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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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FROM THE COVER: Judy Kempf, Mary Morgan and Karen Onken review genealogical records. Photo by Rich Wicks



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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

A LIGHT-SKINNED, REDHEADED CHEROKEE INDIAN?

My mother claimed her grandmother was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian from the "Crow's Feet" tribe, despite being a light-skinned, redheaded Irishwoman whose parents' last names were Leonard and Lane. Even so, my siblings and I grew up assuming this was true, because Mom said so. With Dad's German and French heritage, we were clearly a mix anyway, so it wasn't that important to any of us.

A few years ago, I learned about, and became enamored with, a website called findagrave.com. It is essentially a database of tombstones with information gathered by volunteers, including photos and news clippings that I spent countless hours reviewing. I was able to track my family back for generations. I learned about Aquilla Lane, "a gallant soldier of the Revolution and an early settler on Watauga, where many members of his family moved to make their homes during the War for Independence." I also learned of Rev. Tidence Lane, who



of **Shane** ho **Goodman**

"served as the first pastor of the first congregation of any denomination organized in Tennessee." And Major Samuel Lane, who was born Oct. 16, 1628, in Kings Bromley Hall, Staffordshire, England.

As for my supposed Native American heritage, I couldn't find a thing. Nada. Zip. To be fair, this site isn't promoted as 100% accurate, but it is a fun and interesting journey nonetheless — and it's free.

In recent years, I also visited with a young Native American woman who grew up on a reservation and was knowledgeable about her heritage. She told me my mother's reference to a "Crow's Feet" tribe seems to be worded a bit wrong, but there may be some truth to it. Maybe.

Many options exist today to verify a person's ancestry and heritage, and most are available for a reasonable fee, as noted in this month's cover story. Options also exist at many local libraries to help people get started. Those of you with privacy concerns may not be thrilled about having your DNA in national databases, so be sure to ask enough questions so you are knowledgeable and comfortable.

Are you ready to learn more about your genealogy? We are glad to help you start down that path. Just know that you may discover something you never would have dreamed possible — and you may have to prove your mother wrong.

Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

ran

Shane Goodman Editor and Publisher Guthrie Center Times 515-953-4822, ext. 305 shane@dmcityview.com

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FEATURE STORY

DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS

Advice on how to dip your toes into the waters of genealogical research

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

People seem to have an almost irresistible urge to know their roots. Somehow, it's comforting to know what countries or areas our ancestors came from, and it can also be rewarding to find or re-discover relatives from near or far.

Traditionally, genealogical research was a tedious process, involving countless hours poring over dusty records. Today, one of the benefits of the information superhighway is that almost anything a person wants to research is available online, meaning that genealogical research can happen in your living room. Even so, the availability of information isn't helpful unless one knows where to look.

ONLINE OPTIONS

For most people who choose to dip their toes into the waters of genealogical research, there is no need to spend much money, if any. If you eventually choose to dive into the deep end of research, it may be worthwhile to have a paid membership, but beginners are generally fine staying in the shallow end of the genealogy pool.

Some paid membership sites offer a free trial, which can be a great way to glean some information. Users are wise to remember that, unless canceled before the end of the free trial, the paid membership does automatically initiate, in most cases.

Many totally free websites can provide genealogical information. Perhaps the largest free genealogy website is FamilySearch.org. It is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and some record collections may not be viewable online. However, the site does allow viewing of U.S. Census records.

The U.S. Library of Congress (loc.gov) website offers free digitized images of archived newspapers, maps, photos and more.

The National Archives (archives.gov) is a free website that includes military, census, immigration and naturalization re-



Judy Kempf, Mary Morgan and Karen Onken review genealogical records.

cords.

The website of Ellis Island (statueofliberty.org) holds 65 million entries of U.S. immigration records.

For those interested in burial records and/or visiting gravesites of relatives, "Find A Grave" is an excellent resource. This website (findagrave.com) boasts more than 170 million burial and cemetery records. The site allows users to search for gravesites by location and name. For example, if a user selects "Iowa," then "Guthrie County," then "Guthrie Center," then "Union Cemetery," then "Smith," within seconds, results show 31 gravesites matching these criteria. The user can then scroll through and

click on any that are of interest.

