



Guthrie Center TIMES

JULY 2024

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CAMPING IN GUTHRIE COUNTY

**GETTING OUTDOORS
HELPS CAMPERS FOCUS
ON WHAT MATTERS**

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IS A MEMORIAL TO A FRIEND**

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SUMMERTIME DELIGHT**

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ON THE COVER: Angie Laabs enjoys a perfect afternoon camping. Photo by Rich Wicks



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EDITOR & PUBLISHER:

Shane Goodman

VICE PRESIDENT:

Jolene Goodman

ADVERTISING SALES:

Kerry Jacobsen

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Cheryl Castile

EDITORIAL DESIGN:

Beckham Miller

ADVERTISING DESIGN:

Jayde Vogeler

Nick Ruiz

BUSINESS OFFICE:

Brent Antisdell

DISTRIBUTION:

Mike Chiston

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Rich Wicks

Jolene Goodman

Michael C. Woody

Mark Reno

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USING QR CODES TO PROVIDE YOU EVEN MORE ACCESS, NEWS AND INFORMATION

Quick response. That sounds reasonable. Most all of us want to access information quickly and reliably. And why not?

A few decades ago, I attended a conference on Quick Response codes, or what we know commonly today as QR codes. The speaker shared how the scan codes were being used in Japan in point-of-purchase displays, billboards, emails, print ads, etc. We were provided with examples of how Japan was leading in the digital innovation, and that we should be ready for QR codes to gain traction in America. I was intrigued, so I read a book on the subject and started researching this new technology online.

I began to experiment with QR codes in a variety of applications, but they failed to truly take off at the time because a separate app needed to be installed to scan the codes — until recent years.

A little history. QR codes have roots back to original bar code technology, but

most agree that the invention year was 1994 when Toyota wanted a new barcode system in its assembly line and Masahiro Hara from Denso Wave developed the QR code. The codes grew quickly in pharmaceutical practices, retail industries, marketing, social media and security.

The real growth came in 2002 when use of QR codes became widespread in Japan, pushed by the mobile phones with QR code-reading features. Years later, use skyrocketed in America when mobile phones were able to scan using the basic camera app installed on them rather than third-party software that had to be downloaded.

Then along came COVID-19. When restaurant owners feared having printed menus available on tables, they started



Shane Goodman

requiring the use of QR codes to order drinks and food. As a result, many of us became much more comfortable with the process. Yes, even us Iowans. Tie it to food, and we figure it out. Amazing.

As part of an effort to connect our digital efforts more to our print publications, we will be implementing more QR codes into our news and advertising. In this issue, you will be able to view movie trailers from our film reviews, see photos from the Guthrie Center All-School Reunion, subscribe to our digital editions, submit a question to “Ask Guthrie Center Times,” respond to our “Where Is It contest,” submit photos and story ideas, access local church websites, place free classified ads and more.

Not familiar with QR codes? Open the camera app on your smart phone and point the camera to any of the links in this publication. It will identify the link and ask if you want to connect, which you should do. It's that easy.

We can learn a few lessons from the QR technology:

- First, follow the leader. In this QR technology example, and quite often, it is Japan.
- Second, don't give up on a great idea. The original intent may not turn out to be the ultimate use. (Think Viagra.)
- And third, don't wait for a pandemic to force you to try new technology. In this case, experimentation is good — and often free.

Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
Editor and Publisher
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CAMPING IN GUTHRIE COUNTY

Getting outdoors helps campers focus on what matters.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Compared to Native Americans and settlers who first lived in the area that became Guthrie County, we now have a long list of conveniences to enhance our comfort and security. Heaters, air conditioners, electricity, running water, laundry facilities, nearby stores, microwave ovens, TV, internet and cell phones all serve an important purpose. So, why do so many of us feel the urge to go camping and leave some (or all) of those amenities behind?

On some weekends, campgrounds seem just as heavily populated as a city. It appears that camping's appeal has to do with quality time. For some, that means getting away from it all, alone or with just a few family members. For others, it's about setting up several adjacent campers full of friends and family. In the end, it seems to boil down to getting away from the routine and spending time with the people you cherish the most.

Camping is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. Some campers are minimalists with a basic tent. Others have 40-foot RVs costing as much as a small house, offering many of the amenities of home. Some pull up in a rusty camper that has seen better days. Regardless of how many creature comforts are brought along, camping is a popular recreation in the area.

Guthrie County offers an array of camping venues. Whiterock Conservancy has three campgrounds. Oak Ridge campground is reservable online. Starfield and River campgrounds don't take reservations but are available on a first-come/first-served basis.

Two county parks, Nations Bridge and Lenon Mill, also offer nearby camping options.

Springbrook State Park has a large campground with reservable and non-reservable sites.

Here are a few examples of local residents we found enjoying the great outdoors this summer.



Springbrook Park is located north of Guthrie Center.

TERRY AND LISA KOPASKA SPEND TIME PLAYING OUTDOOR GAMES WITH THEIR GRANDKIDS

Terry and Lisa Kopaska, who live northwest of Guthrie Center, were spotted recently as they began settling in for a weekend of camping. Although the couple was expecting several family members and friends to arrive soon, they were first on the scene. With their large, modern camper backed into their spot, it was just a matter of getting everything set up. Terry commented on the convenience of the self-leveling feature in their new camper, which eliminates the need to hand-crank and adjust to get the camper sitting level. He recalled their camping wasn't always so high-tech when they began many years ago.

"We started with a tent, then changed to a fold-down, then to a small camper, then to a bigger camper," he said.

The couple camps often at a variety of campgrounds in the area, and camping

has become a family tradition.

"This is our third time camping this year," Lisa said. "It's our first year with the new camper. We have four daughters, and we've camped a lot over the years. Now they all have their own campers."

Lisa found that prep work before camping frees up her time to relax and enjoy family.

"I prep most of our meals at home and throw them in the freezer or fridge. Then we just throw them on the fire. It makes it a lot easier," she said.

With kids and grandkids soon to arrive, the Kopaskas explained what they enjoy about camping in the county.

"We enjoy nature. There are trails, you'll see lots of wildlife, there's fishing," Lisa said. "We like to camp where there's water. Our grandkids will be playing in the creek this weekend."

The Kopaskas have some advice for beginners.

"Look at the weather. We've had to evacuate in the middle of the night," Terry

said.

"And the other thing is, be respectful of quiet time at night," Lisa said.

The Kopaskas shared that, while camping, they spend a lot of time playing outdoor games with their grandkids.

"We have every outdoor game there is, I think," Lisa said. "We play bags, horseshoes, badminton, we have a huge checkerboard, lots of kids stuff. We call our camper the toy hauler."

ANGIE LAABS AND HER FAMILY APPRECIATE THE CAMPGROUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

Another local family that camps frequently is Angie Laabs, her husband, Wade Slater, and their children, Emalee, 13, and Ely, 9. Laabs shared that she is a member of the Guthrie County Conservation Board, so she appreciates the various campgrounds available throughout the county. On this particular day, the family's camper was set up at Springbrook



Lisa and Terry Kopaska prepare to set up camp.

Park.

"I've been camping since I was 3 years old, and this is the place that we come to. We also come to Nation's Bridge and Lennon Mill," Laabs said. "I came Thursday, and there were very few people here yet."

Laabs said the family enjoys the wildlife they see while camping, including deer, foxes, eagles, ducks, geese and the ever-present raccoons.

"We go camping about every other weekend, but not on the holidays," Laabs said, noting that local campgrounds are sometimes crowded on holidays.

The family usually continues camping well into the fall, sometimes as late as November. When weather allows, they spend nearly every moment outside.

"We do creek stomping. The kids run down the creek. Fishing is always fun, too," Laabs said. "We usually have a big dinner in the Dutch oven, and we do s'mores and a campfire every night, unless it's raining."

Laabs shared that sometimes extended family members will set up at an adjacent campsite, so they can relax and socialize together. But, mainly, she enjoys unplugging from the outside world while camp-

ing.

"It's beautiful," she said. "I'm down in a valley, so my cell phone doesn't work."

DEB COLLEGE ENJOYS MAKING NEW FRIENDS WHILE CAMPING

When it comes to camping, Deb College likes to keep it simple.

