

# Guthrie Center TIMES

APRIL 2024

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## CREATING COMMERCE

LEARN HOW LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE  
WORKING TO GROW THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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THE PINK POPPY  
SOOTHES BODY,  
MIND AND SOUL

PAGE 24

CRIBBAGE  
GROUP LOOKS  
TO GROW

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8-4-2-1  
BREAKFAST  
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PAGE 36

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**ON THE COVER:** Devan Seeck, Lindsay Gilland, Kristina Swensen, Vicki Crannell. Photo submitted



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# POWERING THE ECONOMIC ENGINES LOCALLY

Meeting people. Sharing ideas. Doing business with people who do business with you. I am a fan of all these things, as they all work toward a greater goal — creating commerce.

Most all of us have some great ideas, but they are not truly formulated until we get a chance to bounce them off other folks who can provide input to make them even better.

I had a wonderful professor in college who defined marketing in three simple words: Satisfy the customer. Thirty-five years later, his definition still sticks with me. But learning how to satisfy the customer isn't always easy, especially if you try to do it on your own. The good news is, you don't have to.

Networking with others is beneficial

for everyone, but it is especially helpful for business people. I attribute much of the growth we have had in our company to the relationships built through the years in business organizations, including local chambers of commerce and economic development groups. In fact, Big Green Umbrella Media has belonged to dozens of these organizations over the years. We believe in these organizations so much that we not only encourage, but we require many of our employees to get involved. We continue to benefit from our association with groups in



Shane Goodman

Guthrie County as well. We are fortunate to have many to choose from, and we are pleased to highlight several of them in this month's cover story.

Many people assume these business organizations are arms of city government. Although many cities are involved in business groups, they are not running them. Commerce organizations are typically operated by volunteers who truly care about the businesses, the people and the communities they choose to be part of.

If you are a business owner or operator, I encourage you to get involved in one or more of these organizations. If you are not a business owner or operator, there is room for you, too, as I guarantee your ideas and input will be wel-

comed.

Most importantly, regardless of what stage you are at in your life or your work career, I encourage you to buy your products and services locally whenever you can and do all you can to support those who are powering our economic engines.

Thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
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# CREATING COMMERCE

Learn how local organizations are working to grow the business community.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Commerce is defined as a system of activities, functions, procedures and institutions that contribute to the distribution and transfer of goods and services at the right time, place, quantity, quality and price through various channels from the original producers to the final consumers.

Those are a lot of words for something as basic as putting buyers and sellers together, but nobody said running a business was easy. And although making that connection is the primary goal for most local business organizations, the folks behind the scenes find themselves doing much more both individually and with other groups to continually improve the business community.

## GUTHRIE CENTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOOKS BEYOND BUSINESS TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Guthrie Center Economic Development



Elves Geri Thompson, Kim Patrick, Vicki Crannell and Kim Durst are the helpers for Santa and Mrs. Claus at Guthrie Center's Santa's Workshop, one of several events held to promote commerce in the city.

consists of a group of local businesspeople and community leaders who share a common goal to enhance and grow the business community. Dennis Flanery serves as the leader of the organization and explained some of the history and details.

"We have a volunteer board, of which I am currently president," Flanery said. "We look for opportunities to attract or retain businesses to grow the economic vitality of Guthrie Center. We've also been involved with housing projects. We look for ways to help the community that maybe another group isn't doing."

The group owns two buildings in Guthrie Center, which Flanery says some people may not realize.

"We own a commercial building on Industrial Road that we lease, and that's our primary source of income," Flanery said. "We also own the Art on State building in Guthrie Center and lease that to them."

The group is currently working on helping to develop affordable housing in Guth-

rie Center. Flanery said housing and business are often part of a "chicken and egg" situation in which each is needed in order to achieve growth in the other.

"One of our projects right now is a housing project, to build a duplex or something similar," Flanery said.

On the business side, Flanery explains two of the most commonly used programs the group offers.

"We facilitate a façade grant program," he said. "We work with the City and Main Street Guthrie Center. We get funds and we grant that back out to businesses that are doing façade work, whether that's signage, doors, windows. Anything that's visible."

Flanery said businesses can apply for up to 50% of the project, up to \$5,000, and that the funds are given to them in the form of a grant.

"They don't need to pay that back," he said. "We also have a zero percent revolving loan fund, where they can borrow up to \$5,000 or 50% of the project and pay it back

over a period of three years, at zero percent interest. Right now, we probably have 15 outstanding loans. We've been doing that for about 20 years. A lot of people donated to create that fund."

Flanery added that a business could use both programs (façade grant and revolving loan) simultaneously.

Besides Flanery, the group has seven other board members and many others who join in the regular meeting.

"We meet monthly at noon on the first Tuesday of the month at Café on the Hill. Our meetings are open," said Flanery.

Anyone wanting to get on the mailing list can contact Flanery at [dennis.flanery@gcho.org](mailto:dennis.flanery@gcho.org).

Flanery described a few of the group's success stories.

"We were kind of instrumental throughout the years in attracting Rose Acres to town. We helped get the daycare started. We purchased the original daycare building," said Flanery. "We try to instigate a lot



Erika Willms is the president of the Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce.



Ashley Smith serves as the president of the Adair Chamber of Commerce.

of things and then try to get it into the private sector.”

### CASEY SERVICE CLUB WORKS TO PRESERVE SMALL-TOWN VALUES

The Casey Service Club is a nonprofit, volunteer organization, similar to a Chamber of Commerce, that works toward the betterment of the city of Casey.

The club consists of a group of citizens and business owners who work together to make the community a better place to live.

“We strive to accomplish this through our efforts to promote, community service projects supporting youth activities, and promotion and support of all businesses and organizations in our community with the emphasis on building and preserving small-town values,” President Stacy Wedemeyer said.

The 2024 officers are Stacy Wedemeyer (president), Cheinie Reha (vice president), Jessica Davis (secretary) and Bret Wedemeyer (treasurer). Contact any of these officers or any Casey Service Club member for more details on the organization or how to get involved.

The Casey Service Club helps to promote the business community and residents with events including Christmas in Casey, St. Patrick’s Day Bingo, Halloween Trunk or Treat, and Casey Fun Days.

“If you are interested in volunteering with our group, we invite all to come, attend a meeting, and help make a differ-

ence in your community,” Wedemeyer said.

### ADAIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS “SMALL BUT MIGHTY”

The Adair Chamber of Commerce came into being in 1985, although it had operated under a different name for several years prior to that, according to Ashley Smith, who has served as the president since November of 2022. She’s joined by officers Cindy Grubbs (vice president), Tracy Mackrill (treasurer), Emily Irwin (secretary), and Kayla Irlmeier (media and entertainment officer) to help promote business and community growth in the Adair area.

Smith said one area of focus is making sure new businesses become known.

“We find out when a new business is starting up. We contact them, and, if they want, we do a ribbon cutting, and that’s a free advertisement for them in the newspaper,” she said. “Then we also will put them on our Facebook page.”

Smith said she also mentions new businesses in the Chamber’s monthly newsletter. In addition, she noted that, especially if a business owner is new to the community, the Chamber offers guidance on who to contact for various needs and supplies and useful information about Adair and local happenings.

For established businesses, Smith said the Chamber sometimes helps by posting job opportunities for local businesses.

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The Chamber also coordinates and/or helps with several yearly events that bring commerce to the city, including an Easter egg hunt, a pancake supper in November, and Chuckwagon Days in June, which is the city's largest event. Other popular local events include Music in the Park, Produce in the Park, and a turkey trot run on Thanksgiving morning.

Looking forward, Smith said she's working to start a new and unique event — a fundraiser golf tournament this year with the first nine holes played during the daytime and the second nine holes after dark with glow golf.

Because Adair is a small town, Smith said area events are usually led by a small group of dedicated people.

"We're small but mighty," she said. "We would love more help."

**MAIN STREET GUTHRIE CENTER BRINGS PEOPLE DOWNTOWN FOR SHOPPING, EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

The mission of Main Street Guthrie Center is to be a catalyst for economic vitality, to promote historic preservation and to champion community partnerships. Krissy Swensen, one of the volunteers at Main Street Guthrie Center, said one goal of the group is to bring people downtown for shopping, events and entertainment.

A popular local tradition that Main Street Guthrie Center leads is the Guth-

rie Center Farmers Market. This year, the events will be held every other Saturday from June 1 through Sept. 21, running from 9-11 a.m. This schedule was designed in coordination with the Panora farmers market, which will occur on the opposite weekends so the cities are cooperating rather than competing. A special Fall Festival farmers market is also scheduled for Oct. 12 to wrap up the season. The farmers market is held on N. Fourth Street in downtown Guthrie Center.

Swensen pointed out that another successful event is the annual Santa's Village event, which was formerly known as Reindeer Express.

"There are crafts and Mr. and Mrs. Claus. It really brings a good crowd downtown, and a lot of our local businesses pitch in as well, doing sales or different things around that same time," she said.