Users can also search for a specific gravesite by name, and the results show any matching gravesites and the cemeteries they are located. Most of the results show a photo of that specific headstone, along with date of birth and death.

OFFLINE OPTIONS

The internet is not the only source for genealogical information. Two great local sources are the Guthrie Center Public Library and the Jamaica Public Library. Guthrie Center's library offers a section with books, binders and records, including newspaper postings of births, marriages, deaths; historical information

on various counties and towns; military and immigration records; and even high school yearbooks.

The most in-depth local source for genealogical information is the Guthrie County Genealogical Society. The Society's materials are housed at the Jamaica Public Library, which has many shelves of obituaries, cemetery data, military records, and city, county and state records going back many generations. The Society also regularly holds monthly meetings at the Jamaica Library on the first Sunday at 1:30 p.m. New members are welcomed, with annual dues of \$15 for an individual or \$17.50 for a family membership.

Mary Morgan of Guthrie Center has



The genealogy section at the Guthrie Center Library offers a section with books, binders and records, including newspaper postings of births, marriages and deaths; historical information on various counties and towns; military and immigration records; and even high school yearbooks.

been a member of the Society since 1980 and shares how she became interested in genealogy.

"For me, it was my mother-in-law," she said. "She was born in this county in 1896, and she knew just about everything."

Although Morgan didn't discover any major surprises during her genealogical research of her own roots, she said, "You look a little further, and you find more and more."

She admits that online sources have now become the most easily accessed, but Morgan stresses that libraries continue to have valuable resources that may not yet have been put online.

"I found a second cousin that I knew existed but didn't really know her name," she said. "I found where she was buried,



The Jamaica Public Library has many shelves of obituaries, cemetery data, military records, and city, county and state records going back many generations.

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Ron Gruber saves a piece of family history.

and she was within two miles of where we go to a quilting retreat. So, I've gotten to go visit her grave. It's little things like that that make it fun."

After her years of research, Morgan has created a binder of various information about her family tree, and she's shared this with many of her relatives.

Morgan described another highlight, saying, "I was an adopted child, and I have found that I have two half-sisters living, and it's been a lot of fun having siblings. I'm the oldest. When I was a kid, I was always jealous."

Morgan shared an interesting fact she uncovered, saying, "Guthrie County, per capita, sent the most men to the Civil War, compared to anywhere else."

PAID SERVICES

A variety of companies offer DNA service, with one of the most recognizable being Ancestry.com. Most of these companies charge about \$100 for a basic DNA genome analysis. The user receives a packet with instructions on how to collect and mail in a saliva sample. The company then develops a DNA profile from that sample and sends the results to the user. The basic profile includes information such as the various percentages of the user's DNA that match to various countries or regions (example: 44% Norway, 40% Great Britain, 16% Sweden). The user then can opt for additional services at additional costs, such as being informed of likely relatives who have used the same service.

The popularity of mail-in genetic testing is growing rapidly. For about \$100, anyone can find out about their ancestry and related health risks. But are there inherent risks of your DNA being part of such a database? Your DNA uniquely identifies you, but it also provides data that can identify close and distant relatives.

Some individuals worry they will discover things about their DNA that will be frightening — namely, the risks they run of contracting various diseases — and not know how to move forward with the information. Scientific skeptics contend the information may not even be as accurate as claimed and could lead people to make questionable health decisions. But there's another type of risk that consumers aren't focusing on as much, and it's a big one: privacy.

For anyone who worries about intrusion of personal data, a DNA database could be the "Holy Grail" of information that could be misused in the wrong hands. There is nothing more private than your personal genetic information, and sending away for a personal genome kit means sharing your DNA with the testing companies. This means that hacking could access that data if it's not properly protected. Meanwhile, some fear that the government may be able to access the data if/when desired.

Obviously, companies that provide DNA genome testing want to assure customer privacy and confidence, or such companies will not long survive. This is a relatively new technology, so privacy practices and laws are evolving.

Another fairly recent development is that consumers can access information on their dog or cat by DNA sample analysis. Various companies offer these services, which generally cost around \$100, similar to the price for humans. The process appears to be similar also, with a saliva sample being collected, mailed in, and then results sent back. Pet DNA analysis helps determine which specific breed(s) may be represented in your pet, as well as any related information on how the various breeds impact individual pet health, temperament and/ or appearance. Company websites even state that the results can help you track down Fido's or Kitty's long-lost extended family members, if you and your four-legged friend so choose.