"I've been camping since I was little. My parents used to bring me out here to Springbrook, and we used to swim in here when it had all the cool stuff, the tower to jump off and everything," College said. "Then when I was married, we camped out in Colorado, up in the mountains. We tent camped all the time and went elk hunting."

College enjoys having a few friends along but also makes new friends while camping by herself.

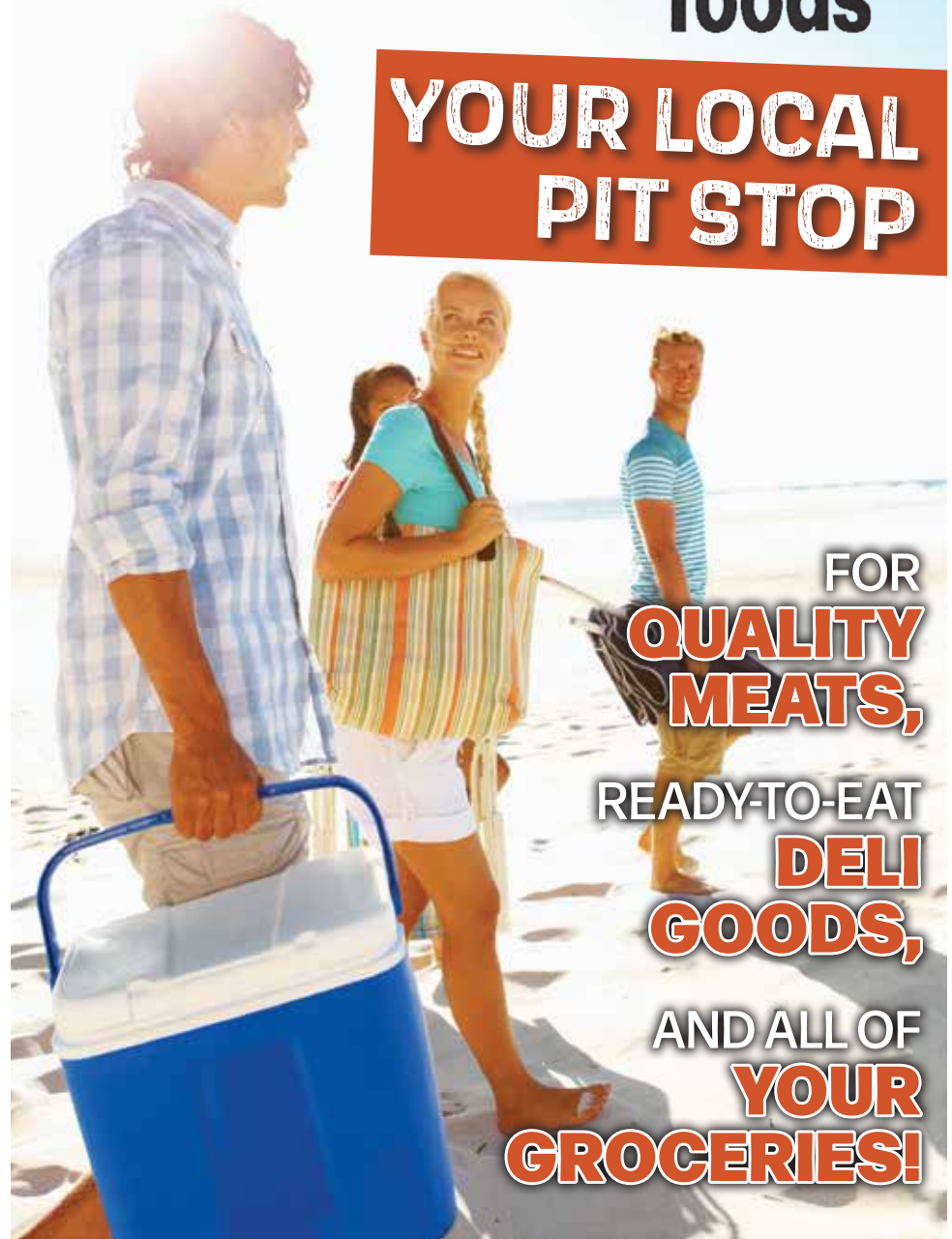
"I have a group of girlfriends, and we camp together sometimes, and I camp with my daughter and her husband sometimes," College said. "But I'm usually a tent camper, and I usually camp alone."

Solo camping isn't for everyone, but College enjoys it, and she takes safety seriously.

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Deb College relaxes by her tent.

"I only go to campsites where I know I'm safe because the DNR is there. They come around often if they know you're camping alone. I always have protection with me, and I don't worry about people. I worry about raccoons," she said.

College has learned to store food in her car or tent because, each night, raccoons are drawn to the campground in search of a meal.

"There are always adventures out here because there are always raccoons that run around," she said. "They tend to try to get into your tent. You'll hear them scratching on the side every once in a while."

When asked what advice she would give to anyone new to camping, College's comments centered on shelter and food.

"I have had tents that have leaked, so get a good quality tent," College said. "Always make sure you have a flashlight, matches, charcoal, wood. Learn to start a fire and get your cast iron for cooking. You're going to screw up a few times until you get the hang of it. Experiment, have fun."

For recreation while camping, College tends to stick with the basics.

"We've got yard Yahtzee, and we play cards and go on hikes and swim," she said.

One necessity for College is an air mattress, since it's much more comfortable than a lumpy bedroll and keeps a person



Cast iron and wood equals meals over a campfire.

off the cold ground in cooler months.

She camps often, usually through October, and likes to spend a weekend at Ledges State Park near Boone in mid-October for the annual Halloween-themed event. She explained that each campsite usually decorates in accordance with the theme. Traditionally, that is College's final camping weekend of the year.

"That's usually the end of the season because that's when they close the shower houses," she said.

Although much of College's camping is done solo, she enjoys making new friends.


"I think the best thing about camping is just the camaraderie. You can have people that you don't know, and everybody is friendly," College said. "You can walk around and just visit with people. And I love it with all the kids running around."

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DNR officer Reaghan Oakleaf

REAGHAN OAKLEAF HELPS ENSURE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE CAMPING EXPERIENCES

With so many people camping, “park rangers” are needed to help ensure safety and an enjoyable experience for all. One such person is Reaghan Oakleaf, who explained that her actual title with the Department of Natural Resources is Natural Resources Technician 1.

“I’ve been doing it a little over a year. I kind of do just about everything. I’m in charge of day-to-day operations, so that’s anything from reservations, helping campers with their campsite, taking phone calls, and facility maintenance,” Oakleaf said.

Oakleaf added that camping at state parks doesn’t close over the winter.

“Technically, we are open for camping year-round, but our winter months are less utilized,” she said. “We have a peak season rate and an off-season rate.”

The peak season runs from May 1 to

mid-October and charges a higher rate because there are more amenities provided, including shower houses.

Oakleaf explained that the DNR’s goal is to make camping an enjoyable experience for everyone, and reservations are not required.

“We strive to have a family-friendly atmosphere,” Oakleaf said. “Typically, we fill up pretty quickly on the holiday weekends. Other than that, it’s pretty ‘chillax.’ We offer reservable and non-reservable sites, so, if someone has a last-minute idea to go camping, we have that available.”

Oakleaf also said the DNR offers occasional events and programs in state parks. These can be viewed by checking the DNR’s website and selecting individual state parks in the area.

“Ann Reardon is our naturalist. She puts on a lot of good programs, whether it’s kayaking or other events,” Oakleaf said. “She’s really good at getting kids involved in the great outdoors.” ■



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A SWIMMER, BAD BOYS, BRATS, EMOTIONS AND BIKERS

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

“YOUNG WOMAN AND THE SEA”
(still in theaters)

This is one of the better movies that you likely did not see this year. It opened over a month ago, and it is still in theaters, if that tells you something. (It should.)