As mentioned above, another focus is historic preservation. Main Street Guthrie Center Director Lindsay Gilland commented on this focus, which aims to make the community more appealing to businesses and residents.

"Main Street Guthrie Center is focusing a lot on our historical preservation and revitalization along our downtown. I want our community to know that we are working hard on all of our wonderful historical buildings," Gilland said. "We hope to bring life and knowledge about the great history that we have right here in our community."





Midwest Partnership's Biz Connect event offered attendees the opportunity to share ideas.

### GUTHRIE CENTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND HELPS CREATE MORE BUSINESS

"We help promote organizations and businesses, working together and making our community great," said Erika Willms, president of the Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce. "We do that through advertising, events and just any way that we can bring people together and help create more business for our businesses, both nonprofit and for profit."

The Chamber also aims to help residents and visitors know what the community offers.

"We just created a new website that will be a good resource for anyone that is new to the community, to see where they can go to shop, eat, get their car fixed, or whatever it might be," Willms said. "There is a list of our members, as well as our members' events that are going on."

The Chamber also holds and/or helps with a variety of events throughout the year.

"With new businesses, we always try to schedule a ribbon cutting and get the word out through social media, as well as the paper," she said.

Guthrie Center Chamber meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at noon. The location rotates so members can become acquainted with other member businesses in the community. Willms said the Chamber is eager to welcome new members.

"Anyone can be a member, whether you're a business or not. We have memberships for individuals as well as businesses, and we're always looking for volunteers," she said.

Willms stressed that Guthrie Center is blessed to have several organizations working together to achieve the common goal of a vibrant community.

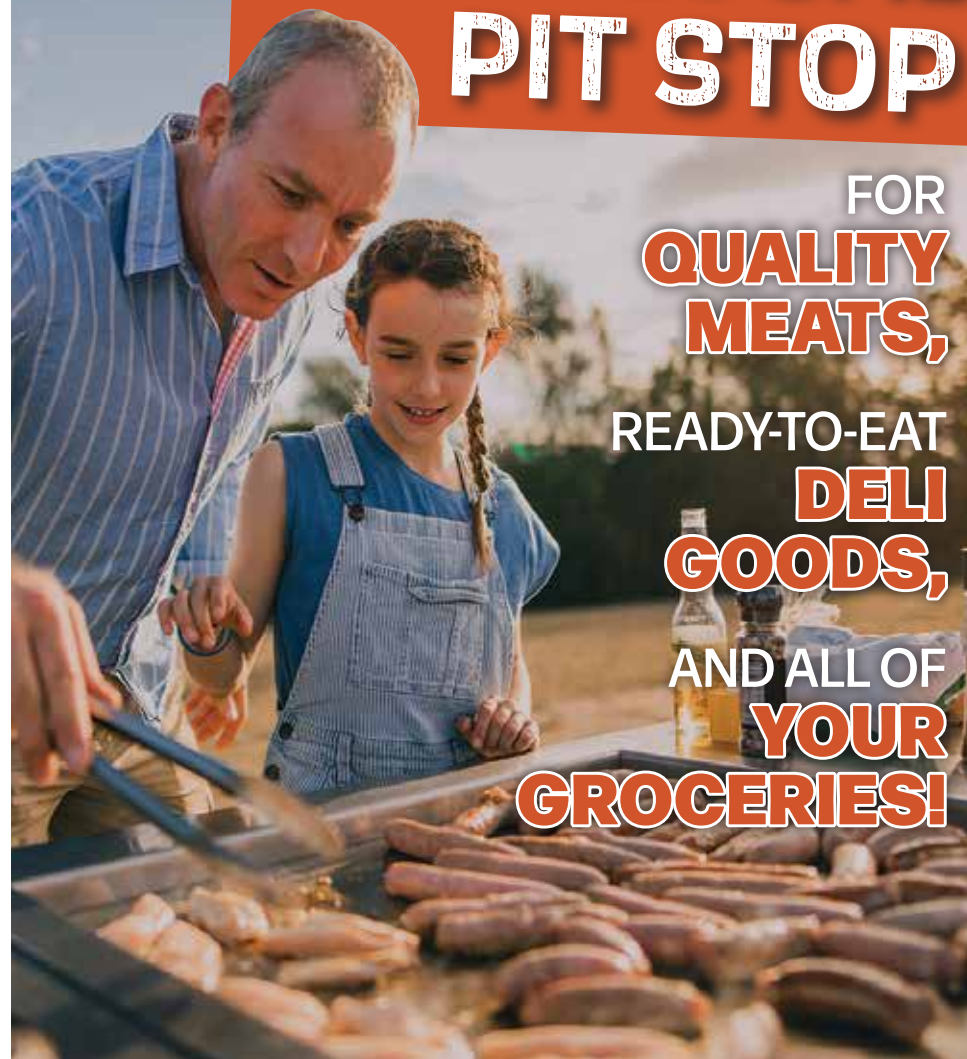
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Guthrie Center now a little more closely with events,” Willms said. “I think having that partnership is really going to help with what we can do for our community, to see some bigger and better things.”

## MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR ADAIR AND GUTHRIE COUNTIES

The office of Midwest Partnership is located in Stuart, and it houses Executive Director Brenda Dudley, as well as Kayla Willms, who serves as the administrative and communications coordinator.

“Midwest Partnership is economic development for Adair and Guthrie counties,” Dudley said. “We work with both counties, trying to increase the tax base. Anything that deals with trying to bring businesses in, keep existing businesses here, and housing, workforce, daycare and tourism.”

Services that Midwest Partnership can help businesses with include business planning, site selection, financial assistance, workforce needs, and succession planning. Dudley said the bulk of Midwest Partnership’s funding is from memberships.

“The counties both contribute, a lot of the cities contribute, and we have a lot of business memberships, too,” she said.

Dudley works to stay in touch with the local communities throughout Guthrie County, by attending local governmental meetings (city councils, board of supervisors, etc.) to hear what is needed in the area and to offer supports as appropriate.

“I feel like, when we attend these meetings, we always share what we’re working on. It’s a good chance just to listen. I look for things like, if someone is struggling with their business,” Dudley said.

Midwest Partnership has a Facebook page, showing past and upcoming events of interest to local businesses, such as job postings, job fairs, grant and loan op-



SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Dennis Flanery is the president of Guthrie Center Area Economic Development.

portunities, and educational/networking events.

Dudley explained that loans are one of the most significant ways Midwest Partnership can help new businesses.

“When businesses start up, it’s hard to get grants for small businesses, because they’re more for the nonprofits. But the revolving loan funds are great for start-up businesses,” she said.

A revolving loan fund is generally in addition to a traditional bank loan, as Dudley explained.

“They need to go to a bank, and if they need \$100,000, but the bank is only able to give them \$50,000, then they can go to the revolving loan fund for the extra,” said Dudley.

Dudley told of recently helping an established business by coordinating a mentorship through the SCORE organization (Service Corps of Retired Executives) so the mentor could help the mentee in areas of need.

Another offering through Midwest Partnership is Biz Connect. Dudley explained that the program isn’t new, but the name has changed.

“Years ago, it was the Entre-Bash. Some business owners didn’t come be-



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cause they didn't consider themselves entrepreneurs," Dudley said. "So, we changed the name to the Biz Connect."

Biz Connect events offer educational and networking sessions for any type of business. There are sessions focused on legal issues, IT, marketing and advertising, benefits, human resources and financial matters.

The most recent Biz Connect event was free and was held April 4 at the Adair Community Center.

An upcoming event promoted by Midwest Partnership is the Empower Her Summit on Wednesday, April 24, 6-8 p.m. in Stuart. The event's tagline is "Unveiling Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs."

Dudley explained there are many other ways she can help the communities in Guthrie and Adair counties. For example, she recently helped Bayard by posting two lots that are for sale on the LOIS system (Location One Information System).

Midwest Partnership also tracks data and trends for local businesses.

"Another thing we do is called BRE interviews, which stands for Business Retention and Expansion. They used to be required by the state," said Dudley. "They give me a list of bigger companies in the two-county area. We go in and ask a lot

of questions about what's going well, and what's not going well, how is the community... just a whole lot of questions that we ask to try to figure how the businesses are doing and how we can help them."

Dudley said she also focuses on areas that indirectly impact the business environment.

"Every community in Iowa, and I think the country, is struggling with daycare, workforce and housing," said Dudley. "Those are the big things."

Over the course of her year at Midwest Partnership, Dudley has gradually gotten busier.

"Now, as time goes on, I do get a lot of calls," she said. "I think the word is getting out about what we do, and when you build those relationships, people trust you, and they start knocking on your door."

Currently, Midwest Partnership has a total of 77 members throughout Guthrie and Adair counties. Most members are local businesses, although the list includes both counties and six cities (Adair, Bayard, Guthrie Center, Panora, Stuart and Yale). Membership levels range from \$100 to \$1,000 or more.