AN INVITATION

Dennis Davies, president of the Guthrie County Genealogical Society, welcomes anyone with an interest in genealogy to attend a meeting of the Society, free of charge. The members will be glad to answer questions or share advice. Later, if a visitor chooses to join the Society, that is welcomed, also.

When asked to provide advice to anyone with a budding interest in genealogy, Mary Morgan said, "Start with yourself and what you already know, as far back as you can go. And then go looking in the areas that they were in. You will find a lot, and you might even find that someone else in the family has done the history."

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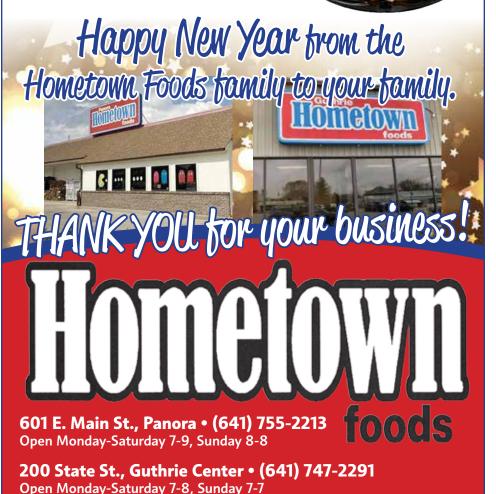


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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

LOCAL FILM REVIEWS WONKA. PURPLE. FERRARI. DUCKS.

And a great film directed by George Clooney and an awful one starring **Eddie Murphy.**

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY Guthrie Center Times

Grab another cup of coffee and take a nice long look at the lake, because we have some movies to talk about. Hang on tight. This is a lot to take in, but it will give you an idea of how my holidays were spent.

"SALTBURN"

(in a limited theatrical release and streaming)

This movie was apparently made to deliberately irritate at least half of its audience every night. It stars Barry Keoghan, who was Oscar-nominated for his performance in "The Banshees of Inisherin" last year, and it was written and directed by



"Saltburn

Emerald Fennell, who challenged us with "Promising Young Woman" a few years ago. This is a polarizing film that will test many audience members. It is not for the weak of heart. Grade: B/B+

"CANDY CANE LANE" (streaming on Amazon Prime)

Eddie Murphy continues to embarrass himself in comedies that don't possess a single funny idea or line of dialogue. This movie will save you money because it will likely cause you to cancel Amazon Prime



"Candy Cane Lane"

Video. The word abysmal comes to mind. This man simply needs to stop making movies. Grade: D

"EILEEN"

(coming to streaming soon)

Like the best of the old 1950s "tough guy fiction" noir films, "Eileen" is an interesting look at a young woman living a miserable existence working at the prison in a small town. Mom is dead, and dad is a former cop, now just a drunk who is literally drinking himself to death. Eileen's life



"Eileen"

changes dramatically when a new woman is hired at the prison. To tell you more might spoil your fun. I liked the movie, but it is challenging at times. Grade: A-

"WONKA"

(in theaters and doing well)

Timothee Chalamet inherits Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka mantle from Gene Wilder and Johnny Depp, and he does it quite well. Maybe better. It is a different Wonka than the previous over-the-top films, but I liked this one better. Sweet.





"Wonka"

charming and, of course, twisted, "Wonka" is one of the year's pleasant surprises. **Grade: A**

"THE BOYS IN THE BOAT" (*in theaters*)

George Clooney directs this adaptation of the successful book about a small rowing team that ends up competing in the Olympics. I'm leaving out a lot of the story so you can experience it like we did. It is a wonderful movie about a piece of history I was unfamiliar with, and the film was exhilarating and very, very well done. **Grade:** A

"MIGRATION"

(in theaters)

From the animation folks who bring us those hilarious Minions movies, "Migra-



"The Boys in the Boat"

tion" is a story about a Mallard duck family trying to migrate to Jamaica. To say that it is a crazy trip would be an understatement. I found "Migration" both fun and funny, but the kids in the packed theater were absolutely loving it. **Grade: B+**

"ANYONE BUT YOU" (*in theaters*)

