted that the three bids were similar, and he recommended approving

the low bid from Herberger Construction (Indianola, Iowa).

The supervisors voted to award the project to Herberger with the project expected to begin this summer.

Sebern also shared information on bridge replacement project L-CA226-73-39.

"This is for a bridge on the north side of Bays Branch. It's a smaller timber structure right now," Sebern said. He noted that the replacement will be "a prefabricated type of structure" and will be 24 feet wide.

"So, these are final plans. We are estimating \$290,000 for the cost to replace. We are anticipating a bid letting date of May 26," Sebern said.

The supervisors voted to approve the final plans and put the project out for bids.

Supervisor Brian Johnson was approved to join the First Responders Board.

The supervisors went into a special closed session to discuss a matter with legal counsel.

MAY 12 - BUDGET AMENDMENT, WAGON ROAD PROJECT UPDATE, AI USE

County Engineer Josh Sebern asked the supervisors to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 DOT budget amendment.

"This is going to mirror the county amendment," Sebern said. "Overall, we were able to lower some of the equipment operations."

Sebern pointed out that the labor budgeted for snow removal is used more

for tree cutting when a winter with few snowstorms occurs.

"When we don't plow snow, our labor costs goes to cut trees, road clearing," Sebern said. "It all depends on whether we're plowing snow or cutting trees. They're directly proportional."

The supervisors approved the DOT budget amendment.

Sebern also shared Resolution 26-33 (Modification to Fiscal Year 2026 Five-Year Program). He said there were two projects that needed to be completed (and were completed) but had not previously been administratively included in the five-year plan. The supervisors approved the additions as proposed.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong provided an update on the P-28/Wagon Road project.

"P-28/Wagon Road is back open. We originally were hoping that about mid-May we would be able to start on the full project. It's been delayed a little bit by our contractor, so we are going to move forward with the communication that it's going to start in early June," Armstrong said.

Armstrong stated that she is also learning about ways the county can implement Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"I like the technology. I think we're going to have to learn how to use it, and we might as well use it to our benefit, as we can," she said.

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

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GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL HEARS UPDATE ON LACEY BUILDING, AGREES TO SELL LOT ALONG BLUFF STREET

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

APRIL 27

During the April 27 regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, Becky Peterson spoke on behalf of Main Street Guthrie Center.

“The Main Street Challenge grant was the \$50,000 that Main Street Guthrie Center was awarded for economic development with the Lacey building,” she said. “They have a new roof on it, and then the flooring

has been put in, and it’s looking really nice. They’re hoping to have that ready by RAGBRAI.”

On behalf of Café on the Hill, Bill Messenger spoke, encouraging the city to consider changes regarding traveling food vendors.

“Restaurant business is really slow right now, and we’re seeing a lot more food trucks and things coming into town,” he said. “How do we promote our local businesses? Can we make it a little bit less appealing for the food trucks so they’re not here all week long?”

The council added the matter to the agenda of the next regular meeting.

The council approved the purchase of replacement pool heaters for \$20,000. The council also approved a tax exemption for Jordan and Kelsey Dinkla, 900 Tiger Lane.

City Administrator Kris Arrasmith reported that repairs were completed on the corner of the fire hall building. She also noted that the citywide garage sales will be June 19 and 20 with citywide cleanup set for June 24.

As part of the consent agenda items, the council approved a liquor license for Sparky’s One Stop. Building/fence permits were approved for 101 South 12th Place (G. Dean; shed), 602 North 12th St. (T. Masters; garage), 702 North First St. (Railsback; shed), and 1507 State St. (Guthrie County Quality Meats; building addition).

keep the lot for possible cemetery expansion. The lot will be rezoned residential.

The council discussed a request to limit the frequency of food trucks in the city in an effort to help the city’s actual restaurants. City Administrator Kris Arrasmith said she spoke with the city attorney about this and was informed that it is generally not allowable to charge differing fees based on a vendor’s address. Arrasmith and Main Street Guthrie Center Director Becky Peterson discussed that the city can be proactive by trying to assure an appropriate blend of vendors, especially during city events. No action was taken on the issue.

Arrasmith said the swimming pool will be managed this year by Collin Stringham, and that an opening date is not yet determined.

“Pool kids are all hired,” Arrasmith said. She added that some of the preseason training for pool staff will happen offsite while the pool is being prepped for the year.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next regular meeting of the council is set for Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■

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MAY 11

Councilmembers discussed the option of selling a lot along Bluff Street near the cemetery. Streets Department Head Darrin Sloss said the city cemetery is not expected to fill up for decades, so the city does not need to



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EDUCATION

ADAIR-CASEY AND GUTHRIE CENTER SCHOOL BOARDS RETURN TO CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSION

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the April 15 joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards, members discussed for an hour the possibility of the two districts merging.

In late 2024 and early 2025, the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center boards moved forward with preliminary plans to consolidate into one district. However, they later learned that approximately \$400,000 in reorganization incentives would not be available, making the plan no longer financially viable.