Dudley and Willms encourage anyone wanting more information to check out the Midwest Partnership website ([midwestpartnership.com](http://midwestpartnership.com)) or Facebook page, or to call or come visit them. ■



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## LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

# SWANK, WAHLBERG, GYLLENHAAL, MORE GHOSTBUSTERS AND A CLONE OF CHRIST

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Guthrie Center Times*

### "ORDINARY ANGELS"

Two-time Academy Award winner Hilary Swank stars in this movie based on the true story of a flawed woman who is inspired to help a young family after seeing a report on the local news. A movie that could have been a syrupy mess turns into an engaging and, at times, touching film. A seriously ill child, a family struggling to pay their medical bills and an angel trying to help. It's better than it should be and is a true crowd-pleaser. Bring Kleenex. Lots of them. **Grade: A-**



"Ordinary Angels"

### "ARTHUR THE KING"

With Marc Wahlberg in one of those movies he seems to specialize in from time to time, "Arthur the King" tells the true story of a man struggling with life issues. On a competitive race with friends, he finds an injured dog he cannot refuse

to help. This will seriously damage the team's chances of winning and the loss of thousands of dollars. Since it is a true story, I will go along with it. This is another movie that gets dangerously close to sappy, but the strength of Wahlberg's performance and a damn cute dog save this from the scrap heap. **Grade: B**



"Arthur The King"

### "CABRINI"

This engaging bio-pic is about an Italian woman who goes to the Pope with her request to start a hospital in her hometown and then a series of hospitals in America. It is a true story of a feisty and determined woman who never took no for an answer. She was canonized as a saint by Pope Pius



"Cabrini"

XII in 1946. It's a wonderful movie about an amazing woman. **Grade: B+**

### "GHOSTBUSTERS 2: THE FROZEN EMPIRE"

The last Ghostbusters film, which featured a group of young kids related to an original Ghostbuster, was clever and a

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"Ghostbusters 2: The Frozen Empire"



"Immaculate"



"Road House"

lot of fun. This sequel to a sequel is a bad misstep. Back in New York City, ghosts reappear to wreak havoc, and these kids and a handful of the original Ghostbusters take to the streets to save the city once again. I did not laugh once. The film is boring, not funny and a waste of time. Bill Murray arrives too late to save this "nail in the coffin" of the franchise. **Grade: D-**

**"IMMACULATE"**

This film is a "not true" story of a young woman who wants to be a nun. She travels to Italy to join a convent. It is clear from her first day that something is horribly amiss here. She stays anyway,

and it gets even more creepy as we find she is mysteriously pregnant with what we discover is a clone of Christ. That's a phrase I never thought I would use. The movie goes off the rails quickly and poorly and ends in a mess of special effects that really aren't special and a story that is equally horribly and mind-numbing. I'm guessing you can see where this is headed. **Grade: D-**

**"ROAD HOUSE"**

The original "Road House" with the late, great Patrick Swayze is a cheesy, but fun, classic action film. There was humor, charm and romance and abso-

lutely no reason to remake it. Director Doug Liman has given us great action films including "The Bourne Identity," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "Edge of Tomorrow." Actor Jake Gyllenhaal has made some really good movies as well, including "Nightcrawler," "Donnie Darko" and "Brokeback Mountain." How this new version of "Road House" went off the rails this fast and far is a mystery. A stranger (Gyllenhaal) ends up in the Florida Keys where he finds a bar struggling to keep violence at bay. And then the whole damned thing goes so over the top, it is amazing (in a bad way). Uber violent, poorly acted and a complete waste

of time. Catch it on Amazon Prime, if you dare. **Grade: F**

May has to be better, right? Until next month, please pass the Milk Duds. ■

*Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986 and can be heard talking movies every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. on KXn0 106.3 with Keith Murphy and Andy Fales. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Guthrie County.*



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# OBITUARIES

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## CHARLES DAVIS

1964-2024

Charles (Chuck) Anthony Davis was born on April 10, 1964, to Earle and Joy (Lydon) Davis in Ogallala, Nebraska. He passed away on Monday, March 25, 2024, at Bethany Life in Story City.

Chuck graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1982 where he participated in football, wrestling, track and chorus.

In his early years, Chuck enjoyed his time

on the Davis family farm near Guthrie Center. After graduating high school, Chuck attended Palmer College of Chiropractic and graduated in 1992 with honors.

His career as a chiropractor led him to Clarion where he purchased Clarion Chiropractic Clinic and served Clarion and surrounding communities for more than 25 years. Chuck's chiropractic work was a source of joy, and he developed lasting relationships with many patients. He loved his patients and was known as Doc Davis to many. Chuck enjoyed volunteering as the team doctor for Clarion Goldfield high school athletes for many years and gave free care to any active athlete.

Chuck and Mary (Caslavka) Davis were married May 2, 1987, in Iowa City. Chuck found a lot of joy in watching his five children grow up. He loved his family deeply. He enjoyed supporting them through their

sports, dance and many other school and church activities. He never missed an opportunity to cheer them on. Chuck, along with his wife, Mary, celebrated their kids through many milestones. From high school and college graduations, to seeing them start families of their own. One of Chuck's most important and loved roles was "Grandpa." As Grandpa, he adored his three grandchildren more than anything and would show you pictures any chance he got.

Chuck will always be remembered for his big smile and his ability to make every stranger a friend. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to joke around. He was passionate about helping people.

Chuck was an active member of St. John's Catholic Church for many years and volunteered for various committees and activities in the church. He was deeply faithful and loved delivering

cross necklaces to his caregivers so that they would know the love of Jesus.

Chuck was preceded in death by his loving parents, Joy and Earle Davis, and his grandparents, Tom and Ila Lydon and Glen and Mary Davis, and his uncles, Paul Lydon and Noel Johnson.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 36 years, Mary, and their five children: Anthony (Megan) Davis, Nathan (Maggie) Davis, Claire Davis, Brendan Davis, and Isaac Davis; his three grandchildren, Alder, Madison and Prim; his siblings, Brian (Jean) Davis, Jodi (John) Russell, and Mike (Sonia) Davis; and his many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

We will miss his sense of humor and his contagious laugh that filled a room. We will simply miss our dad, husband, grandpa and brother.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial for Chuck Davis was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at St. John's Catholic Church, 608 Second Ave. N.E. in Clarion with Father Jerry Blake officiating. Burial will take place at a later date.

Visitation was Friday, April 5, 2024, at Ewing Funeral Home, 1801 Central Ave. E. in Clarion. Rosary was prior to visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Chuck's name may be directed to Blank Children's Hospital Child Life Program. ■



## DEANN SAFLEY EDWARDS

1937-2024

Deann Safley Edwards was born Dec. 22, 1937, in Jefferson to Byron and Verna Safley. The family lived and farmed in Greene County. Deann had one sister, Janet (Mills), and one brother, Richard Safley, who died in infancy. Deann graduated from Jefferson High School in 1956. She was united in marriage to John Atteberry shortly after high school. They established their home in Guthrie Center and, to this union, four children were born: John in 1957, Scott in 1959, Kristin in 1960 and Kathryn in 1963. Deann was a homemaker until she was widowed in 1975. She then relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana, where she

went into business in interior design and then became owner of the Fire Extinguisher Company of Louisiana. She was in business for more than 30 years and retired at the age of 84. Deann was married to Glen Edwards from 1995 until his death in 2006.

Deann loved the New Orleans area and enjoyed her camp in the bayou, boating, Cajun dancing, New Orleans Saints and LSU Tigers football, church activities, and being involved with her family. She especially enjoyed her time with her grandchildren.

Deann died March 18, 2024, at the age of 86. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister; her husband, John; her daughter, Kathryn; her son, Scott; and her second husband, Glen. Deann is survived by her children, John (Chelsee) of Harvey, Louisiana, and Kristin Hafner of Gretna, Louisiana; three grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 11 a.m., with visitation from 9-11 a.m. at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expy., Harvey, Louisiana. Interment will be at a later date. ■

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# OBITUARIES

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## WILMA DORIS SHELLEY HORMAN

1925-2024

Wilma Doris Shelley Horman, 99, died Sunday, March 24, 2024, at the New Homestead Care Facility in Guthrie Center.

She was born Feb. 6, 1925, at her parents' farm home near Booneville in Madison County.

She was the fifth of 12 children born to Allison

Glenwood and Mable Hessie Hadley Shelley. Her family moved to rural Menlo in Guthrie County when she was 3 years old, and she received her education at a rural country school until she finished eighth grade. Her religious education was in the Quaker faith.

As a teenager, she went to Takoma Park, Maryland, to live with her sister, Neva, and family. While there, she met Harry F. Horman, who was working there after serving in the military. They moved to Iowa in 1946.

Preceding her in death were her children, Mable Alice (Richard) Clark, John Roger Hormann and Michael "Mickey" Gilbert Hormann; grandson, Allison "Willie" Wilhelm Hormann; sisters: Neva Stearns, Evelyn Landon, Erma Aswegan, Carol Sharp and Martha Shelley; brothers: Dale Shelley, Dean Shelley, Paul Shelley and Allan

Claire Shelley.