The film is based on a true story about a young girl in NYC in 1914 who develops a love for swimming at a time when girls weren’t encouraged or allowed to swim. When she decides to swim the English Channel, people think she is crazy. This is a truly wonderful movie — well-acted, well-told and a great story of empowerment and determination. **Grade: A**



“Young Woman and the Sea”

The third sequel (thus, the fourth film) in the Bad Boys series has Will Smith and Martin Lawrence again leading the cast. Smith does what he needs to do, but Lawrence is the reason to see the movie. He is hilarious. Otherwise, this is an above-average, run-of-the-mill action story — pretty much what you would expect. In this case, that’s not all bad. **Grade: B+**



“Bad Boys Ride or Die”

“BRATS”
(streaming on Hulu)

I came of age during the movies credited to the “Brat Pack.” This group of young male and female actors starred in what seemed like an endless string of comedies, dramas and “dramadies” like “Pretty in Pink,” “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” and “The Breakfast Club.” When a New York journalist writes a negative article and tags them as “the Brat Pack,” their careers changed



“Brats”

and a stigma still haunts them. This movie is a must-see for those of us who grew up with these films. **Grade: B+**



“THE WATCHERS”
(heading to streaming services)
M. Night Shylaman’s daughter wrote and directed this movie about a young woman traveling alone who gets

“BAD BOYS RIDE OR DIE”
(in theaters)

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"The Watchers"

stranded and then helped by a group of people in a dense forest. They take her to a facility where they are "watched" all night long by a group of unseen people. The movie is much better than it sounds and, at times, is creepy as hell. **Grade: B+**



"THE BIKERIDERS" (in theaters)

With a cast including Austin Butler (Elvis), Tom Hardy and Jodie Comer, expectations were high going in. Those expectations were met, and exceeded, with this episodic story of a motorcycle group in the Chicago area and the comings and goings of this strange fam-



"The Bikeriders"

ily of members. The movie is dark and, at times, violent but is really well-made, and the acting is A+ level. **Grade: B+**

"INSIDE OUT 2" (in theaters)

This sequel to the 2015 film is doing record business, and it is a very well-made and entertaining animated film. The cast is made up of a bunch of characters who each play a different emotion. This time out, new emotions are added and they need to be understood and managed. It's a funny movie with a good heart and a strong message. Sue and I watched this at The Fremont Theatre in Stuart. It's nothing fancy but is a cute, small-town throwback theater that manages to bring in a lot of movies that don't often



"Inside Out 2"

make their way to towns this size. A good shoutout to The Fremont. Keep up the good work. **Grade: B+**

"A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE" (in theaters)

How do you top a great movie? Honestly, you don't try. This is a completely different movie and, for the most part, has different characters. NYC is under attack from those crazy creatures from the prior movie, and you watch as a small group of people navigate "the city that never sleeps." Great idea to create a completely different movie in a completely different place but to ramp up the action and introduce new characters. This is not at the level of the prior movie (how could it be?) but is still a haunting story with



"A Quiet Place: Day One"

terrifying visuals. **Grade: A**

Two As and five B+s! Wow. Let's see if July can compete with that!

Fans of the Murph and Andy radio show know that my reviews have been there for almost 15 years, and the two hosts have decided to step away to give them more time for family and other obligations. Don't worry, the Mr. Movie segment will morph into a series of online reviews. More on that next month.

Until then, pass the popcorn. ■

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



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GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR EMS PLAN, APPROVE PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

JUNE 18 - SUPERVISORS OPEN AND REVIEW EMS BIDS

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors on June 18, the supervisors opened and reviewed the bids received as a result of the county's RFP (Request for Proposals) regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within the county.

Bids reviewed were from Adair Fire and Rescue, Midwest Ambulance Services of Iowa, the City of Panora, and the City of Stuart.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong suggested using a map to visually compare the various coverage areas in the bids.

"I don't see anything on Orange Township," Board Chair JD Kuster said.

Supervisor Mike Dickson pointed out that the bids received include overlap in various areas. Armstrong said, because of any omissions and/or overlaps, the county would likely need to have contract negotiations as part of the process of selecting bid(s).

The supervisors chose to take more time and schedule further consideration next week. The supervisors were asked to forward any questions for bidder(s) to Kuster by Friday, June 21. He will then send the questions to the applicable bidder(s) so answers can be reviewed by the supervisors next week.

The supervisors also considered an Appropriations resolution (Resolution 2024-29), formalizing what the supervisors decided a week prior. Auditor Dani Fink explained that this would include

providing each department with a clear statement of the funds available.

Supervisor Brian Johnson asked Fink what the county's total fiscal year budget amount was.

"The total for fiscal year 2024 was \$25,928,589," Fink said.

The resolution passed 4 to 1, with Johnson voting against.

JUNE 25 - AGREEMENT WITH WIXTED AND COMPANY SUPPORTED

During the June 25 meeting, the supervisors considered contracting with a firm to support the county's communications related to the efforts to develop a countywide EMS system.

Eileen Wixted of Wixted and Company gave a presentation about how her firm could support the county in developing a communication plan related to the expected EMS ballot measure that will be voted on in the November 2024 election.

Wixted explained that, if the county agrees to contract with her firm, the basic timeline would be developing a plan in July and to have the communication plan fully active by late August or early September. Following Wixted's presentation, she exited the meeting. The supervisors then discussed her proposal.

Supervisor Steve Smith said he heard what he was hoping to hear.

"It feels comprehensive," Smith said.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong spoke in favor of the plan and acknowledged it will be a big job.

"It's going to be a heavy lift for all of us," she said.

Smith agreed. "We've come this far. We need to move ahead with steam and vigor," Smith said.

The supervisors voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Wixted and Company.

The supervisors discussed the RFP bids for EMS services.

Health Services Director Jotham Arber held a brief discussion with the supervisors about developing a plan for how the county would handle disposal of debris if/when the county experiences a disaster similar to the recent tornado in Greenfield. He suggested developing contingencies ahead of time for any future need. No formal action was taken at this time.

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved a fireworks permit for Weston Grow of rural Guthrie Center, as well as the hiring of a new jailer, Kellee Hodzic.

JULY 2 - PRELIMINARY EMS SERVICES MAP APPROVED

As part of the July 2 regular meeting, the supervisors continued work on developing a countywide map to show which areas would be covered by each of the three EMS services the county has chosen to work with (Stuart, Adair and Panora). A draft of a map showing color-coded areas to be covered by each of the three EMS services was discussed.

Supervisor Maggie Armstrong made a motion to approve the preliminary map, so that negotiations could begin, to work on the goal of finding the best coverage plan for certain areas not yet assigned (Jackson and Bear Grove townships). The

motion passed 4-1, with Supervisor Mike Dickson voting against.

Lengthy discussion focused on how to consider both population and call volume into the map and plan. Armstrong pointed out that call volume will fluctuate.

"Yes, there will be areas that are more intense than others, but population guarantees that everybody has as close to the same amount of service as we can provide," Armstrong said.

After discussion, the supervisors voted unanimously to consider both population and call volume in the negotiations.

The supervisors discussed the Guthrie County Compensation Board. Auditor Dani Fink explained that, as of July 1, legislation has changed regarding this, which means that counties no longer need to have a compensation board. The supervisors are allowed to serve that function, if desired. The supervisors chose to table this discussion to allow more time to consider the options.

Health Services Director Jotham Arber addressed the supervisors about his proposal to develop a First Responders system in each fire district within the county. He explained that, as the name suggests, the first responders would be able to be on the scene quickly to deal with life-threatening situations. He pointed out that some pain relief and many medications would likely have to wait until EMS personnel arrive. The supervisors unanimously approved Arber to continue pursuing this effort.

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During the July 9 meeting, the supervisors discussed next steps in the process of working on a countywide plan for EMS service. A meeting is set for July 10 at 7 p.m. at the courthouse with representatives expected from each applicable EMS service (Stuart, Adair and Panora).

There was discussion as to whether the supervisors could (or should) let each township make an individual choice as to which EMS service they would prefer to contract with. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong voiced a concern.

“What I’m concerned about is that we’d end up with a 15-person commission again to try to make a decision, and I don’t think that’s really what we want moving forward,” Armstrong said.

The consensus was to hold the meeting on July 10 and see what direction things go.

The supervisors discussed agenda item No. 5 (Request for Public Records- Robert Rehkemper).

“I think everybody has seen the letter, so I make a motion to direct the County Attorney and Sheriff’s department to supply the necessary records for that request,” Supervisor Mike Dickson said.

“I spoke with the Sheriff yesterday and made that recommendation to him,”

Board Chair JD Kuster said.

There was discussion that this request falls under Chapter 22 regarding what information can be provided and the timeline of such. The supervisors unanimously voted to approve Dickson’s motion.

County IT Administrator Brian Hoffman addressed the supervisors about a password keeper program.