Adair-Casey board member Randy Carney said he doubts the Iowa Legislature will restore funding for the reorganization incentive previously factored into consolidation plans. He said that because most of Iowa's population lives in larger urban districts, there is likely little legislative support for funding that would primarily benefit small rural districts.

Carney, who has served on the Adair-Casey board for many years, also expressed frustration that the boards have not formally dis-

cussed consolidation in more than a year. He recommended the topic be addressed at least quarterly.

"With the steady to declining enrollment and the amount of new money we get, we're going to start tapping into our savings," Carney said. "It worries me a little bit. I don't want this to go under the rug. I don't want to wait too long."

Guthrie Center board member Matt Van Meter said both districts' enrollments have declined significantly since 2000.

"The walls are closing in faster than people might realize," he said.

Van Meter said that because the \$400,000 in incentive funding is no longer available and may not return, the districts should look for ways to reduce expenses by that amount.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen emphasized the importance of fully evaluating all options to help ensure a successful outcome.

"You want to measure multiple times before you cut," he said.

The boards reached a consensus to revisit the topic at their July meeting.

The Guthrie Center board voted unanimously to return to a five-block master schedule for the high school next school year.

As part of the consent agenda, the board accepted resignations from Daniel Woods, social studies teacher and wrestling and cross-country coach, and Jess Fridley, speech coach. Approved contract recommendations included Tyler Merical, physical education; Joe Bennett, custodian; Kellie Lewis, counselor; and Eric West, business teacher.

Students Cam Richter and Ava Sneller, with

support from teachers Jen and Joel Betterton, shared a slideshow and details from the recent senior trip to Washington, D.C. Thirty-two of the 43 seniors participated in the trip, traveling through seven states. They departed March 15 and returned March 22. Students described their favorite historic sites and said the trip was enjoyable.

The next regular meeting — a joint meeting of the Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school boards — was set for Wednesday, May 20, at 7 p.m. at ACGC High School in Guthrie Center. ■

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HEALTH

GCH BOARD APPROVES ANNUAL BUDGETS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

During the April 20 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, a public hearing was held regarding the hospital's fiscal year 2026-2027 county budget. Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson summarized the highlights of the proposed budget. No public comments/questions were made, so the public hearing closed.

The trustees later approved three budgets for fiscal year 2027 (the capital budget, the operating budget and the county budget).

Chief Nursing Officer Mandy Schiefert reported on the nursing department.

"We are working on Nurses Week, May 6-12. Our DAISY ceremony will be on Thursday, May 7 at 2 p.m. at Sneakers," Schiefert said.

She also shared information on recently filled nursing positions.

"We onboarded a couple of new nurses that will be fulltime nights," Schiefert said.

Chief Human Resources Officer Mary Anderson provided a report.

"Our new learning management system, Relias, we have implemented that. The new hires have been using it, and they really like it," Anderson said.

Anderson noted that the hospital's most recently measured employee retention rate is 92.4%.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery offered an update on fundraising events.

"We had our annual Handbags and Bingo, which was another successful event, so thanks to everybody who either worked or attended or was a sponsor," Flanery said. "Our golf event is our next big event that's coming up. The first round of mailings went out."

Chief Operations Officer Travis Martin shared information on the facilities project at the hospital.

"If you've been down 12th Street, you'll notice they've started taking the front of the building off today, so there's a gaping hole out front," he said. "We are sealed on the inside, but you'll see that the building is starting to come down."

Martin also reported on the Stuart clinic.

"The interior framing is done down there. They're starting drywall next week, so we are still anticipating being done by June 1," Martin said.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is set for Thursday, May 28 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



Mandy Schiefert



Mary Anderson

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BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

The library has many regular adult programs going on. If one of them sounds interesting, just show up and see if you like it. Craft and Connect meets each Monday from 4-6 p.m. for anyone who has a hobby that they would like to pursue while talking with others. If you aren't working on a project right now but would like to attend, bring an adult coloring page or check out a jigsaw puzzle.

MJB Library has two book clubs. Patrons are invited to attend one or both of them. Between the Covers meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m., and Reads Well With Others meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. The May book for the afternoon club is "We All Live Here" by Jojo Moyes.

"Blue Sisters" by Coco Mellors, evening

book for May, tells the story of three estranged siblings who return to their family home in New York after their beloved sister's death in this unforgettable story of grief, identity and the complexities of family. As they each navigate grief, addiction and ambition, they find they must return to New York to stop the sale of the apartment they were raised in. But coming home is never as easy as it seems. As the sisters reckon with the disappointments of their childhood and the loss of the only person who held them together, they realize that the greatest secrets they have been keeping might not have been from each other, but from themselves. "Blue Sisters" is a story of what it takes to keep living after loss -- and, ultimately, to fall in love with life again.