Survivors include daughters, Carol Ann (Dennis) Davis and Judith Marie (Bob) Zimmerline; son, Allan Harry (Darleen) Hormann and daughter-in-law Corine Hormann; grandchildren, Shelley (Tim) Payne, John (Raquel) Downing; Jim (Tammy) Zimmerline, Shawn (Wayne) Peterson, Gordon (Carrie) Clark, Jami (Kevin) Rafter, Jacob (Stephanie) Hormann, Melissa Grycan, Korissa Hormann, Kayleigh Hormann, Elias (Kimberly) Hormann; sisters, Ruth Camerson and Esther Kelley; sister-in-law, Vera Shelley; several great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, numerous relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 12-4 p.m. at the 100F Lodge Hall, 121 North Gaines, Stuart. ■



## MARY L. BRANSON

1930-2024

Mary Louise Branson, 93, daughter of Harold and Eva (Laughlin) Moraine, was born July 31, 1930, in Glendon. She passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the New Homestead, Guthrie Center.

Mary graduated from Guthrie Center High School. In 1948, she

married Robert Wesley Branson at the Christian Church in Guthrie Center. They made their home in Guthrie Center for 35 years. Mary owned and operated Branson's Beauty-Rama until they moved to Lake Panorama in 1983. In 2010, they became residents of the Lakeside Village in Panorama until July of 2012 when they moved into the New Homestead. Bob passed away in November of 2012.

Mary enjoyed playing bridge, golfing, fishing, cooking, gambling, her love for her cat, Gracie, and, most of all, spending time with her family, especially wrestling with the grandchildren. Mary also was a collector of antiques (blue glassware especially), and while she was a resident of the New Homestead, she enjoyed watching the birds, playing bingo and having visitors.

She volunteered with the WSO and First Christian Church. She

was a member of the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center and then the First Christian Church in Panorama.

Mary is survived by her children, Kristi (Doug Hickman) Branson of San Diego, California, Barry (Vanessa) Branson of Panorama, and Kathi (Dave) Sherby of Austin, Texas; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bob; two brothers; and a sister.

Cremation has taken place, and graveside services were Saturday, March 30, 2024, at the Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center.

Memorials may be left to the New Homestead beauty shop for upgrading of the facilities and may be mailed to Branson's, 5017 Panorama Drive, Panorama, IA 50216.

Twigg Funeral Home, Panorama, is entrusted with her services. ■

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## BUSINESS NEWS

# MULTIPLE BUSINESSES HAVE RIBBON CUTTINGS IN CASEY

**The Casey Service Club held a number of ribbon cuttings on March 27 to welcome businesses to the community.**

*Information supplied by the Casey Service Club*

### SPRAYER SPECIALTIES

The first stop was at Sprayer Specialties, located just south of the Casey exit. This business will be a busy place soon as farmers looking for sprayer parts stop by and get what they need to keep them moving.

Sprayer Specialties, Inc., based in Grimes, opened its fourth location on the south side of the Casey exit off Interstate 80 last spring. Lincoln Mincks, operations

manager, said the aim of the company is to serve farmers' spraying needs with a one-stop shop with no need to travel to the city.

"As everyone knows, Grimes is starting to get more and more traffic. It's a lot harder for farmers and those in agriculture with trailers to get in and out of there," Mincks said. "This is a nice outpost, if you will, for people to come pick up fittings, hoses, tanks, sprayer supplies and a location for us to service the customers of western Iowa."

Mincks commented that Casey was chosen because of its central location to western Iowa and for the visibility the town's exit offers.

"Casey seemed like a good fit for visibility, and we already have a good customer base out here," Mincks said.

Their other locations are in Brimfield, Illinois, and Gardner, Kansas.

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Casey Service Club members Nita Fagan and Bret Wedemeyer, Sprayer Specialties Operations Manager Lincoln Mincks, and Casey Service Club members Cheinie Reha and Linda Caltrider.

SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES





Casey Service Club members Linda Caltrider, Nita Fagan and Judy Wedemeyer; Terraplex staff Danny Assman, Gunner Schmitz, Ryan Schroeder; and Casey Service Club members Cheinie Reha and Bret Wedemeyer.

Sprayer Specialties products involve liquid storage and liquid transfer. They don't sell the liquid, whether that be fertilizer, chemicals or water, but they sell the rest that is needed to complete a job. Some of the items the business carries include pumps, tanks, hose, fittings and safety supplies. They also build their own sprayers, stock inventory for replacements and service them as well. They have replacement parts for pumps and other sprayer components in case of a breakdown.

Mid-January to mid-summer, Sprayer Specialties is the busiest with agricultural applications. In colder months, the company transitions to servicing those applying deicing fluid on roads ahead of winter storms. They are fully open and carry a large inventory of the most popular sprayer attachments, nozzles, tanks and more. Customers can pick up items not in stock at the Casey location by ordering them, and delivery will be made the next day.

"We're glad to be here in Casey, servicing the people of Adair, Casey, Greenfield, and all the surrounding communities," Mincks said.

### TERRAPLEX AG

The Casey Service Club welcomed Terraplex Ag to its new location at the Casey Iowa I-80 Exit 83. This agronomic company is pioneering in drone technology and has dedicated the company to delivering efficient and effective crop spraying services to the western half of Iowa. Their

mission is to revolutionize the ag industry by implementing the latest drone technology to enhance farming practices and maximize crop yields.

At the ribbon cutting on March 27, members of the Casey Service Club met the team that is adding options to the ag chemical application industry. This knowledgeable team gave a live demonstration of ways drones may be utilized for agriculture today. Drones are finding their way into many uses in modern agriculture. One example is in the applications of chemicals or fungicides, enabling access to locations not easily serviced by traditional field sprayers or other aerial applicators due to weather or landscape. Drones can scan the ground and spray the correct amount of liquid, while modulating distance from the ground and spraying in real time for even coverage. The result is increased efficiency with a reduction of the amount of chemicals penetrating into groundwater. Experts estimate that aerial spraying maybe completed up to five times faster with drones than with traditional machinery.

### FAGAN FENCING

The Casey Service Club continued on to welcome another thriving business that recently moved its headquarters to the west edge of Casey. Many have passed by the car wash or gone to the city's compost with leaves and wondered what was going on next door. Meet Fagan Fencing.



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Casey Service Club member Judy Wedemeyer; Fagan Fencing's Brennan Leonard, Nita Fagan (owner), Tom Fagan (owner) and Cole Reha; and Casey Service Club members Cheinie Reha and Bret Wedemeyer.

Fagan Fencing is another Casey agromonic business that started 25 years ago. They began as Sund's Custom Fencing when Tom and Nita Fagan of rural Casey purchased the business from Warren and Marlene Sunds and continued the business and the name. A few years ago, they purchased the former Victor Awning business and began manufacturing their own fence braces. This evolved into manufacturing gates and bale rings. As they began to add to their manufacturing portfolio, they decided it was time to use their own brand name, Fagan Fencing & Mfg., and move the rest of the business including the office, post yard and supplies from the former Highway 25 location to their new location west of Casey along Highway 6. The Fagans added a large display room and shop to the existing manufacturing building where they now have room for all the materials and supplies needed to install and maintain a customer's fence. They also will custom design and install most all types of agricultural, commercial and residential fencing. Their manufacturing line has increased to offer not only braces and bale rings but also continuous pipe fence and gates, as well as custom-made orders to fit the customers' needs.

Fagan Fencing employs many area youth in the summer as well as full-time crews that work all year in either fence installation or in the manufacturing part of the business.

Tom and Nita expressed how proud they

are to be another Casey business and part of Casey's revitalization. Fagan Fencing is an active member of the Casey Service Club.

### TIN LIZZIE'S SPORTS BAR

The Casey Service Club made its final ribbon cutting of the day at the latest hot spot on main street Casey — Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar. This nightclub and weekend day location offers a casual environment to cheer your favorite team or just a place to enjoy the game in a lively atmosphere where patrons can watch sports events, socialize and have a good time. Their many TVs allow you to follow your favorite teams and even multiple sports with family and friends. This beautifully decorated building, with metallic copper ceilings, spacious seating and a comfortable bar, showcases sports memorabilia, local athlete photos and old Casey school uniforms to create a literal walk-through of Casey's past.

Co-owner and Casey native Colleen Conrad has been involved with volunteering in her hometown the past seven years, which has included rehabbing and restoring several Main Street buildings. She and her husband, Corey C. Conrad, recently opened their latest venture, Tin Lizzie's Sports Bar. Colleen came up with the name and theme of Casey's latest business through inspiration from the town and the original building's history.