“We’ve had quite a few requests over the past months, with the increased volume of internet access for different vendors and websites and all that we subscribe to,” Hoffman said. “There are all kinds of potential vulnerabilities that we’re trying to eliminate. So, we’re not adding anything new. We’re taking this and integrating it into our technology that we already have in existence.”

Hoffman said, with roughly 60 users expected, the plan would cost approximately \$2,000 for a year. He added that this represents a 53% discount but said the discount may not be permanent. The supervisors unanimously approved using the program Hoffman proposed.

The supervisors regularly meet each Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. The public is welcome. Attendees may participate in person or by calling 323-792-6123 and inputting conference ID 547029216#.

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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES NOISE, PARKING COMPLAINTS, VULTURE NUISANCE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council on June 24, City Clerk Kris Arrasmith updated the councilmembers on steps being taken to discourage turkey vultures from roosting within the city. She explained that roughly two weeks ago, she accompanied DNR officer Jeremy King when he shot turkey vultures as allowed by the permit the city received.

"We watched a very large group of about 75 buzzards coming in for the night. We mitigated two," Arrasmith said. "We're waiting to see if that was enough to scare them off."

Arrasmith explained that the city has the carcasses in a freezer, and if more deterrent is needed, the carcasses can be hung in the area, which has been proven effective in getting turkey vultures to leave an area. The city's permit also would allow up to three more birds to be harvested, if needed. Arrasmith reported that Jeremy King said the local turkey vulture population appears to be higher than he's seen in many years.

OTHER CITY COUNCIL NEWS

Arrasmith reported that the city's recent citywide garage sales and citywide cleanup went well.

"Citywide garage sales, we had an excellent turnout for that," Arrasmith said. "We had 21 people that signed up."

Regarding the cleanup, the city set a participation record.

"As far back as we can remember, this is the best participation that we've ever seen," Arrasmith said. "I think we had 85 or 87 sign up. Usually, we're around 50."

Arrasmith reported no significant problems with the garage sales or cleanup.

As part of the consent agenda, the council approved a tobacco license for Hometown Foods and a building permit (garage) for 702 State St. (Vaughn).

During the July 8 council meeting,

the council scheduled a public hearing to be held on July 22 regarding the proposed sale of the City of Guthrie Center's interest in real estate.

"This is step No. 1 of selling the property at 907 Main," City Clerk Kris Arrasmith told the council.

The councilmembers unanimously approved the resolution.

Arrasmith reported on the city's efforts at mitigating the turkey vulture nuisance. She said that, since the DNR shot two vultures, the birds do not seem to be congregating in town as much. She added that, if the problem worsens, the city can then work on hanging the frozen carcasses to repel the vultures from roosting in the area.

Councilmember Garold Thomas said he has heard complaints about a food truck in town that has a loud generator. The council discussed ways the vendor could potentially limit the noise pollution.

One item on the agenda was only briefly discussed because the citizen involved was not in attendance. The agenda item was listed as "Erika Willms - trailer parking on State Street." Arrasmith and the council briefly discussed business owner complaints regarding a long trailer that sometimes parks on State Street, taking up multiple parking spots. No formal action was taken.

Arrasmith informed the council that Dollar General did not yet have its cigarette sales license renewed, but she said it is because Dollar General's home office submitted the renewal request using an outdated (2017) form, so the state denied the renewal for all Dollar General stores in Iowa. Arrasmith said, as soon as the state receives and approves the corrected form from Dollar General, she will be able to grant a license renewal to Dollar General.

"If anybody would say anything about this, that is why. We are not holding it up," Arrasmith said.

The next regular meeting of the city council will be Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome. ■



ACGC TO ADD DANCE TEAM FOR UPCOMING YEAR

School boards approved annual dues increases for fitness centers and weight rooms to \$150 for family memberships and \$100 for student memberships.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

On June 18, the school boards of Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center held a joint meeting at Guthrie Center High School.

Retiring Elementary Principal Diane Flanery updated the board on the summer meals program and commented on her impending retirement.

“I figure this is about my 132nd board meeting,” Flanery said. “It’s been a very fulfilling career for me.”

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen summarized the staff employment vacancies within the two districts and the efforts to fill them.

The boards reviewed scores on the FastReading and ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress) Spring 2024 scores achieved

by students in the districts.

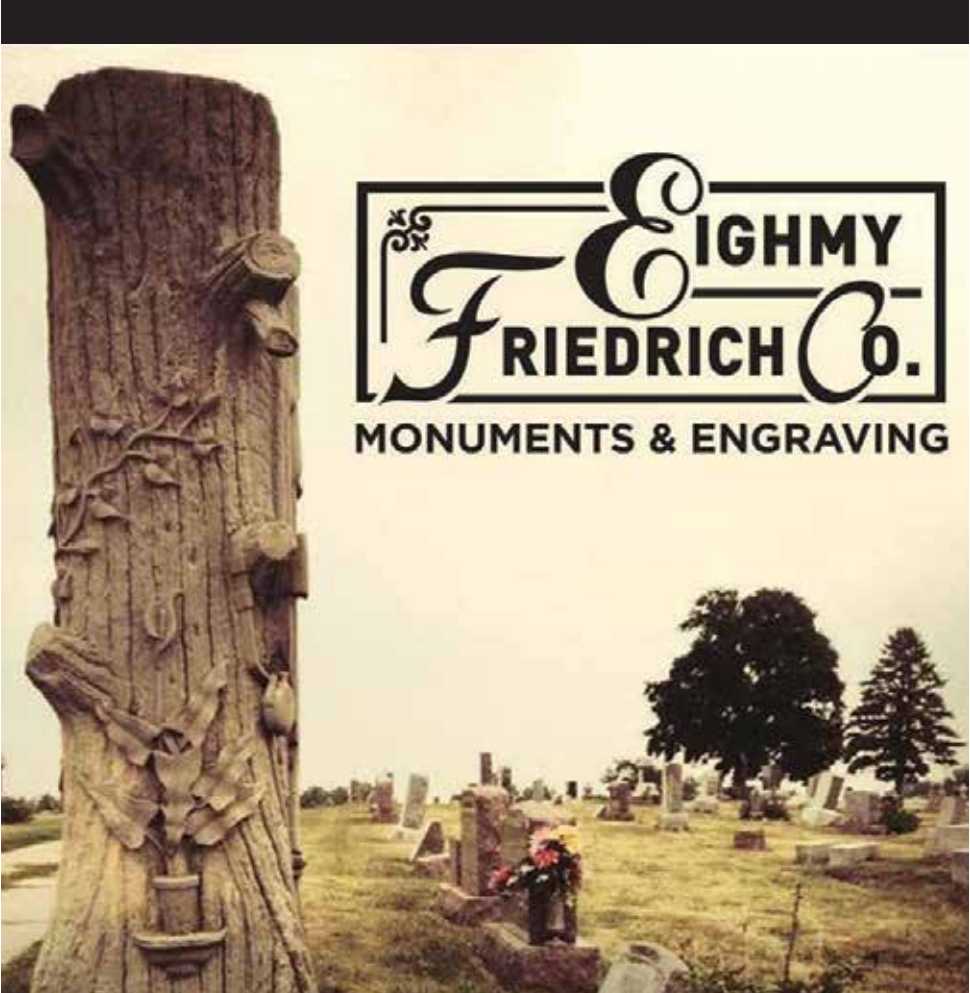
Rasmussen reported that the high school HVAC project is progressing ahead of schedule and should be completed by early July.

The boards approved the annual dues increases for fitness centers and weight rooms to \$150 for family memberships and \$100 for student memberships.

The Guthrie Center School Board approved the addition of a high school dance team for the 2024-25 school year, which will include a stipend in the amount of \$1,474.00 for a dance team sponsor.

The Adair-Casey School Board unanimously approved the purchase of 215 student computers from CDW and 28 teacher laptops from Apple Inc. for a total cost of \$100,669.50 using SAVE funds. The board also approved the sale of used student and staff MacBook Air computers to the public at \$130 per computer.

The boards went into a special closed session for superintendent evaluation. Following the closed session, the boards approved the superintendent contract for the 2024-25 school year with the following revisions: a two-year rolling contract, 3% salary increase, and one additional week of vacation for a total of four weeks. ■



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HEALTH

HOSPITAL TRUSTEES REVIEW PERFORMANCE ON KEY GOALS

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees meeting on June 27, CEO Chris Stipe reviewed the FY 2023-24 organizational goals and led a discussion about goals for the upcoming year.