On the third Thursday of each month, cardmaking class takes place at 9 a.m., and Cookbook Club takes place at 6 p.m. Card making class, led by Judy Zimmerline,

teaches how to create one-of-a-kind greeting cards. Everyone is welcome to come and learn this skill. All supplies and materials are provided for a \$5 fee.

Cookbook Club members are asked to stop by the library and choose a recipe from the cookbook of the month to prepare and bring to the evening meeting. The group will share a meal and taste each other's dishes while discussing the recipes and the cookbook.

For those who enjoy card games, cribbage meets each Monday from 9-11 a.m. Bridge meets from 9-11 a.m. every Wednesday. Canasta meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday. No experience is necessary to be able to join the card clubs.

Our youth programs include weekly preschool story hour for preschoolers and their caregivers on Fridays at 10 a.m. Creation Corner will meet on Wednesday, May 27 at 4 p.m.



Starting June 1, Summer Reading Program will begin with a kickoff party at 4 p.m. at Riverside Park. This come and go event will feature a number of activities to start the Summer Reading Program.

Registration is now open and can be completed at the library website. See the calendar of events for June on the website for events for the Summer Reading Program. ■



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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS

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ACGC's Brynlee Seek at the West Central Activities Conference Track Meet on May 5.



ACGC's Brexton Schneider won the 110-meter hurdles at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7.



ACGC's Tessa Slaybaugh at the West Central Activities Conference Track Meet on May 5.



ACGC's Meranda Gruber clears the hurdle at the West Central Activities Conference Track Meet on May 5.



ACGC's Brennan Tunink at the Panorama Coed Invite on May 7.



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ACGC's Coy Gruber at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7.



ACGC's Caydence Boals won silver in shot put and placed sixth in discus at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7.



ACGC's Talon Noland at the West Central Activities Conference Track Meet on May 5.



ACGC's Becca Littler at the West Central Activities Conference Track Meet on May 5.



ACGC's Jack Sheeder prepares to launch in the shot put at the Panorama Coed Invite on Thursday, May 7.

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BUSINESS FEATURE

FEEL BETTER, MOVE FREELY WITH ALLEN FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Andy Allen and massage therapist Jana Derry provide care for patients of all ages while continuing a longtime tradition of chiropractic service.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

For a long time, people have been walking into the building at 108 N. Third St. in Guthrie Center and then walking out feeling better, Dr. Andy Allen explained.

"I purchased the practice from Dr. Schramm, and he was here for 42 years, all in the same building, and now I've been here 19 years," Dr. Allen said. "So, it's been a chiropractic office in this location for over 60 years."

During his tenure at the location, Dr. Allen has continued to use familiar chiropractic methods while also keeping up with new advances.

"There's been some minor stuff. Nothing dramatic has changed," Dr. Allen said. "Dr. Schramm had pretty much only been using the instrument called an activator, which is a light force adjusting technique. We have gradually incorporated more tools with that. We do manual traditional chiropractic, and I had some background in college with some physical therapy modalities. The practice has evolved a little



Michelle Heckman, Karla Van Winkle, Jana Derry and Dr. Andy Allen.

bit as healthcare has."

Dr. Allen noted that while chiropractic offices in metropolitan areas often specialize, he has found that in a rural area, it makes more sense to provide general chiropractic care.

"We can see everybody from infants to the elderly and kids with sports injuries. It's been a pretty good fit for the community," Dr. Allen said. "We can do X-rays, which not all chiropractors offer. There's

nothing that we specialize in, but I would say we're very well rounded."

Dr. Allen shared his education and path to Guthrie Center.

"I grew up in Albia, down in southeast Iowa, and then I went to UNI for undergraduate, and then Palmer College for chiropractic school," Dr. Allen said.

When asked about things the public might not realize about chiropractic care, Dr. Allen explained that some may not

understand the wide array of issues chiropractic can address.

"A lot of times, people don't know we can work on pregnant women or on kids and infants. Kids that have earaches or kids with colicky issues, constipation. Bedwetting is another one that people don't know we can help with," Dr. Allen said.

Dr. Allen noted that there is no such thing as someone too young for chiro-



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Dr. Allen shows one of the adjusting tables for patient treatments.

practic care. He explained that the birthing process or how an infant sits in a car seat can lead to a need for gentle chiropractic adjustment.

Another issue Dr. Allen often sees with school-age patients relates to electronic device usage.

"Posture, and the way kids are on their phones or iPads, that has changed in the last 15 years. Backpacks may not be as heavy anymore, but that can still be an issue," Dr. Allen said.

According to Dr. Allen, one of the most commonly seen issues is back pain.

"I've had men come in during the winter without socks on because they can't bend down to put them on. Or, I remember a time when a high school girl literally crawled in here," he said. "So, the back pain is the most common thing and probably the one we have the most success with."

Understanding that pain can sometimes be an urgent issue, Dr. Allen strives to get patients in as soon as possible.

"The way we schedule, we can usually get people in within a day. That varies a little bit with new patients. They take a little longer. But nobody has to wait too long around here," Dr. Allen said. "And if they don't know much about chiropractic, we're happy to answer questions."