This building, the former hardware



Casey Service Club members Jaxson Wedemeyer, Linda Caltrider, Nita Fagan and Judy Wedemeyer; Tin Lizzie's staff Paxton Schneider, Colleen Conrad (owner), Stacy Wagner (general manager); (back row) Casey Service Club member Bret Wedemeyer; Tin Lizzie's staff Grace Gebbie (assistant manager) and Sheila Ayers; and Casey Service Club member Cheinie Reha.

store, had at one time operated as a Model T Ford Dealership in the Prohibition Era and for years thereafter. Colleen fell in love with the revival of old Speakeasy restaurants and venues throughout the United States, so, in 2023, she carefully researched what she felt could be a great venture for Casey. She and her husband, Corey, have been involved with helping to revive and improve the community since 2016. They have renovated several old buildings, created new opportunities for local businesses, and offered employment opportunities for teens and adults. They both look forward to creating more opportunities for Casey in the future.

Colleen's love for her hometown comes from growing up around amazing people and from her admiration for her parents, the late J.V. and Yvonne Mullen. These amazing people were great examples for Colleen, demonstrating their hard work and service to the community. Her parents taught her a great work ethic and compassion for all ages through their service to Mullen Funeral Homes and their many activities within local clubs and organizations. The garage where the old Tin Lizzie's sits is aptly named "Joe's Garage" after her father.

Colleen shared what you can expect when you visit Tin Lizzie's.

"Tin Lizzie's is a modern day sports

bar with a speakeasy vibe. Come join us for fun on our two top-of-the-line 'Full-Swing' simulator golf bays with a variety of game options. Enjoy our pool tables and shuffleboard, as well as entertainment almost every weekend. From line dancing, to live bands to DJs and karaoke, Tin Lizzie's is the 'rural' place for entertainment. We also offer a variety of fresh pizzas, appetizers and drinks."

The Casey Service Club sampled a bit of this speakeasy entertainment as Tin Lizzies hosted all the businesses involved in the ribbon cutting at their establishment. The Service Club recognized the businesses, and everyone enjoyed appetizers and drinks.

The Casey Service Club is a group of citizens and business owners with a goal to work together to make the community a better place to live. They strive to accomplish this through efforts to promote community service projects, support youth activities, and promote and support all businesses and organizations in the community with the emphasis on building and preserving small-town values.

If you are interested in volunteering with the group, contact any of the 2024 officers: President Stacy Wedemeyer; Vice President Cheinie Reha; Secretary Jessica Davis; or Treasurer, Bret Wedemeyer. ■

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**BUSINESS NEWS**

**G.C. CHAMBER HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR BEAN ARMORY**



SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

The Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Bean Armory, 310 State St. in Guthrie Center, on Saturday, March 23. Bean Armory specializes in firearm repair and customization needs and sells handguns, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, ammunition, scopes, knives and more. ■

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# THE PINK POPPY SOOTHES BODY, MIND AND SOUL

**In describing her store and her philosophy, Jen Readinger often uses the word, “holistic.”**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Just off State Street, at 106 S. Fourth St. in Guthrie Center, is a store you simply must see to understand. The Pink Poppy Apothecary offers a unique array of items and experiences. Jen Readinger, owner of The Pink Poppy, shared the history of her business, which opened in August of 2018. She recalled how the business came to be.

“I always wanted my own business. I can’t name a female in my family that actually worked outside of their own business. Everybody’s always had one,” Readinger said.

With two children in high school and one in the military, Readinger realized she finally had enough time to devote to a business. Around that same time, she was trying to help a family member who was dealing with chronic pain, so Readinger was studying alternatives to medication for pain control.

“I started studying aromatherapy, essential oils, holistic homeopathic medicine,” Readinger said. “I never thought I’d open a shop that had anything to do with that, but that’s what started it off.”

Readinger recalls that she started small when opening the boutique.

“We started with the basics — herbs, essential oils, and we had a little home décor thrown in,” Readinger said. “We started up on Main Street in a tiny store. Then, right about the time COVID hit, we bought this building. We’ve been here three years now, and it has expanded so much.”

In describing her store and her philosophy, Readinger often uses the word, “holistic.”

“We’re now a body, mind and soul boutique. I don’t believe that focusing solely on one thing leads to a happy and healthy



Jen Readinger encourages everyone to experience The Pink Poppy.

life,” she said. “You need to take care of all of those things.”

After five-plus years in business, Readinger acknowledges that she follows her customers’ leads in what direction her business should evolve.

One area in which The Pink Poppy is evolving is social media and local events. The store has a Facebook page with many photos of new and discounted items, daily affirmations, humor and events. The inventory includes essential oils, soy can-

dles, beauty supplies for women and men, metaphysical supplies, and many other items.

The Pink Poppy is typically open Thursday through Saturday until 7 p.m. each day. On other days, Readinger often teaches classes related to her offerings.

“I teach a lot of tea blending, how to make your own teas,” she said.

Because many of the store’s offerings are not familiar to everyone, Readinger is eager to help people learn about whatever

catches a customer’s eye or imagination.

“That’s why I do a lot of ‘101’ classes to introduce you to something,” Readinger said. “That’s what life is about. Just try it.”

When asked how she chose the name “The Pink Poppy,” Readinger said she put a lot of thought into choosing a store name.

“I didn’t want to be specific. I didn’t know really where this was going to go, but I knew that I wanted to remain a natural, holistic and spiritual growth setting.





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I liked the idea of doing an apothecary.”

While browsing in a book, Readinger happened to see a photo and description of a rare flower, the pink poppy.

“The definition was ‘the divine feminine’ and ‘the protector of women’...and that was it,” Readinger said.

Surprisingly, Readinger said about 40% of her customers are male. She recalls many men who have come into the store with a significant other and been pleasantly surprised at the items available.

Readinger said many of her customers come from outside Guthrie County. She mentioned repeat customers from as far away as Omaha, eastern Iowa, Des Moines and Storm Lake.

She also hears a frequent comment from local citizens making their first visit.

“They say, ‘I can’t believe this store is in Guthrie Center.’ I hear that so much,” Readinger said.

Customers at The Pink Poppy often find items they may have never seen elsewhere.

“I do have a lot of tarot and oracle, and that’s another thing that people are surprised to find here,” said Readinger. “Oracle is more like daily affirmations. A



Shelves at The Pink Poppy offer unique and surprising items.

lot of therapists are using them now, and we sell the journals that go along with them.”

As with many small businesses, The Pink Poppy has a small staff.

“It’s mainly just me. My daughter helps out a lot. She has another job, and she’s just finishing up high school,” Readinger said. “She helps teach classes, and she crochets. My daughter and I rock hunt, so we bring in a lot of things that we find.”

When asked about her favorite moments in dealing with visitors to the store, Readinger had a ready answer.

“Some of my favorites are when kids come in and are so in awe of everything. It’s not a toy store, but just the colors and the rocks. They want to look and touch everything. We are kid friendly; please touch it.”

Readinger said she’s achieved her goal in creating a welcoming boutique and plans to continue for the foreseeable future.

“I want people, especially girls and women, to have a place to come into that’s a safe space where they feel safe asking questions... and I just want to grow that,” she said. ■



Tarot cards and instructions are available for new and experienced users at The Pink Poppy.

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## HOBBIES



A table of six work on racking up points.

# CRIBBAGE GROUP LOOKS TO GROW

**Every Monday morning, a group of cribbage players meets at the Mary J Barnett Memorial Library in Guthrie Center**

BY RICH WICKS

*Guthrie Center Times*

Even if you don't know what "nobs" or "crib" mean, and even if you can't tell your "flush" from a "skunk," you can easily learn the card game of cribbage. In fact, there's a local group that welcomes you to join them as they teach you the game.

Every Monday morning, a group of cribbage players meets at the Mary J Barnett Memorial Library in Guthrie Center at 8:30 a.m. Players gather around tables and begin shuffling and dealing out cards. On a recent Monday, 13 players had gathered and divided into groups of six, four and three. Those present included Jim Carico, Kay Phippen, Bob Klever, Joanne Zieser, Debbie Kiefer, Larry Gardiner, Dan Webb, Dennis Betts, Wayne Nickel, Bill Sheeder, Rhonda Titus, Clint Malbon and Allen Pierce. Each week, Bob

Klever keeps track of which players rack up the most impressive scores and sends the results to be published in the Guthrie County Times Vedette digital edition ([www.gctimesnews.com](http://www.gctimesnews.com)).

Cribbage is a game of numbers. Players earn points for combining cards together to make runs or scoring combinations. The math is simple, but cribbage involves strategy, too. Sometimes the best move is to try to score points, but, at other times, it's best to try to stop the opponent from scoring.

"We started with classes 11 years ago," Carico said. "It's a game based on an earlier game from the United Kingdom. It's a fantastic game. A hand is four cards."

Carico demonstrated playing a card based on what was played immediately before his turn. Based on points earned, players move pegs on a board that serves as the scoreboard.

Cribbage is a fast-paced game that relies on experience and intuition, as well as a fair dose of luck. But, as the group demonstrated, once the rules are understood, players can easily chat as they play, since there are no complex calculations needed. Sometimes, players bring along snacks to share and enjoy between games. On this

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Players rotate to different tables after each completed game.

particular day, crackers and venison sausage were enjoyed.