Stipe reported that Overall Employee Engagement scores increased but did not meet the goal. He suggested having a goal to continue the improvement for the upcoming year. Stipe reported the progress on several other goals as well.

"We did great on falls. Hand hygiene, we looked pretty good," Stipe said.

"Employee incidents, we were tracking along doing pretty good the first part of the year, and then we just had, unfortunately, several mishaps with staff."

Chief Financial Officer Brandon Johnson was formally introduced, as this was his first monthly meeting with the trustees. Johnson reviewed the monthly financial report, including the profit/loss statement. A large back payment from Medicaid is expected soon.

"We're writing off 2.2% of collectible accounts," CEO Chris Stipe said, clarifying the hospital's "bad debt" for the month of May. He said this is considered a reasonably low percentage.

Danielle Lauzon reported on the hospital's quality improvement measures, known as CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement).

"For the month of May, our CQI looked really good," Lauzon said.

Lauzon also reported on patient satisfaction rates.

"I think the one that I would really call out is our ER department had a 93.8% for the month of May, which is huge," Lauzon said.

CEO Chris Stipe agreed, pointing out that the 93.8% is exceptionally high, and probably puts GCH in the top 1% of hospitals in that measurement category.

Stipe pointed out that the hospital will host a barbecue and a pontoon ride over the weekend for employees and their families, with a total of 65 expected so far.

"Pretty fun stuff, and a good way to do some teambuilding," Stipe said.

Because some members of the board were unavailable for the originally scheduled date, the board's next meeting was rescheduled to Monday, July 29 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome.

For information on how to participate in the meeting, either in person or via remote technology, visit www.guthriecountyhospital.org. ■



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Guthrie Center ASK TIMES



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Q: WHAT IS THE PRISON SENTENCE FOR THE FORMER ADAIR POLICE CHIEF FOR THE GUN CHARGES?

A: On Monday, July 1, former Adair police chief Bradley Wendt was sentenced after being convicted of 11 charges related to gun purchases and possession. The sentence includes 60 months in federal prison followed by a three-year supervised release and a fine of \$50,000.

Wendt was indicted in 2022 on charges including that he had falsely claimed to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that guns he purchased would be sold for use by, or demonstrated to, the Adair Police Department. Wendt's trial was held in February of 2024. Included in the 11 charges were conspiracy to make false statements to the ATF and illegal possession of a machine gun. Federal guidelines had suggested a sentence of 78 to 97 months in federal prison. Wendt was taken into custody following the sentencing hearing.

Q: HOW MANY QUILTS WERE DONATED TO FAMILIES IN GREENFIELD BY THE QUILTERS GUILD?

A: The Des Moines Area Quilters Guild recently delivered 397 quilts and 350 pillowcases to Jennifer Garside with Greater Greenfield Foundation for the tornado victims. Guild President Donita Fredricks explained that the group includes more than 400 members. One of those members is Gwen Blass of rural Casey.

"Community giving is an important

part of our mission," Fredricks said. "Shortly after the devastating Greenfield tornado, Gwen asked the guild if we could send an email out to our members asking for quilt donations for impacted residents. At our next meeting, which was less than a week later, over 300 quilts were donated. Our hearts go out to all persons affected and hope these quilts offer a bit of comfort during this difficult time."

Q: HOW MUCH REVENUE IS THE NEW COUNTY JAIL PRODUCING PER MONTH?

A: According to the most recent reports from the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office, incoming revenue of \$29,220 was generated from the processing of out-of-county inmates at the jail during June. A total of 62 inmates were processed through the facility during the month including 32 from out of the county. This includes \$720 in jail fees for a male serving time here for Palo Alto County. Greene County had four inmates for 75 days with charges of \$4,500. Polk County had 25 inmates for 365 days with \$21,900. Webster County had three inmates for 35 days with \$2,100.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, 520 inmates were processed through the facility (some of them repeat offenders). A total of \$288,450 was generated from holding inmates for Department of Corrections, Polk, Webster, Greene, Adair, Pottawattamie, and Palo Alto counties.

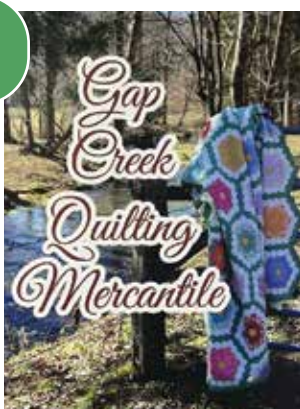
Those are billed amounts not collected amounts. ■

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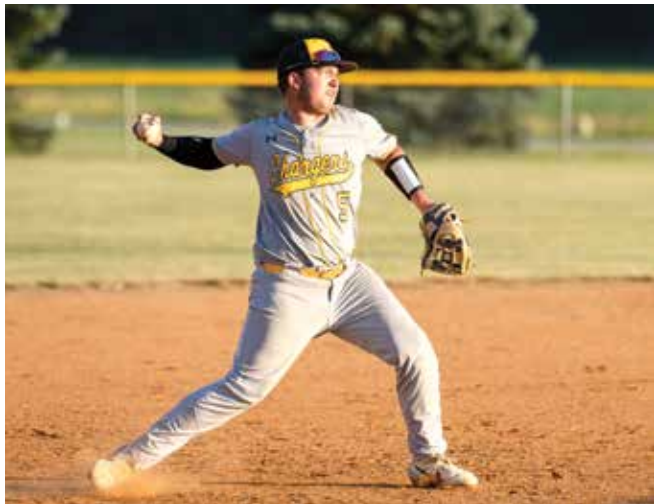
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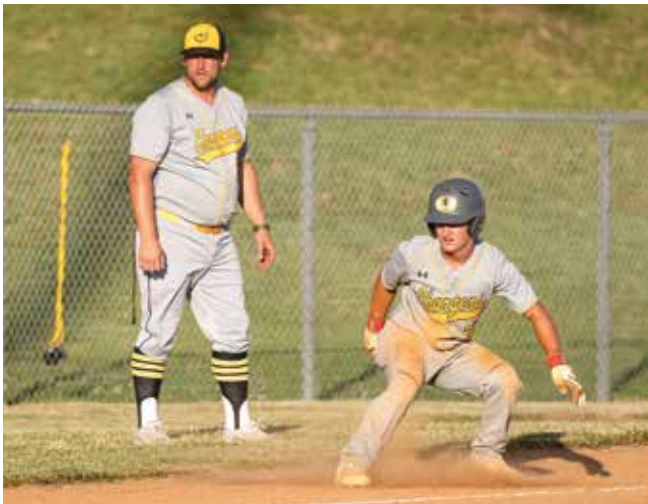
#24 Taytum Bates defends home plate against Pleasantville June 13.



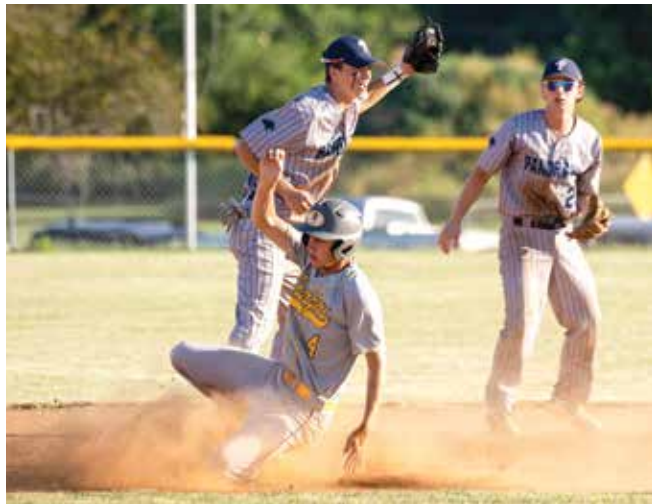
#20 Colton Clark just misses the tag in a game against Pleasantville on June 13.



#5 Blaize Dorsey prepares to throw against Panorama on June 24.



#3 Chase Slaybaugh prepares to steal in a game against Panorama on June 24.



#4 Noah Kading slides into the base against Panorama on June 24.



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#15 Carley Fagan runs for the base in a game against Pleasantville June 13.



#11 Mersadez Richter with a tag against Pleasantville June 13.