One recent change at Allen Family Chiropractic is the addition of massage therapy. Licensed massage therapist Jana

Derry recently joined the staff to help meet patient needs.

"We're excited to have Jana. She had her own practice in Coon Rapids. She's got a history of being a really good massage therapist, so it's a big bonus for us," Dr. Allen said.

Derry brings more than a decade of massage experience.

"I graduated in 2005 and worked for about 12 years, then took a break and now I'm back. For 10 of those years, I had my own shop in Coon Rapids. I built a clientele by word of mouth to over 500 people, and that's pretty big for a small town," Derry said. "I started here in the beginning of April. I'm pretty much fulltime, as much as needed. It's starting to fill in by word of mouth."

As with Dr. Allen's chiropractic treatments, Derry's massage services are available to people of all ages and conditions, including infants, children, pregnant women and the elderly.

"I try to make every massage different. If you have specific injuries or places that are hurting, that's what we work on. I listen to your body and go from there," Derry said.

The staff at Allen Family Chiropractic also includes office staff members Michelle Heckman and Karla Van Winkle. Anyone interested in learning more or scheduling an appointment is invited to call the office at 641-747-8247. ■

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A YOUNG FAN OF OLD ROCK

ACGC sophomore Parker King shares his love of vinyl records, hard rock and album art with the Casey library community.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Parker King of Casey is a 16-year-old sophomore at ACGC. He is interested in music, but not the type one might assume a teenager in 2026 would enjoy. Casey Librarian Beth Rogers discovered that one day as Parker walked into the library.

“Of course, I notice most band T-shirts but when he came into the library with an Ace Frehley shirt on, I had to say something because I was a huge fan of KISS back in the day. That opened the conversation to compare our rock tastes. He leaned to the heavier rock where I am stuck on Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and other classic rock bands. But make no mistake, Parker knows those bands as well,” Rogers said.

For Parker, once he discovered the classic rock genre, he jumped in headfirst.

“I got interested in this music about two years ago, and I’ve been collecting for about a year. Mostly rock, but sometimes in the pop rock area, like Greenday for example,” he said.

Parker does not know how many CDs and vinyl albums he has, but he admits it is in the hundreds. Some of his favorite bands are Green Day, Metallica, AC/DC, Guns N’ Roses and Led Zeppelin.

Parker also wears many T-shirts from



Parker King and Beth Rogers discovered their similar taste in music.

his favorite bands. He would also like to attend concerts, but he understands some of his favorite performers are no longer touring.

“I haven’t gone to concerts yet, but I would have loved to see Metallica or Guns & Roses, or Ace Frehley or the ‘Prince of

Darkness’ Ozzy Osbourne,” Parker said.

Asked to name a favorite album, Parker did not have a clear answer.

“Oh, that’s a hard one. Probably some of the rare ones, like Metallica’s ‘Damage in Japan’ or ‘Garage Days Revisited,’ ” he said.

In addition to having an old-school taste in music, Parker shops for albums in an old-school way. Rather than searching online, he likes to thumb through the racks at record stores in the Des Moines area.

Through his interest in classic rock

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Parker King shows a pair of favorites from his collection.

music, Parker learned about the controversy that raged during the 1980s, when some people claimed many hard rock bands were putting subliminal messages into their recordings through backward masking. At the height of the controversy, there were pushes for boycotts, legislation and record burnings. Ironically, the controversy largely ended because of technology. As more listeners bought albums on CDs rather than vinyl records, it became more difficult to play music backward.

“They were talking about Led Zeppelin and bands like that,” Parker said. “Some people say it’s satanic, like there’s some backward evil messages, but it’s just fake.”

For his part, Parker is not looking for hidden messages. He simply likes the music, and that interest has inspired him to learn to make his own music. For the past two years, he has been teaching himself to play guitar.

“I play guitar, because that’s where all of the magic comes from,” Parker said.

Parker has a portable turntable for playing his vinyl albums so he can take his music with him. He also enjoys the photography and text included with albums, such as band photos, lyrics and other information.

Parker realizes many of his favorite albums are considered collectors’ items. With that in mind, he is both a collector and a music lover, even when those pur-



Parker King plays an LP on his portable turntable.

suits clash.

“The best advice is to get two copies of each, so you can open one and keep one in good condition,” he said.

But, it is clear that for Parker, albums are meant to be enjoyed. He also wants to share the fun of his hobby with others. Rogers explained.

“He came up with this idea to have kids here at the library make up their own album cover designs. So, we made up goofy band names, wrote them out, and then the kids are supposed to pick one and create an album cover design for it,” Rogers said. ■

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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

ALL Camps will be held at the Guthrie County Extension Office, unless noted otherwise

The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the 4-H Youth Development County Extension Program



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NURSES, PATIENT CARE TECHNICIANS HONORED AT GCH

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Nurses are honored with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the efforts nurses perform every day. Nurses are nominated by patients, families and colleagues. The award recipient is selected by a panel of community members. Each nominee receives a daisy pin and bouquet of daisies. The DAISY Honoree receives a certificate commending her or him for being an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." The Honoree is also given a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called "A Healer's Touch," hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.