When a couple who meet in a cute way but end up splitting over a misunderstanding end up at a destination wedding together, funny stuff happens. It's not the best movie I saw this holiday season, but it does have some laugh-out-loud raunchiness with the premise. It is a popcorn movie, for sure. **Grade: B**

"FERRARI" (*in theaters*)



"Migration"

Director Michael Mann delivers another excellent film, this time about legendary auto designer Enzo Ferrari. My two Ford Windstar mini-vans would tell you I'm not a car guy, but this study of a man in crisis (on several levels) is so well done — and the ending so traumatic — I was completely on board. Adam Driver is excellent as Ferrari, and Penelope Cruz is also topnotch as his estranged wife. **Grade:** A-

"THE COLOR PURPLE" *(in theaters)*

This film version of the Broadway hit musical is based on the 1985 film of the same name with Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey. This one left me feeling flat. The subject matter, at times, is disturbing, but I admit that I was hooked by the end, which redeemed most of the rest of it.



"Anyone But You"

Grade: B-

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and though we have not seen much snow, I think we've got plenty of winter left to come. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year. Now, pass the popcorn. ■

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. You can also follow him on Twitter @MrMovieDSM. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Guthrie County.



GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

OBITUARIES

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RANDALL LAVERNE NICKEL

Randall Laverne Nickel, affectionately known as Randy to his friends and family, passed away peacefully in his hometown of Guthrie Center after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born to Oliver and Laura Nickel, Randy was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend who left an indelible mark on the hearts of those he touched. Randy's journey began in Guthrie Center where he was born and raised, and where he attended Guthrie Center High School with the class of 1971. His sense of duty and patriotism led him to join the Marine Corps in 1970, when he started his career during the evacuation after the Vietnam War. Over the years, Randy's exceptional leadership and dedication saw him rise through the ranks, taking on roles such as Ammunition Tech, Drill Instructor, Company Gunnery Sergeant and, eventually, retiring as a Company First Sergeant in 1990 in Quantico, Virginia.

After a distinguished military career, Randy continued to serve his country as a security manager, special police officer and firearms instructor for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. His commitment to public safety was unwavering, and he approached his work with the same passion and integrity that he did in the Marines.

In 2005, Randy's love for his roots brought him back to Guthrie Center, where he became a self-employed carpenter. His craftsmanship and attention to detail were evident in his work restoring historic buildings, contributing significantly to the community's revitalization. His efforts did not go unnoticed, as he was honored with the Main Street Guthrie Center Volunteer of the Year award in April 2018, presented by the Governor in recognition of his dedication to his hometown. Randy was not only a committed serviceman and community advocate but also a successful businessman. Alongside his loving wife, Kathleen, he opened a business in 2011, which further demonstrated his entrepreneurial spirit and his desire to give back to the place he called home.

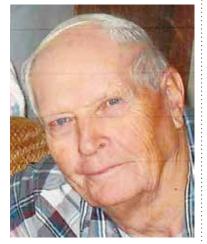
Randy's life was rich with interests and hobbies. He had a passion for restoring old trucks, a testament to his mechanical ingenuity and creative vision. He was also a true master of all trades, a skill he applied to every facet of his life. His two goldendoodles, Rifle and Remmington, were a source of joy and companionship, and his adventurous spirit was matched by his courageous and passionate approach to life.

Randy's legacy is carried on by his loving wife, Kathleen Nickel; his children. Andria Nickel of Hobe Sound, Florida, Gwen Nickel of Guthrie Center, and Randy (Billie) Lueder, Bridget (Walter) Oba, Beverly (Shanna) Lueder of Oahu, Hawaii, and April (Joseph) Hansman of Waukee. His grandchildren, Layla Greene, Devonne Bell, Reef Alban, Tehya Lueder, Randi Lueder, Reese Lueder, Autumn Boyd, Ellamae Boyd and Tate Hansman will miss his guidance and warmth. He is also survived by his brother, Clayton (Lineen) Nickel, and sisters, Della Rutherford and Debbie Waits, as well as many extended relatives and close friends who will cherish his memory. Preceded

in death by his parents, Oliver and Laura Nickel, and brothersin-law, Bill Rutherford and Mark D. Waits, Randy's spirit will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him. His adventurous nature, courageous heart and passionate soul will remain a guiding light for all who loved him.