#6 Becca Littler backs away from a steal in a game against Pleasantville June 13.



#5 Jayla Hoover collects a groundball against West Central Valley on July 8.



#3 Emerson Van Meter pitching against West Central Valley on July 8. ■

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OBITUARIES

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KAREN KAY NEMITZ

1947-2024

Karen Kay Nemitz was born on June 11, 1947, in Menlo, the daughter of Edward and Jennie (Miller) Avey. She graduated from Guthrie Center High School. Karen devoted most of her adulthood to working as a bookkeeper and legal assistant for various accountants and lawyers.

Throughout her life, Karen touched the hearts of those around

her with her kindness, wisdom and gentle spirit. Her dedication to her family was unwavering, and she leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories. She had a keen interest in spending quality time with her friends and her family, especially her grandchildren. Karen was an avid reader and enjoyed a good movie.

Karen actively worked and volunteered for Our Savior Lutheran Church and Gracewell-Eventide Lutheran Home in Denison. Her commitment to helping others and making a positive impact on those around her was admirable. Karen will always be remembered for her laugh and her radiant smile that had the power to brighten up any room she entered. She had an ability to spread joy and positivity wherever she went, touching the hearts of everyone she met.

Karen passed away suddenly on Monday, June 24, 2024, at her home in Denison

attaining the age of 77 years and 13 days. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Doug Hummel; brother, Norman Avey; and sisters, Carol Lebeck and Connie Avey.

She is survived by her son, Luke Long, and his wife, Cheri, and their children, Oliver and Eleanor Long, all of Omaha, Nebraska; Doug's children: Ashley Kempf (Hummel) and her husband, Mitchell, of Jamaica and Cole Hummel of Des Moines; brother, Lyle Avey and his wife, Karen, of Lubbock, Texas; sister, Pat Cisler of Centerville; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held 11 a.m., Monday, July 1, 2024, at Union Cemetery in Guthrie Center with Rev. Steven Daiker officiating. Following the service, the family invited everyone to the United Methodist Church for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were provided by the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison. ■



MARGIE IRENE READINGER

1947-2024

Margie Irene Readinger, 76, of Bettendorf, passed away Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the Summit of Bettendorf. Her body has been cremated. A graveside memorial service was held July 12, 2024, at the Monteith Cemetery southeast of Guthrie Center. A luncheon was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Guthrie Center, after the service.

Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Margie was born July 12, 1947, in Adair, to Victor Wayne and (Edith) Marie (Heckman) Readinger. She graduated in 1965 from Guthrie Center High School and then attended Grand View Junior College in Des Moines.

In her sophomore year, she transferred to Central College, Pella. She spent her senior year at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France; she received graduation diplomas from both the Sorbonne and Central College.

Margie retired from the Guthrie Center Schools after 40 years of dedicated service in the school libraries. She enjoyed living on the family farm where she helped with the garden, assisted with the animals, and loved walking down the road on beautiful sunny days. Margie also kept busy with quilting, creating Swedish heart decorations, reading

books/magazines, memorizing poetry, and music. She gave loving care to her mother in her mother's final years. While enjoying living at the Summit for two and a half years, caretakers and other residents always remarked about her lovely smile.

Margie was preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Marie; her brother, Keith, and sister, Colene Wrzesinski. Survivors include her sister, Cathy Gomez, Bettendorf; niece, Jennifer Hug, Woodlawn, Illinois; nephews, James Wrzesinski (Shana), Centralia, Illinois, Jeffrey Wrzensinski, Radom, Illinois, and Jorge (Tres) Gomez III (Kari) of Bettendorf. She is also survived by three grand-nephews, six grand-nieces, one great grand-nephew, and two step grand-nephews. In addition, she is survived by a special aunt, Ruby Anderson of Des Moines, and many, many cousins.

Margie's family thanks God for blessing them by having Margie in their lives. ■

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OBITUARIES

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JACOB DONALD ABERG

1988-2024

Jacob Donald Aberg, 36, son of Donald and Kathy (Dotzler) Aberg, was born March 4, 1988, in Mason City. He passed away Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at the Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center.

Jacob attended Dallas Center-Grimes High School where he excelled at football. He then went on to play

football at Minnesota State University on a football scholarship. He transferred to Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, where he graduated. While his football career was cut short due to significant injuries, his love for the sport never faded.

On March 5, 2016, he married his "bunnnny" Holly Dee Hanysh in Perry. They made their home just outside of Yale with their two boys, Thaddeus and Xavier. In 2017, Jake began his career with AMVC. Over the next six years, he worked his way up with hard work, dedication and long hours. In 2023, he was promoted to production manager.

His rival passions were sports and hunting that he shared right along with his boys. He might come straight out of the field wearing his camo, but he never missed his boys' events. Jake also enjoyed golfing with his buddies. As long as his family was with him, he was up for anything.

Jacob is survived by his wife, Holly; sons, Thaddeus and Xavier; mother, Kathy Aberg of Hartford; sister, Jessica Aberg of Hartford; niece, Ana Pizinger; nephew, Curtis Pizinger; in-laws, Deb and Ralph Koelln of Yale; and brothers-in-law, Jacques Hanysh and Brett Ellis. He is also survived by several uncles, aunts and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Aberg; sister, Alicia Ellis; and niece, Amaiya Aberg.

Visitation was July 2, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. followed by funeral services at 4 p.m. at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Cremation followed the services. ■

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50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, July 10, 1974

HO HUM: What better way to spend a quiet summer afternoon than dozing in a hammock in the shade of an old tree, according to 12-year-old Candi Hunt. She is the daughter of the Alvin Hunts.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, July 4, 1984

LOOKY HERE: Tristen Monaghan (Barry), left, and Joseph Rasmussen (Ken) find explorations behind the concession stand more interesting than the action at the Guthrie Center High School diamond.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, July 20, 1994

SINK OR SWIM?: Brent Courtney of Guthrie Center shows off his backfloating skills to swim instructor Kyle Chance. About 160 young Guthrie Center swimmers attended the two-week lessons this month. Brent was a member of the Level II primary skills class and is the son of Mark and Karen Courtney.

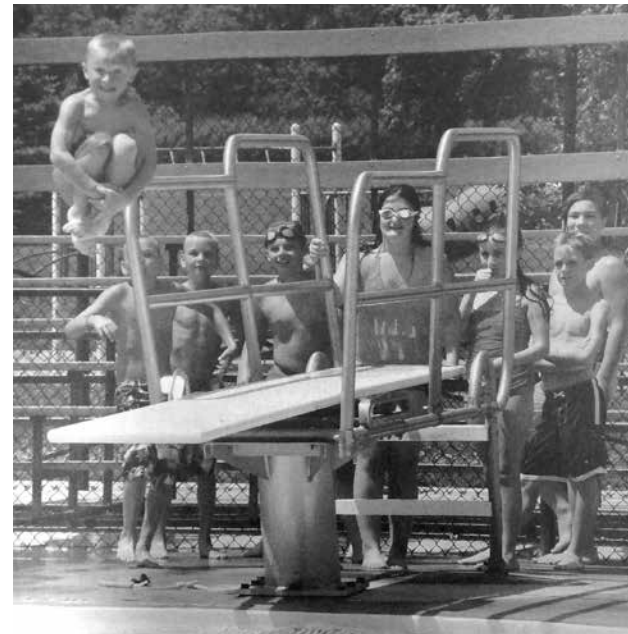
20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, July 28, 2004

SECOND IN STATE: The American Legion State Runner-Up Guthrie Center Pee Wees. Front, left to right, Adam Courtney, Trey Imerman, Caleb Courtney, Payden Willms, Clay Stetzel and Cole Larsen. Back, from left, Dylan Robson, Dustin Clark, Garrett Eivins, Brandon Clark, Justin Clark and Brick Imerman.

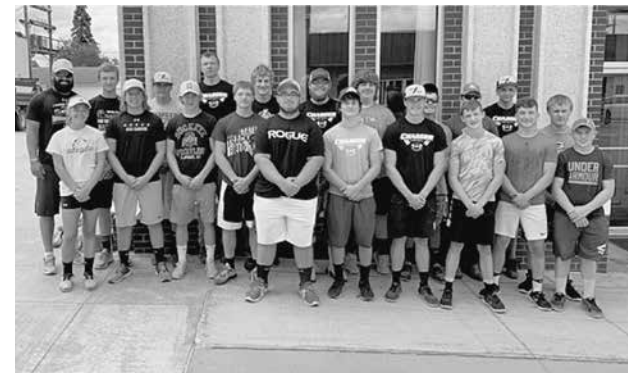
10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, July 2, 2014

CANNONBALL!: Six-year-old Chase Slaybaugh shows the older kids how it's done Wednesday afternoon at the Guthrie Center Aquatics Center.