The 2026 Daisy Award was presented at the Daisy Award Ceremony to Matt Sandel, RN. PCTs are honored with The Sunshine Award

for Remarkable PCTs. The Sunshine Award is exclusive to Guthrie County Hospital. Spawned from a desire of the nurses to recognize the PCT staff, the Sunshine Award has been established.

PCTs are nominated by patients, families and colleagues. The Sunshine Award recipient is selected by a panel of community members. Each nominee receives a sunshine pin and bouquet of sunflowers. Sunshine Award honorees receive: a personalized certificate, a Sunshine Award pin, and a hand-made wooden sunshine plaque.

"The DAISY and Sunshine Award ceremony is a meaningful opportunity to recognize the extraordinary compassion, dedication and human connection our caregivers bring to every patient experience. These awards honor those who go above and beyond — offering not only clinical excellence but also kindness, empathy and comfort during life's most vulnerable moments. We are proud to celebrate individuals



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

LEFT: The 2026 Daisy Award was presented at the Daisy Award Ceremony to Matt Sandel, RN. Pictured left to right: Lori Harrah, acute and ER nurse manager; Matt Sandel, RN; and Mandy Schiefert, chief nursing officer DAISY Award Nominees: Stephaney Brondum and Dale Peterson. RIGHT: The 2026 Sunshine Award was presented at the Sunshine Award Ceremony to LaRoyce Kress, PCT. Pictured left to right: LaRoyce Kress, PCT and Mandy Schiefert, chief nursing officer

who truly exemplify the heart of our mission and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve," stated Mandy Schiefert, chief nursing officer.

The 2026 Sunshine Award was presented at the Sunshine Award Ceremony to LaRoyce Kress, PCT.

Nomination forms for 2027 are available at Guthrie County Hospital, GCH Clinics, GCH Healthy Living Center and at www.guthriecountyhospital.org.

HISTORY OF THE DAISY AWARD:

The nonprofit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, California, and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic

Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

MEANING OF THE SUNSHINE AWARD PLAQUE:

Each plaque is hand-made and intricately woven locally. The woven part of the plaque symbolizes the inextricable link between the PCT and RN staff. Each one is an integral member of the team. When woven together just right, the sunshine (PCTs) can perfectly support the DAISIES (RNs). Together, they create an environment in which our patients can flourish and thrive. ■

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Main Street Guthrie Center Flower Pots donations 2026! We have 26 planters in our Main Street District. This helps our amazing volunteers all year long to care for, create and maintain these beautiful planters.

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6-19 ... Brick Imerman Band 8-11

OBITUARY

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



William “Bill” John Clarke Jr., born Sept. 5, 1943, in St. Louis, Missouri, passed away at home on Sunday, April 19, 2026. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather and as a loyal friend — someone whose steady presence, quick wit and genuine love of conversation made people feel instantly at ease.

Bill was the son of William Clarke, Sr. and Lucille Mae Clarke (LePorin). Raised in St. Louis, Missouri, he graduated from Ritenour High School and carried his hometown pride with him all his life — especially as a loyal St. Louis Cardinals fan for decades.

WILLIAM 'BILL' JOHN CLARKE JR.

1943-2026

After high school, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Germany — an experience that deepened his sense of responsibility, resilience and pride in serving others. He brought that same steady dependability into every chapter that followed.

Back in the St. Louis area, Bill worked several jobs and — luckily for everyone who came to know their family story — met the love of his life, Jane Shick. They married on Jan. 7, 1967, and built a home filled with laughter, conversation and the kind of loyalty you could count on. Together they welcomed two sons, Sean William Clarke and

Brian Matthew Clarke.

In 1976, Bill and Jane moved to Iowa with their two sons, settling on a farm near Jefferson in 1977. A city boy at heart, Bill threw himself into farm life — learning, adapting, and eventually taking over the family farm from Jane’s parents. He worked hard and took pride in doing things the right way, but he also knew how to enjoy the people around him; after a long day on the tractor, he was happiest swapping stories with friends over a cold beer at the lake.

In time, Bill and Jane retired to their home on Lake Panorama, where he lived until his death. They shared nearly 60 years

together — hardly a day went by that they weren’t side by side. They spent several winters in Arizona and later in Naples, Florida, and they loved seeing the country: browsing flea markets and antique shops, taking trips to Las Vegas, driving the boat while Jane and the kids waterskied, or enjoying a cozy night in with the Cardinals on TV. No matter where he was, Bill’s top priority was always family, with friends a close second — and he was the kind of person who never turned away someone in need, always ready to lend a hand without keeping score.

Bill is survived by his son, Sean Clarke and

Liana, of Naples, Florida; his son, Brian Clarke and his wife Angela, of Long Grove, Illinois; and six grandchildren: Christian, Alexander, Isabella, Ricky, Bobbi and Angelyse.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of almost 60 years, Jane Rae.