It's clear that the Monday morning cribbage players enjoy the game and the socializing that goes along with it. In fact, they enjoy cribbage so much that once a week isn't enough. So, the group plays on Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at the Mary J Barnett Memorial Library, on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. at the New Homestead Assisted Living, and on Fridays at 1 p.m. at the Guthrie Center Activity Center. Besides the regular weekly sessions, Carico told of some special cribbage events throughout the year.

"There's a cribbage tournament during Panorama Days, the first weekend in August. Then there's the tournament during the county fair," Carico said. "The State Fair

has a big tournament down there, too."

Carico and the others welcome anyone to join them and try cribbage. The experienced players said they're always willing to slow down and help a newbie learn the game.

Carico pointed out a significant difference between cribbage and poker. Although bluffing is a crucial part of poker, there is no bluffing in cribbage; players simply have to play their cards to the best of their ability.

"It's a pretty honest game," Carico said. ■

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# GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS APPROVE 3.5% SALARY INCREASE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors held a regular meeting on March 19. Discussion was held about proposed salary increases for the county's elected officials.

Supervisor Brian Johnson said he suggests no salary increase for the supervisors at this time. Supervisor Steve Smith said he understands Johnson's opinion, but Smith was concerned about creating a situation in future years, in which the supervisors need to receive a larger increase than other Guthrie County elected officials in order stay comparable. Smith said it's best to avoid that type of "catch up" situation.

"Over time, as we are trying to encourage and recruit new people to come on the board, I think it is important that we make it advantageous enough, because the work is heavy and the work is important," Supervisor Maggie Armstrong said.

For that reason, Armstrong advocated for continuing to make incremental salary increases for all elected officials, including the supervisors.

The supervisors voted to increase salaries for the supervisors by 3.5%, with Johnson casting the sole vote against. The supervisors unanimously voted to increase the salary of other elected officials by 3.5%.

## NEW WEBSITE FOR THE COUNTY

At the March 21 meeting, the supervi-

sors discussed the proposal to enter into a service agreement with Neapolitan Labs to create a new website for the county. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong shared that, if approved, it's expected to take Neapolitan Labs three to four months to complete the work. She also explained that the county could pay all at once or spread the cost over multiple years. The total cost is expected to be around \$16,000.

Supervisor Brian Johnson asked about consistency and control over what each department would post on the website.

"Each department will have oversight over the content," said Armstrong. "They will have somewhat limited determination over the format because we want the look and feel to be the same, but we can definitely put some parameters in place."

The supervisors voted unanimously to approve the service agreement with Neapolitan Labs and to spread the cost out, with half being paid this fiscal year and the remainder in the next fiscal year.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY SUGGESTS ADDITIONAL SALARY RAISES FOR HER STAFF

During the regular meeting on March 26, County Attorney Dana Minter discussed with the supervisors her request to implement additional salary increases for her staff.

Supervisor Mike Dickson stated his disagreement with additional raises.

"The board gave what they gave, and

that's where I'm at," said Dickson.

Supervisor Steve Smith shared his opinion that, if salaries are not kept competitive, it will cost the county more due to turnover.

After lengthy discussion, the supervisors voted unanimously to approve the additional 2% as requested by Minter.

## SUPERVISORS MEET IN CLOSED SESSIONS

The March 28 agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting included two possible closed sessions pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 1 (c). Shortly after opening the meeting, the supervisors went into closed session for agenda item No. 3 (Litigation Matters; Mike Galloway, Ahlers & Cooney).

The other possible closed session on the agenda was listed as "Litigation Matters; Jeff Stone, Simmons, Perrine, Moyer, Bergman PLC."

## REDUCTION IN MAINTENANCE LEVEL FOR 233RD LANE

During the April 2 meeting, the supervisors set a public hearing on the 2025 budget for 10 a.m. on April 16 at the courthouse.

There was discussion about the proposed reduction in maintenance level for 233<sup>rd</sup> Lane Section 7 South Cass Township. County Engineer Josh Sebern explained that the current service level on that roadway is Level B, and the proposal would reduce it to Level C, which is the lowest level.

"It will be gated at the east end so that only landowners, emergency services, postal services and the county have access — limited public access," Sebern said.

It was noted that if residents move onto properties along the road, the county could later increase the service level as needed.

"Just so I'm correct," asked Supervisor Maggie Armstrong, "the landowners that this would impact are all in agreement that this is the direction that they would like to go?"

Sebern replied that all applicable landowners have signed to indicate their agreement. The supervisors voted unan-

imously to reduce the service level to "C" as proposed.

Armstrong pointed out that there will be upcoming opportunities for all of Guthrie County's department heads to visit with staff from Neapolitan Labs, prior to Neapolitan Labs creating the new county website.

## VICIOUS DOG ORDINANCE

During the April 9 meeting, Health Services Director Jotham Arber shared his progress in collecting information to help create a Vicious Dog Ordinance for the county.

Arber discussed the difference between "dangerous" dogs and "vicious" dogs. Arber said certain types of dogs, such as those that are used for hunting, are generally classified as dangerous dogs. A dog would be classified as "vicious" only based on its behavior.

Arber suggested that if a Vicious Dog Ordinance is adopted, it would be wiser to direct that such animals be removed from the county rather than requiring that such an animal be killed. He said that would be difficult to enforce, other than in emergency situations.

Arber will meet with the county attorney to work on drafting a proposed ordinance and will return to the supervisors when it is available.

The supervisors discussed the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) RFP (Request for Proposals). Supervisor Maggie Armstrong asked Jotham Arber about a proposed timeline for allowing proposals.

"As far as RFPs, I think generally 90 days is the standard response time," Arber said.

The supervisors approved adding a due date of July 1 to the RFP. Armstrong will work on a first draft of a cover letter and will bring it to the April 16 meeting. Once approved, the cover letter and RFP will be sent out and posted on the county website.

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors regularly meet every Tuesday at 9 a.m. The public is welcome. Attendees may participate in person or by calling 323-792-6123 and inputting conference ID 547029216#. ■



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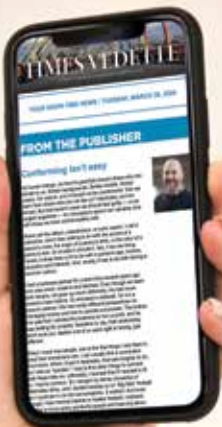
SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Jaxen Knobbe, a sixth-grade student at ACGC, presented at the State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa April 4-5 at Hilton Coliseum in Ames and received a Computer Science Award, Inspiring Inventor Award, the Thermo Fisher Award, and earned first place in sixth-grade engineering.

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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES EYESORE STRUCTURES

City staff to take over citywide garage sales event, which will be held in June.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council on March 25, discussion was held about eyesore structures in the city. Council members noted that many such structures in the city are in disrepair and/or are constructed using substandard materials.

The council discussed an Accessory Building permit request for 607 N. Fourth St. The council noted that the request is after-the-fact, since the building is already built and in use.

"Absolutely there are things there that need corrected," said Councilmember Garold Thomas.

Thomas said, for him, it's an easy decision, since the request is required to be submitted before any buildings go up. The council voted unanimously to deny the request.

City Clerk Kris Arrasmith reminded the public of the upcoming opportunity to ask about the tax levy.

"Overall, assessed value of property in Guthrie County went up, period. And if your property is worth more, you pay more in taxes, plain and simple," said Arrasmith. "Our levy rate actually went down."

Prior to the regular Guthrie Center City Council meeting on April 8, a public hearing was held regarding the proposed property tax levy for Fis-

cal Year 2024-2025. No members of the general public were in attendance, so the hearing was closed.

During the regular meeting of the city council, a public hearing was scheduled for Monday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the city's 2024-2025 proposed budget. On that evening, the regular council meeting will follow the public hearing.

City Clerk Kris Arrasmith explained that many complaints were voiced from citizens last year when Guthrie Center did not have citywide garage sales. She said the Chamber of Commerce is not leading the event anymore, but city staff have chosen to take over the event, at least for this year. She said the event will be held as usual around Father's Day in June, and that maps will be posted as the event date draws closer. More information will be announced when details are finalized.

Arrasmith also informed the council of something they might hear questions about.

"April is always the big month on our utility side where we do our public awareness mailing that we are required by the State to do. Utility bills will come out this month in an envelope. It will have all of our public awareness things," said Arrasmith.

Arrasmith added that information about budget billing will also be included.

As part of the consent agenda, a building/fence permit was approved for 204 S. Fifth St. (Scroggins). The permit allows an addition to the dwelling, plus a small metal shed.

The next regular meeting of the council will be Monday, April 22. The public is welcome at all meetings other than occasional special closed meetings as allowed by law. ■

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## EDUCATION

# ACGC SCHOOL BOARDS SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Superintendent Rasmussen explains how AEA change will impact ACGC Schools.**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

At the joint meeting of the ACGC school boards on March 20, each board set the dates for upcoming public hearings.