5 YEARS AGO



Guthrie County Times Vedette, July 18, 2019

BROOMS, SHOVELS AND BLOWERS: The ACGC football boys and their coach Cody Matthewson took brooms, shovels and leaf blowers to clean the sidewalks in the Guthrie Center business district July 11. It was part of the team's ongoing efforts to give back to a community that supports them for their Friday games and to instill solid values in the players. The team held a spring clean-up in May to aid mostly older residents with lawn maintenance. "It's just a small town community pride thing that we like to embrace," Matthewson said. ■





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FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Noon-5 p.m.	Scavenger Hunt <i>Town Square Park</i>
1-6 p.m.	Music (Sponsored by Raccoon Valley Radio) <i>Gazebo/Stage</i>
1:30 p.m.	Cribbage Tournament Registration <i>Community Center</i>
2 p.m.	Cribbage Tournament (Sponsored by Stine Seed) <i>Community Center</i>
4 p.m.	Chalk the Block (All Ages) <i>Town Square Park</i>
4 p.m.	Vendors Open <i>Town Square Park</i>
6-7 p.m.	Main Street Dance Studio Performs (Sponsored by Main Street Dance Studio) <i>Vets Auditorium</i>
6:30-8 p.m.	Cruise The Loop. All types of cars welcome (Hosted by Panora Auto Parts) <i>Panora Auto Parts- Start Point</i>
7-7:30 p.m.	KIDS' Cake Walk (Sponsored by WFPF) <i>Community Center</i>
7-8:30 p.m.	Bill Riley Talent Show (Sponsored by Main Street Dance Studio) <i>Vets Auditorium</i>
8:30 p.m.	Little Miss/Mister Panorama Days Announced <i>Stage/Town Square Park</i>
8:30-11:30 p.m.	Street Dance: Live Music By GHOST RIDERZ <i>Gazebo</i> FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

5 a.m.	Bass Fishing Registration <i>Lake Panorama Marina</i>
5:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Bass Fishing Tournament (Sponsored By Fin & Feather) <i>Lake Panorama Marina</i>
7 a.m. - noon	Pancake Breakfast (Served by Brethren Church) <i>Community Center</i>
7:15-7:45 a.m.	Panorama Days 5K Registration <i>Front of Library 1st Street</i>
8 a.m.-4 p.m.	Music (Sponsored by Raccoon Valley Radio) <i>Gazebo/Stage</i>
8 a.m.	Softball Tournament <i>Michael Mills Park (Little League Diamonds)</i> (Sponsored by Junior Class)
8 a.m.	Panorama Days 5K Run (Sponsored by RESHAPE) <i>Front of Library 1st Street</i>
9 a.m.	Parade Registration <i>Panorama Elementary School</i>
10 a.m.	Panorama Days Parade <i>Main Street</i>
10 a.m.	Vendors Open <i>Town Square Park</i>
11 a.m.-4 p.m.	Kid Zone. FREE unlimited access to inflatables, jousting arena, mechanical bull, face painting, balloon dude, caricature <i>Town Square</i>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 (CONTINUED)

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Family Fun Zone (Sponsored by Guthrie County Hospital & Clinics) <i>Town Square</i>
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Annual Beef Burger Meal <i>First Christian Church</i>
11 a.m.	Citizen of the Year/Parade Winners Announced (Right after parade) <i>Gazebo</i>
11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Classic Car Show (Hosted by Guthrie County Cars & Coffee) Sponsored by : Guthrie County State Bank Fox Counter Tops, B&B Marketplace, Hummels Auto Body, Lakeside Massage and Bodywork and Cyclone Pest Management <i>Main Street</i>
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Cutest Baby Contest (Sponsored by Cyclone Pest Management) <i>Gazebo</i>
12:30 p.m.	Bags & Basketball Registration <i>Michael Mills Park (Little League Diamonds)</i>
1 p.m.	Bags Tournament And 3 on 3 Basketball (Sponsored by Junior Class) <i>Michael Mills Park (Little League Diamonds)</i>
1-4 p.m.	Dunk Tank (Sponsored By Junior Class) <i>TBA</i>
1-3 p.m.	Bingo (Hosted & Sponsored by Guthrie County State Bank) <i>Community Center</i>
2:30 p.m.	Lake Panorama Ski Show <i>Lake Panorama - South Shore</i>
5 p.m.	Golf Cart/UTV Parade - Tori's Angels Fundraiser. (Sponsored by Panora Auto Parts) <i>Lake Panorama - Boulder Beach</i>
5 p.m.	Alumni Banquet Social Hour <i>Community Center</i>
6 p.m.	Alumni Banquet <i>Community Center</i>
9 p.m.	Port Tiki Bar Live Entertainment <i>Port</i>
9:30 p.m./Dusk	FIREWORKS (Sponsored by Lake Panorama Association) <i>Lake Panorama - South Shore</i>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

8 a.m. - noon	Community Breakfast (Served by Junior Class) <i>Community Center</i>
8:15 a.m.	Registration Kids Fishing Derby <i>Lake Panorama Marina</i>
9-11 a.m.	Kids Fishing Derby <i>Lake Panorama Marina</i>
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Praise Band and Food Trucks <i>Boulder Beach</i>
12:30 p.m.	Annual Panorama Alumni Golf Tournament Registration <i>Par 3 West</i>

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Q&A on Events - Contact 641-757-0605

SYNERGY: WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH

Jessica Carney treats her clients through traditional physical therapy as well as nutritional response testing and other modalities.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Synergy is a word that describes teamwork or combined impact. Jessica Carney, owner of Synergy Wellness and Physical Therapy, explains how the term fits her practice.

“Synergy means cohesiveness, bringing parts together. So, really, I want to bring all of the pieces together for clients for optimal health,” Carney said.

At her clinic (109 N. First St. in Guthrie Center), Carney treats clients through traditional physical therapy as well as nutritional response testing and other modalities as applicable. There is no standard treatment, since each client’s condition and situation is unique.

Carney described her early interest in the field. After graduating high school, she realized she wanted a career in the health field. During college, she was a two-sport athlete, so she spent a lot of time in the athletic training room, and that helped steer her toward physical therapy as a career. She received a bachelor of science degree from Buena Vista University, then a doctorate of physical therapy at Des Moines University.

“As long as I can remember, I have been intrigued with the body and how it works,” Carney said.

Carney has been working as a Physical Therapist for more than 15 years and has been at her current location for just more than a year. She lives in rural Guthrie Center with her husband, Tyler, and their three kids, Cadence, 15, Dalton, 11, and Drew, 9.

Carney explained the philosophy behind her practice.

“The body was created for health and to heal itself, but sometimes we get in the way by the way we eat and the things we do,” she said.

The physical therapy services Carney offers include orthopedic rehab, pre/post-surgical rehab, sports medicine rehab,



Jessica Carney shows her physical therapy room and equipment.

sports training, neuro rehab, acute and chronic pain, balance, gait training, geriatric care and dry needling.

“Dry needling is another tool in my box that we can use. We actually use acupuncture needles. It helps those tissues to relax and release. That not only helps with pain but interrupts the inflammatory cycle,” Carney said. “It can be a valuable tool to use.”

Carney is a firm believer that nutrition plays a major role in health, and that’s why she offers nutritional response testing. For those new to this, she summarized what it means.

“The nutritional response testing is newer in this area, and a lot of people haven’t been exposed to it. My one-sentence explanation is it’s a noninvasive way of determining what organs are under stress, what is stressing them, and then how we can support them.”

Another modality Carney offers is an ozone sauna.

“It’s an infrared sauna, so you get all the benefits of the infrared, but we pump



The ozone sauna aids in healing.

ozone into it. So, basically, what we are doing is forcing oxygen into your cells,” Carney said. “There are a variety of benefits. It’s really great for wounds.”