A visitation with the family was held Saturday, April 25, at Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home in Jefferson. Bill’s sons, Brian and Sean Clarke, delivered the eulogy. The United States Army Honor Guard presented the American Flag. Services were directed by Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home and Cremation Care, Jefferson. ■

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SHARON J. JESSEN

1963-2026

Sharon J. Jessen, 62, was born on April 22,

1963, in Illinois to John and Jeannette Haila. She passed away on April 18, 2026, at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames.

Sharon lived in California as a child. She loved playing outside with friends in the cul-de-sac her family's home was part of. In 1972 her family moved to West Des Moines, where she entered fourth grade. She continued her education, graduating from Valley High School in 1981. She subsequently attended Iowa State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree. Following graduation, Sharon

worked at the Animal Rescue League of Iowa and then at American Federal Savings and Loan in Des Moines where she learned how to operate a computer.

Sharon met Steven D. Jessen of Guthrie Center at a Merry Mixers square dance, and on March 11, 1989, she married him at the Valley United Methodist Church in West Des Moines. The newlywed couple made their residence in Guthrie Center where Steve was employed as a farmer and an assembler of farm machinery. Sharon found employment at the newspaper office as an

ad creator and feature writer interviewing retired people and telling their stories for the paper.

Sharon left the newspaper office when she became unable to work due to a chronic illness called Mixed Connective Tissue Disease (MCTD). She was later diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension. She worked from home as a freelance graphic artist creating business cards and invitations for family and friends on her home computer. She also worked as a personal historian

putting together life story books.

Sharon was active before her lungs became compromised, causing her to require supplemental oxygen. She engaged in activities such as singing, walking along the country roads and in the fields with her beloved dog Goldie, playing tennis, gardening, and helping her husband with the cattle and on the farm. She also enjoyed working on her computer, creating movies from photographs and music videos for songs she had written. Her hobbies included designing and

creating handmade greeting cards, reading about subjects that interested her — especially spirituality and metaphysics — and playing word games and online poker, which she was particularly successful at.

Sharon is survived by her beloved husband; her two brothers, Eric and his wife Lynn of Longmont, Colorado, and John and his wife Mary of Ames, and their two sons. She was preceded in death by her parents. Sharon was deeply loved by her family and friends and will be missed by all who knew her. ■



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OBITUARY

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KAREN JANE ROBINSON

1945-2026

Karen Jane Robinson of Lawrence, Kansas, passed away Friday, May 8, 2026. Karen was born on July 21, 1945, to Bennie and Freda L. Sheeder. She enjoyed her time on the farm, such as playing in the timber on wooden horses. Also, she attended a one-room school, similar to the school that she enjoyed reading about in the Laura Ingalls Wilder "Little House" series. She had a passion of reading all her life.

In 1963, Karen graduated from Guthrie Center High and then moved to Des Moines to work for a time. She attended Omaha Baptist Bible College, in 1964, and spent several summers working with missionaries in

Illinois. In the summer of 1965, she returned to Des Moines and began working at the "Hob Nob," a coffee shop at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. She was able to do her dream job as an "elevator operator," something she had wanted to do since a child. She then got a job as a telephone operator with Bell Telephone and continued working for them for 31 years in Lawrence and Topeka, Kansas, offices.

On Oct. 11, 1970, Karen married Steve Robinson. Seven years later, two special Christmas presents came to them on Dec. 24, 1977. They adopted Philip, age 4, and Nathan, age 3, from the Philippines. Her family now complete, she then devoted herself to them.

Karen spent many years as a VBS director and teacher ministering to children and adults. Another special calling was helping with church camp ministry as a cook and teacher. Also, she actively decorated the church for every season and occasion. She wanted to share the gospel whether at home, work, church or at camp. Karen also had a catering business for many years, which was a family affair. She loved traveling with her husband on cruises, which included Israel, Italy, Hawaii, Alaska and the Caribbean Islands.

After her husband, Steve, passed, Karen moved to assisted living where she could enjoy her passions of reading and crafting. She loved playing bingo two times a week. They catered to her needs, and she felt like a princess, especially at her 80th birthday party.

Karen received her glorified body on May 8, 2026. She was preceded in death by her husband, Steve; parents, Bennie and Freda Sheeder; sister, Sandra Sorensen; and brothers, Gary and Lyle Sheeder. Left to mourn Karen are her two sons, Philip and wife Krysten Robinson and Nathan Robinson; eight grandchildren, Stephen, Inez, Mia, Nathan, Simn, Pilar, Anevey and Philip Theodore, Jr.; a sister, Sherry, and her husband, Warren Gardner; as well as numerous cherished nieces, nephews and a host of friends who held a special place in her heart.

Graveside Service will be held 2 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Union Cemetery, 1305 North St., Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made payable to Amazing Grace Baptist Camp, 4214 Eisenhower Road, Ottawa, Kansas 66067.