For Adair-Casey, a public hearing was scheduled for March 27 at 7 p.m. for the proposed property tax rate.

For Guthrie Center, the proposed property tax rate hearing was set for April 3 at 7 p.m.

For both schools, the certified budget public hearing was set for April 17 at 7 p.m. at the high school in Guthrie Center, with a joint school board meeting to follow the hearing.

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen gave a legislative update regarding Gov. Reynolds' efforts to

increase teacher salaries.

"Today, I got an email...that said they came to an agreement today. It's going to the floor tomorrow, and they're going to vote on it," said Rasmussen. "With that is going to come some changes to AEA, a little more local control."

Rasmussen explained further how the AEA change will impact ACGC Schools.

"We're going to have to use AEA support at the beginning," he said. "We don't have those tools or those resources within our own system, so we have to go out and find that somewhere."

Board member Blair Carney noted an upcoming event.

"The Boys and Girls Club primary fundraiser is this weekend. Anybody that can attend, we'd greatly appreciate it," said Carney.

FFA students gave an update on recent events of the FFA club, including the state and national conferences.

The board formally approved out-of-state travel for the DECA club to attend the national convention in Anaheim, California.

The next regular meeting of the ACGC boards was set for April 17. The public is welcome. ■



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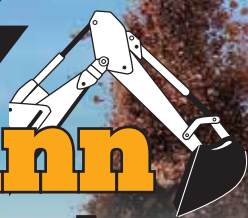
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## HEALTH

# GCH TRUSTEES DISCUSS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**Foundation Director  
Dennis Flanery shares  
information regarding  
upcoming events.**

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

During the March 28 meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees, the trustees heard updates on the hospital's strategic plan and quality improvement processes. CEO Chris Stipe urged the staff to be vigilant in addressing feedback and complaints so they can be promptly dealt with and so better processes can be put in place. He also stressed the need to document all such issues and how they were handled.

"We can learn from that and do a lot with the data," said Stipe.

The trustees approved the fiscal year capital budget and operating budget. Stipe informed

the board of some expected revenues.

"Medicaid Direct Payment, it's supposed to come tomorrow," Stipe said. "I hope the money comes... the additional funding from Medicaid is because we've been underpaid by Medicaid, and still are."

Guthrie County Hospital Foundation Director Dennis Flanery shared information regarding the foundation.

"Our next event that we have coming up is June 15. We'll have a 5K color run," said Flanery.

He added that walkers and runners are both welcomed at the fundraising 5K.

"We are doing scholarships for high school students in the four school districts in Guthrie County," Flanery said. "Those are for students going into a healthcare related field."

The board's next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 25 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome at all Guthrie County Hospital board meetings, in person or remotely, other than occasional special closed meetings. To attend remotely: Phone 1-469-208-1512 code: 915921694# or attend via Microsoft Teams meeting ID: 270 117 496 60 and enter code: PURhxW ■

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# NEW TO GUTHRIE COUNTY!



## WHO WILL BE VOTED THE BEST IN GUTHRIE COUNTY?

We all have our favorite local people, places and things. And now it's time to share your choices and honor those who deserve the recognition.

**POLL CLOSSES JULY 15, 2024.**

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



Make your voice heard and cast your votes in the 2024 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
- Wine Selection
- Place to Buy Meat
- Coldest Beer
- Caterer

### AUTOMOTIVE:

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

### COMMUNITY:

- Pastor (person)
- Teacher
- Coach
- Church
- Daycare
- Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- School
- Park
- Community Festival
- Camping Spot
- Place to Hold an Event
- Elected Official
- Employer
- Customer Service (overall)

### SHOPPING:

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

### 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 (person)
- Dentist (person)
- Chiropractor (person)
- Eye Doctor (person)
- Veterinarian (person)
- Health Club/Gym
- Dance Studio
- Massage Therapist (person)
- Esthetician (skin care professional)

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Bank
- Photographer
- Barge Service
- Realtor (person)
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Landscaping Company
- CPA (person)
- Insurance Agent (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
- Dog Boarding Facility
- Home Painter
- Real Estate Company

# SO MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS

BY KAREN KELLY

Special to Guthrie Center Times

For the past few weeks, I have been reading darker books than usual. I have been sucked into the vortex of Freida McFadden's psychological thrillers. My husband, who rarely comments on my eclectic reading tastes, pointed out that I had been reading "a lot of murder stuff lately." He also wondered if this should concern him. So, to allow my husband to sleep with both eyes closed and because spring often feels like a time to read lighter subject matter, I have put aside the "murder" books filled with protagonists of questionable ethical and moral fiber. I will suggest, however, if you're a fan of a dark, twisty, suspenseful, psychological thriller, you can't go wrong with "The Housemaid" and "The Housemaid's Secret" by Freida McFadden.

Lately, I have been enjoying some of the new romance novels that we have at the MJB Library. "The Unhoneymooners" by Christina Lauren was an entertaining romp. Olive Torres seems to be the jinxed twin while her sister Ami seems to have the Midas touch. Winning a series of contests, Ami managed to finance an elaborate wedding for next to no money; she even won a free honeymoon in Maui. Due to Olive's extreme seafood allergy and the best man's phobia of buffets, Olive and Ethan Thomas are the only guests who didn't immediately become ill from food poisoning from the reception's seafood buffet. With the bride and groom too sick to travel, and the dream vacation that couldn't be rescheduled, Olive and Ethan find themselves both vying for the trip. Refusing to let her nemesis nab the free



The April 10 Lunch and Learn presented by Dementia Friends Iowa was well attended. The next Lunch and Learn will be Wednesday, May 8, from noon to 1 p.m. and will feature Carol Laughery, owner of Ignite Nutrition and Health.

trip for himself, the pair agree to a truce to enjoy 10 days of all-inclusive paradise. Will this trip lead to a change of luck for Olive? Check out the book and see.

Additionally, we have added several titles by bestselling author Lucy Score, including "The Worst Best Man," another romantic comedy novel. For those who love a love story but also enjoy a mystery, check out Score's novel "The Dead Guy Next Door" (the best of both worlds).

There are some new displays to peruse to look for book ideas. Check out the "Read It Before You Watch It" display which features many novels that have recently been adapted for the screen, including "A Gentleman in Moscow" written by Amor Towles. Set in 1922 Russia, this historical novel tells the story of an unrepentant aristocrat who is confined to house arrest for life in a luxury hotel across the square from the Kremlin after being convicted by

a Bolshevik tribunal. Readers will be captivated by the cast of unique characters, the brilliant writing style and the Count's resilience and ability to find purpose and community as he adapts to his new life in the Metropol Hotel. This book is, in my opinion, a fantastic read. Ewan McGregor and the cast of this miniseries airing on Paramount Plus have their work cut out to capture the humor and delight of this novel. Come in and get this book before you

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The April display at MJB Memorial Library is courtesy of Becky Wahl. The display features Becky's collection of cups and saucers.

watch the miniseries. You know the book is always better.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

For our preschool through middle school patrons, Summer Reading Program registration is open now. Go to the web-page to sign up. Read, Renew, Repeat is the theme for this summer.

**PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR**

Remember that story hour for preschoolers and their caregivers is every Friday starting at 10 a.m. April 19 will focus on Pets, and the theme for April 26 is Seasons.

**CHARCUTERIE CLASS**

MJB Library is hosting a charcuterie class on Saturday, May 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m. The class will be presented by Char-

cuterie To Go. Participants will take their charcuterie skills to the next level by learning perfect meat, cheese and cracker combinations. Everyone who participates will take home a board that they made. The cost of the boards is \$25 for a 6-inch by 6-inch size and \$45 for an 8-inch by 8-inch size board. Pre-registration is required by April 30. If you want to attend but can't make the noon workshop, the same class is available at the Linden Library on May 4 from 9-10:30 a.m. ■



This month's featured author is Lucy Score. Stop in and see why her books are so popular.



Check out our display of "Read It Before You Watch It!" which features books that have been or are being adapted for the screen. Stop in and check one out; you know the book is always better than the movie.

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## RECIPE

# 8-4-2-1 BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

BY JOLENE GOODMAN  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Nothing beats treating your family or guests to the aroma of breakfast cooking in the kitchen on weekend mornings. You'll be enjoying this aroma, too, while you sip on your coffee waiting for the timer to go off, because you made this dish ahead of time.