Asked about any particularly meaning-

ful success stories, Carney recalled a client with a very specific goal.

“There was a gentleman who had a lot of medical issues. I’d seen him for multiple things. His goal was to walk down the



Synergy Wellness offers many health products for sale.

aisle with his daughter,” Carney said. “So, he got to do that, which was really cool.” Because almost everyone has unresolved health issues, Carney encourages anyone to visit, but she stresses that a teamwork approach is needed. “Everything we do here is very non-

invasive. So why not try? It has to be a partnership. I don’t fix people. You don’t come here, and I fix you, and you walk out the door,” she said. “I’m going to facilitate and guide you, but, at the end of the day, you’re taking control of your health.” ■



Jessica Carney is a nutritional response tester.



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FUN ABOUNDS AT ALL-SCHOOL REUNION

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

By all accounts, the Guthrie Center All-School Reunion on July 5-6 was a rousing success. The weather cooperated, other than a brief downpour on Friday evening, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those who came home for fun and fellowship.

The 5K road race was a success, with many runners and walkers participating. Brody Grove took first place in the 5K race, edging out his brother, Gavyn. Both are sons of GCHS alum Daryl Grove (1997). Continuing the battle of siblings, top female finishers were Jayla and Jorja Hoover, daughters of Amy (Snyder) and Jerry Hoover from the Class of 1993. Jorja graduated in 2021, and Jayla is in the ACGC Class of 2025. Jayla finished third and Jorja in fourth.

The All School Reunion golf tournament was sold out at max capacity with 32 teams. Garrett Bates and Chris Shroyer took first place in the first flight. Tim Baker and Terry Laughery took second place in the first flight. Christopher Reil and Dave Embleton took first place in the second flight. Todd Hambleton and John Van Meter took second place in the second flight. Ian Steensen (2008) won a longest putt award. Kelly Fox (1985) took home a closest to the pin award. Mark Fletcher won the longest putt award on hole 8.

The swim meet saw 26 alumni give their all in the pool.

Alicia Ciesielski and Diane Maness were co-chairs for the overall event, but Ciesielski was quick to share the credit with all who helped in any way.

"We had a great committee. A lot of people helped us. We had a chairperson for every event that went on," Ciesielski said. "So, it's a lot of thanks to them."

Ciesielski has already received lots of positive feedback from those who attended.

"They just had a wonderful time. Lots of activities, and they loved the parade, and seeing people. It seems like they had a great time," she said.

Ciesielski added two notable highlights that stood out to her.

"Our grand marshal for the parade was Ted Hansen, who was the principal for years and years here. And we had four guys come from the class of 1949," Ciesielski said. "That was very cool to have them there." ■



Friends reunite at the all-school reunion.



The swim meet saw 26 alumni give their all in the pool.



The All School Reunion golf tournament was sold out at maximum capacity with 32 teams.



Friends reunited at the all-school reunion.



Many runners and walkers participated in the 5K race.



PHOTOS BY ALISON CAVE | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

YARD OF THE MONTH

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YARD OF THE MONTH



Dale and Dorothy Grove at 507 N. Fifth St. are the winners of \$100 in chamber bucks from the Guthrie Center Lions Club and the Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce for the Yard of the Month contest for July. These two organizations have teamed up to award citizens who maintain and take pride in their yard with this monthly contest that runs through October. ■

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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

JULY 2024 | PAGE 27

WHAT'S IN YOUR GARAGE?

1955 CHEVY IS A MEMORIAL TO A FRIEND

The story of how Dean Wetzel came to own this car is meaningful and bittersweet.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Dean Wetzel knows cars, which stands to reason, since he's been working on them during his "day job" for the past 42 years at Wetzel Repair in Guthrie Center. But he also enjoys working on cars as a hobby.

One of Wetzel's favorite cars is a 1955 Chevrolet 210.

"Originally, it was a 210 Belair station wagon, and somebody cut the back end off and made it into like an El Camino," Wetzel said. "Because they never made an El Camino in '55."

The story of how Wetzel came to own this car is meaningful and bittersweet.

"A friend of mine, Greg Kenyon, bought that car in Arizona. He bought it because

he liked '55s," Wetzel said. "He shipped it up here, and it didn't run well. Somebody did a nice job on the body, but then they stuck a motor and transmission in it and cobbled everything up. So, it kind of drove."

Wetzel and Kenyon set to work together to make a variety of improvements to the car. Some of the upgrades included fuel injection, power disc brakes, rack and pinion steering, full dual exhaust, a digital dashboard, sway bars and vintage air conditioning.

"We spent three years, off and on, just changing stuff on it. About the only thing that's original besides the body is the rear end and the radiator," Wetzel said. "It drives and handles like a modern car now."

After Kenyon passed away, Wetzel voiced an interest in buying the '55 as a memorial to his friend.

"We spent a lot of time on it. A lot of knuckle busting and a lot of thinking," Wetzel said. "I bought it about a year ago."

Wetzel doesn't plan to put the car in many car shows but displayed it at the FFA car show in the fall of 2023 and at the Lake-



Dean Wetzel with his 1955 Chevy on a beautiful afternoon.

RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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Dean Wetzel's 1955 Chevy 210.

side Village car show in June of this year. Mainly, he likes to keep the car in good running order and enjoy the memories it represents. He has no plans to part with it. "I drive it about once a week. If I wanted to go to Kansas City or Omaha, it'll go," Wetzel said. The '55 isn't the only classic car Wetzel owns and works on, though. "Oh, I've got the '55, I've got a '66 Impala Super Sport, I've got the '70 Chevelle, I've got two early '40s Chevy pickups, I've got a '69 one-ton GMC that was my dad's,"

Wetzel said. "I like driving them all." For Wetzel, the satisfaction of working on cars is a personal thing. "I do my own painting, and I'm not a painter...I'm going to do it my way, for me," Wetzel said. When asked about his favorite moment involved in fixing up a car, Wetzel had a definite answer. "For me, it's when I start it," Wetzel said. "When I build an engine and put that in there, and when I fire it up and listen to it run. I've always been an engine builder." ■



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BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Guthrie Center Times



Jolene Goodman

If you want to win the heart of my husband, bring him deviled eggs. I have had to win him over in other ways for 29 years, because I don't make them. His mother did, though, and so did my mother, and he looked forward to their versions.

Deviled eggs make appearances more in the summer due to BBQs, neighborhood driveway parties, park picnics and holiday weekends. It's another reason why I like this time of year, as I feel like the pressure is off when others come to the rescue to feed my husband's deviled egg obsession. Cyd Koehn, who owns Catering By Cyd, has mastered a mouthwatering deviled egg. She shared her recipe with me for this month's column.

Guess who's bringing the deviled eggs to the next BBQ? ■

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

DEVEILED EGGS

- Ingredients**
- 6 large eggs
 - Ice
 - 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
 - 1 1/2 Tbsp. sweet or dill pickle relish
 - 1 tsp. dijon mustard
 - 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
 - 1/4 tsp. white pepper
 - 2 dashes of Lola's Hot Sauce
 - Garnish: paprika (optional)

- Directions**
- Step 1** — Boil eggs: Fill a large pot with water; bring to a boil over high. Carefully lower eggs into boiling water; cook undisturbed, for 11 minutes, 30 seconds.
- Step 2** — Make ice bath: Meanwhile, fill a large bowl halfway with ice; add water to cover. Set ice bath aside.
- Step 3** — Chill eggs: Using a slot-



- ted spoon, immediately transfer cooked eggs from boiling water to an ice bath. Let stand until completely cooled, at least 5 minutes.
- Step 4** — Peel eggs: Working with 1 egg at a time, firmly tap on a flat surface until cracks form all over the shell. Peel under cold running water.
- Step 5** — Halve eggs: Cut eggs in half lengthwise; remove yolks. Set egg white halves aside.
- Step 6** — Make deviled egg filling: Using a fork, mash together yolks and mayonnaise in a medium bowl. Add relish, mustard, salt and pepper; stir well to combine.
- Step 7** — Fill eggs: Spoon or pipe about 1 tablespoon filling into each egg white half. Garnish with paprika, if desired. Serve immediately, or store, covered, in the refrigerator for up to three days. ■

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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of last month's photo is a wooden tractor located in the front yard of the home located at 603 State St. in Guthrie Center. Have a guess on where this month's photographed image is? Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@dmcityview.com.



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