Full details may be found at www.dengelmortuary.com. ■

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POLL CLOSSES 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
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OBITUARIES

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Laura (Brian) Manatt; his granddaughters, Clair, Payton and Lucia; and daughter-in-law, Braedi Kinman, and his grandson, Cole Kinman; his sister, Mary (Graeme) Doyle; a niece and two nephews; and many other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, David; his parents; his brother, John; and his sister, Darlene.

A celebration of life was held at Iles Jordan Creek Funeral Home, 7150 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, on April 27, 2026.

Visitation is at 10 a.m., the service followed at 11 a.m. A reception was held at the funeral home following the services. Interment will be at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, North Branch, Iowa (in rural Guthrie County).

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions to be made to the Guthrie County Community Foundation, 1915 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. ■

MERWYN (MERV) JAY KINMAN

1941-2026

Merwyn (Merv) Jay Kinman, 85, of Waukee, passed away on April 18, 2026. He was born on Jan. 12, 1941, in Adair County to L. Hugh and Mildred Kinman. Merv will be remembered for his kindness, humor and dedication to his family and his business, Kinman Glass. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Linda; his son, Doug; his daughter,



She loved cooking, spending time outdoors, planting flowers, raising a garden, caring for animals, the love of outdoors, and, especially, rocking on her front porch. She was always up for and loved an adventure with family and friends, especially going to garage sales.

Nancy is survived by her husband, David, of Guthrie Center; son, Chris (Tara) of Guthrie Center; daughter, Cassidy (Nick) of Jefferson; grandchildren, Cullen and Jentry Simmons and Avery and Scarlett Lange; her mother, Dorothy Caltrider of Adair; along with extended family including nieces, nephews and many friends who will miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her father, Wayne Caltrider; brother, Roger Caltrider; sister, Pat McKibbin; and father-in-law, Gerald Simmons.

Cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of Nancy's Life will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 4-7 p.m. at the Guthrie Activities Center, 209 State St. in Guthrie Center.

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

NANCY SIMMONS

1959-2026

Nancy Maureen Simmons, 66, daughter of Wayne and Dorothy (McCarthy) Caltrider, was born Aug. 12, 1959, in Atlantic. She passed away Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Unity Point Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines.

Nancy graduated from Adair-Casey High School. On Sept. 28, 1985, she married David Simmons, and, to this union, two children were born, Chris and Cassidy. Nancy worked as a cook for many years between Country View, Guthrie County Hospital and Guthrie Center Schools.

She was a proud mother and grandmother.



Meals on Wheels and serving as a poll worker during elections.

Fern moved to Colorado in 2016 to spend more time with her many grandchildren who lived in Colorado.

For several years, she continued her love of reading and her church activities and added many grandchildren's birthdays and sporting events, which kept her very busy.

Fern was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Ruby Moreland; her sister and brother-in-law, Fleta Mae and Richard Cox; her sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Daniel Camp; her sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Charles Finnegan; and her brother, Clifford Moreland.

Fern is survived by her son, Mike Short of Palmer, Alaska; her daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Jeff Wilkin of Arvada, Colorado; her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Vicki Short of Belton, Texas; her daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Gordon Hoyt of Toyah, Texas; her daughter and son-in-law, Theresa and Tim Morgan of Port Washington, Wisconsin. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held for Fern on May 23, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Bayard Cemetery in Bayard. ■

FERN L. MORELAND SHORT

1936-2026

Fern was born to Elmer E. and Ruby E. Moreland of Bayard on Dec. 9, 1936. She grew up in Guthrie County and graduated from Guthrie Center High School 1955.

Fern was married to a military man and traveled extensively while raising a family of five children. Her travels took her to Turkey, Nebraska, Texas and Alaska. She remained in Texas for many years. While there she worked for Angelo State University in the campus library until retiring. She enjoyed reading as well as walking and was a longtime member of the San Angelo, Texas, walking club. She spent much of her time at church, participating in Bible study and civic activities. She spent many years delivering



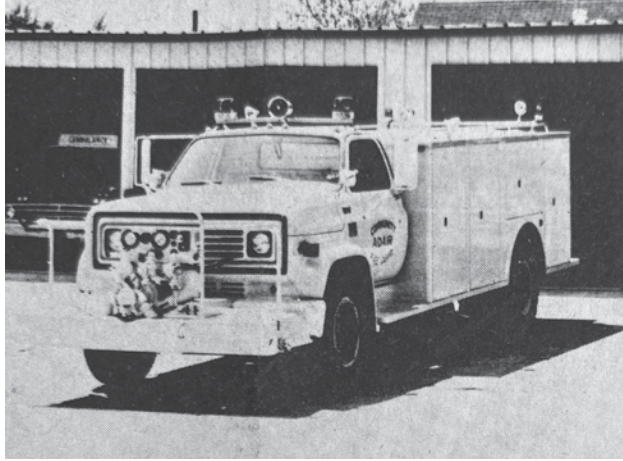
All obituaries also publish at gctimesnews.com



YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 26, 1976

NEW FIRE TRUCK. The truck is pictured in front of the new Adair fire station addition completed last year. The building will be the site of the Adair firemen's ball Saturday, June 5.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 14, 1986

THE "MUSIC MEN." Among those honored at the annual Vocal and Band awards banquet held Tuesday night at the elementary building were these three Guthrie Center High School students. Marty Crabbs (left) was awarded the prestigious Arion award for being the outstanding senior band member. Todd Campbell (center) was awarded the American Choral Directors Association award as the outstanding senior vocal member. Mark McCellan (right) received the Most Improved Player award.