Jolene Goodman

This breakfast casserole recipe is a stand-by favorite that my niece, Jessica Boyd, uses. She frequently has a large family in attendance on the weekends, and each member is a big fan of leftovers. The great thing about this recipe is how adaptable it is. It's delicious with other types of cheese like pepperjack or Swiss, or you can try adding (1 cup of) veggies, like peppers, mushrooms or zucchini. ■

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

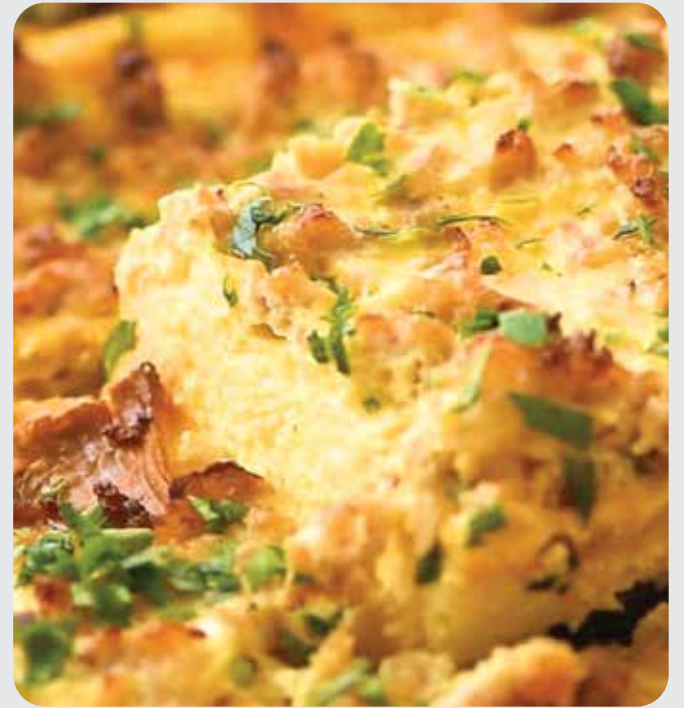
## 8-4-2-1 BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

### Ingredients

- 8 eggs
- 4 cups of milk
- 2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp. of Natures Seasoning (or ¾ tsp. salt and ½ tsp. pepper)
- 1 5 oz. bag of croutons (any variety works!)
- 1 lb. breakfast sausage (I use Jimmy Dean regular)
- Sprinkle with parsley or chives before serving

### Directions

Brown sausage in a pan on the stove. Drain grease and blot as much grease as possible with paper towels. In a bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, cheese and seasoning to eggs, then beat again. Pour sausage into 9"x13" pan. Dump croutons on top. Pour egg mixture on top. Bake 60 minutes at 350 degrees. To freeze breakfast casserole, prepare the recipe and add to your pan. Cover well with plastic wrap and then tinfoil and freeze for 2-3 months. Allow it to thaw overnight in the refrigerator, and then let it come to room temperature before baking according to recipe instructions. ■



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

## ADAIR

**Adair United Methodist Church**  
404 Cass St., Adair  
641-746-2210  
[www.umc.org/en/find-a-church/church?id=50556](http://www.umc.org/en/find-a-church/church?id=50556)

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

**New Life Baptist Church**  
Meets in the Adair City Hall  
320 Audubon St, Adair, IA 50002  
[www.newlifeadair.org](http://www.newlifeadair.org)  
Online messages: [www.newlifeadair.org/videos](http://www.newlifeadair.org/videos)

**Saint John Catholic Church**  
501 Adair St., Adair  
515-742-3230  
<https://adairstjohn.org>

## CASEY

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

**Casey United Methodist Church**  
100 E. 2nd St., Casey  
515-742-2210

## GUTHRIE CENTER

**Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church**  
2397 Bowman Ave., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2408

**First Christian Church**  
105 N. Fourth St., Guthrie Center  
641-332-2571  
[www.christianchurchgc.com](http://www.christianchurchgc.com)

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
701 State St., Guthrie Center  
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**Guthrie Center First Baptist Church**  
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**Guthrie Center Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
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**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
713 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center  
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[www.immanuelgc.org](http://www.immanuelgc.org)

**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses**  
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**Saint Mary Catholic Church**  
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**Q: TELL ME ABOUT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL. HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?**

**A:** The Guthrie County Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The overhead and other expenses are paid through \$35 annual membership fees and the consignment revenues at Art on State, the storefront operated in downtown Guthrie Center at 320 State St., which has been in use for the past seven years. The Guthrie County Arts Council currently has about 130 members and roughly 30 contributing artists, with most from Guthrie County. They welcome new artists, new volunteers and new members. Learn more at www.guthriecountyartscouncil.org.

**Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES IN GUTHRIE CENTER?**

**A:** The Guthrie Center City Council heard from City Clerk Kris Arrasmith on this topic at the April 8 meeting. We have a story in this issue of Guthrie Center Times. In short, the Chamber of Commerce is not leading the event anymore, but the city staff has chosen to take on the event. Arrasmith said the event will be held around Father's Day in June, and that maps will be posted as the event date draws closer. More information will be announced when details are finalized.

**Q: IS THERE A PLACE I CAN PROPERLY DISPOSE OF MY OLD MEDICATIONS?**

**A:** Guthrie County Hospital will be hosting a Drug Take Back Day on Friday, April 26 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Guthrie County Hospital Pharmacy, 710 N. 12th St. in Guthrie Center. You can safely dispose

of unnecessary and expired medications in their medication disposal receptacle. This is a free service and an important step in making your home safer by decreasing the risk of poisonings and inappropriate medication use. For a list of accepted items, visit www.guthriecountyhospital.org.

**Q: WHEN IS THE ACGC ALL SCHOOL REUNION?**

**A:** The ACGC All School Reunion will be held this year, July 5-7. Look for more details in upcoming editions of Guthrie Center Times and at www.gctimesnews.com.

**Q: I HEARD ABOUT THE IOWA MASTER FARMER AWARD. HOW DOES THIS WORK?**

**A:** Henry A. Wallace started the Master Farmer Award program in 1926 to recognize "Good Farming, Clear Thinking, Right Living." A panel of judges select the winners each year. "Wallaces Farmer" recognizes the winners in the magazine's March issue. The application includes a nomination form and requires letters of support. The judging panel focuses on growth of the farming operation over the years, productivity and community involvement. Nominations for the 2025 Award are due Sept. 6, 2024. The 2025 nomination form is available online at 2025 Iowa Master Farmer form or through this QR code. Download the form, complete it with letters of support, and send it to gil.gullickson@farmprogress.com by Sept. 6. ■



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## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 3, 1974

**TIGER ROUNDBALLERS:** Coach Bob Smith is flanked by Steve Sorensen, left, sportsmanship award winner, and Steve Jordan, most valuable player and player contributing the most in practice. Another Tiger, Terry Barrett, was named the most improved.

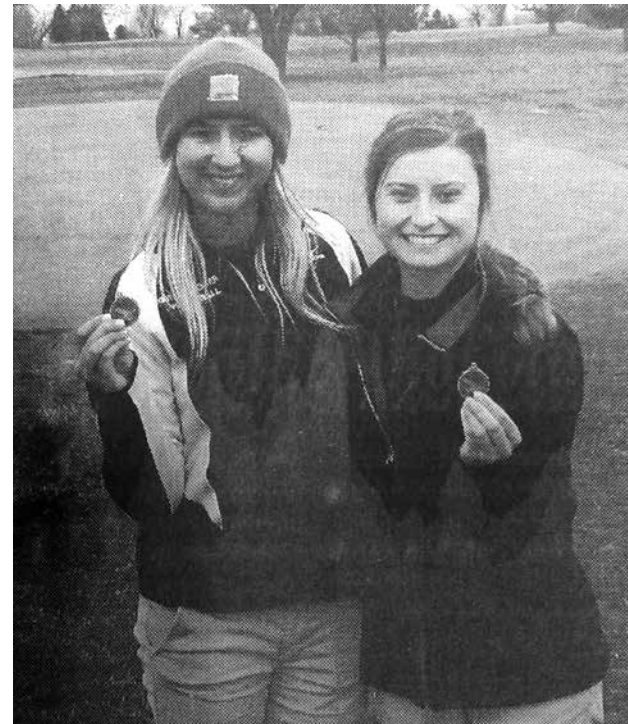
## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 13, 1994

**PLENTY TO SPARE:** Tigerette junior Sunny Gonzales clears the bar with ease at Greenfield Thursday. Friday at Stuart, she tied the school record by jumping 5-0.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 30, 2014

**LADY TIGERS TOUGH:** Thursday's medalist and runner-up, Mallory Osen and Maria Ahrens.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 18, 1984

**SPRING SUNSHINE:** Spring sunshine always chases away the winter blues, but it also rejuvenates man's age-old scourge — his castle's lawn. Clarence Burkhardt, Guthrie Center, took advantage of Tuesday's warming rays to put his trusty garden tractor to work cutting the grass at his residence, 1101 Oak St.

## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, April 28, 2004

**SCHOOL'S A BREEZE!** Guthrie Center eighth-grader Becky Sheeder takes a wind velocity test Wednesday. Channel 13 Weather.net equipment in the junior high science room clocked gusts up to 50 mph.

## 5 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, April 4, 2019

**GOLD MEDAL START:** ACGC's Rylee Sloss runs the third leg of the 4x800-meter relay during the Early Bird Ram Relays March 26 in Jefferson. The Charger quartet of Audrey Stowe, Jorja Hoover, Kendra Campbell and Sloss finished first overall. ■





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