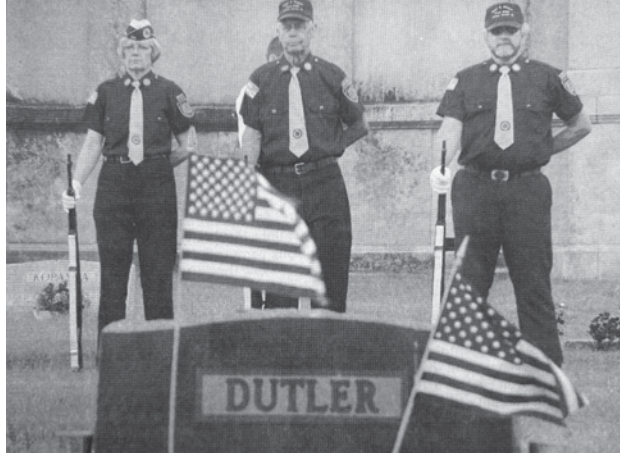
30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 1, 1996

\$10,000 GIFT. Harold and Lorraine Banks of Guthrie Center have contributed \$10,000 to the Guthrie County Health Care Foundation, organized last year to provide financial support to the Guthrie County Hospital. Accepting the gift from Mr. and Mrs. Banks are Tim Hilgenberg, foundation president, left, and Dr. David Ahrens.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 3, 2006

PARADE REST. Glenda Edwards, Jerry Herron, center, and Dennis Hoover, members of Omar B. Shearer American Legion Post No. 124 Color Guard, stand at parade rest at Union Cemetery Monday.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, May 4, 2016

GOLD MEDAL JUMP. TJ Wickland of Guthrie Center competes in the boys high jump event Thursday night at a track meet in Guthrie Center. Wickland cleared 5 foot, 8 inches for the gold medal.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, April 8, 2021

VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION IS MONDAY. The Guthrie County Veterans Memorial on the courthouse grounds in Guthrie Center is now complete with the addition of new names and the flag poles. The memorial will be dedicated during Memorial Day services on Monday beginning at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held on the courthouse lawn. The Guthrie Center American Legion is hosting its Memorial Day services in conjunction with the dedication. ■



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RECIPE

RHUBARB SEASON JUST GOT CRISPY

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

Guthrie Center Times

As a kid, you could find me following my mother around the yard while she planted, weeded and tended to her flowers and plants. Our backyard wasn't overflowing with produce — just a small strawberry patch lined with rhubarb. Back then, I wasn't a fan. Rhubarb was a little too bold for my taste. But, over time, especially when paired with apples and a bit of sugar, it won me over. Now, I look forward to it every year.

Rhubarb is also one of the easiest and most rewarding plants to grow. Give it a sunny spot — ideally on the south side of your house or garage — and it will thrive with very little fuss.

This crisp is inspired by my mother's classic apple crisp. Sort of. Like my mother, I don't really measure ingredients for these kinds of treats, which has made sharing the recipe a bit tricky over the years.

Sometimes I add nuts or oatmeal. Sometimes I mix in apples. But one thing never changes: a generous, crispy crumble topping. If it's not crisp, we're not doing it right.

So, for the sake of sharing (and finally having something more useful to say than "just eyeball it"), I actually paid attention while making it this time. What you will find here is my best attempt at a real recipe. That said... I probably added a little extra of something along the way. I encourage you to do the same. That's where the magic happens. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

JOLENE'S RHUBARB CRISP

Ingredients:

- 5 cups of rhubarb
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup oatmeal
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature (if it gets too dry, add a little more butter)

Directions:

Chop rhubarb in half inch pieces and place into an 8x8-inch dish. In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients, then add butter. Cut butter into the dry ingredients until crumbly. Spread crumble mixture over rhubarb. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.



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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of the photo in last month's contest is the entrance to the city park in Adair. Robert Klever 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. ■



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO






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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



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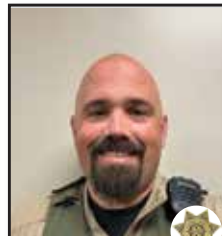
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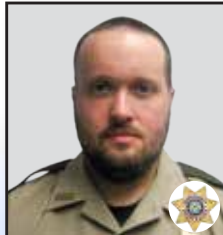
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