As we bid farewell to a remarkable man, we remember Randy's life not with sorrow but with gratitude for the time we shared and the lessons he taught us. His legacy will live on through the lives he touched, the community he helped build, and the memories etched in the hearts of his family and friends. Rest in peace, Randy, your journey was one of honor, love and unwavering commitment, and you will be deeply missed.

Services were Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Twigg Funeral Home in Guthrie Center with visitation one hour prior to services. Inurnment immediately followed memorial services at Seeley Township Cemetery. ■



EDGAR F. 'PETE' PETERSON 1933-2023

Edgar Franklin Peterson "Pete," 90, son of Carl and Marie (Campbell) Peterson, passed away peacefully on Dec. 27, 2023, at the Lakeside Village in Panora with his wife of 68 years by his side.

He was born Jan. 22, 1933, in Gilman where he attended school. As a child growing up, Ed was adventurous at times and once got stuck in a tree and his mom had to climb up to get him down. Living on a farm, they had an outhouse that Ed didn't like his mom going out to in the dark, so he ran electricity to the outhouse. In high school, Ed excelled in baseball and basketball. After graduation, he had the opportunity to play minor league baseball but was drafted into the United States Army in March 1953.

Ed spent 18 months on the front lines of Korea as a forward observer for the artillery. He was released from active duty service on Jan. 1, 1955.

In 1952, Ed met the love of his life, Belva "Bi" Colbert, who was teaching kindergarten in Gilman. They were engaged in 1953 before he left for Korea. After returning home from the service in Korea, they were married on March 6, 1955, and lived in Guthrie Center where she was teaching and Ed was a mechanic at the Ford garage. To this union, two sons were born, Brad and Mike.

During this time, he was a 10-year member of the Guthrie

Center Fire Department, which two of those years, he was fire chief. He also was on the county board of Veterans Affairs for 29 years.

Later in life, Ed and Belva bought a farm southwest of Guthrie Center, and Ed transitioned as a farmer.

Ed enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and many friends. Ed will be greatly missed by so many.

Ed is survived by his wife, Belva "Bi"; sons, Brad Peterson and Mike (Terri) Peterson; two grandchildren, Brandon (Becky) Peterson and Bailey Peterson (Ryan Ecklund), all of Guthrie Center; five great-grandchildren, Piper, Kyla, Lucy, Otto and Jett; siblings, Roger (Dorothy) Peterson of Grinnell and Marilyn Postal of Fallbrook, California; along with many other nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Bob; sisterin-law, Joanna Peterson; sister, Carol Sandberg; and brother-inlaw, Bob Postal.

Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church, Guthrie Center. Visitation was Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at the Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center. Burial was at 2 p.m., Thursday, at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, near Van Meter.

Memorials may be left to the Guthrie Center Fire Department.

YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Jan. 21, 1974 **DETERMINATION:** Tigerette forward Cindy Eischeid drives around Coon Rapid's Jeanette Reinhart for a lefthanded lay-up in Guthrie's 85-57 win.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Jan. 18, 1984 **REJECTION:** Guthrie Center's Jim Wickland flies in to cleanly block a layup attempt by Stuart-Menlo's Mike Doubleday in first-half action at Guthrie Center Tuesday night. Four late free throws by Wickland helped the Tigers win.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Jan. 12, 1994 **SKIMMING ALONG:** Last week, students from Guthrie Center High School enjoyed a physical education unit on cross country skiing. Jason Carroll, front, and Leigh Downing are shown skiing a course around the school.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Jan. 26, 2004 **SNOW VACATION:** Guthrie Center schools were out Monday and Tuesday after a 7-inch snow. Dustin Boots was on foot after the rear tire on his bicycle went flat between shoveling jobs.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Jan. 29, 2014 SHOULDER TO SHOULDER AT THE BOULDER: These individuals were instrumental in getting the Freedom Rock placed last week. Front row, left to right, from the city of Guthrie Center: Bob Secoy, Justin Slaybaugh, Darin Sloss and Laura Imerman. Back row, left to right, from the Guthrie County Arts Council: John Menefee, Marian McQuaid, Ruth Owen, Phyllis Wakefield and Dale Menning.

.....

5 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, Jan. 17, 2019 ACGC HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR: Science fair winners. Front row: Reid Rumelhart, Griffin Ayers, James Hodges, Thomas Bates, Alaina Bundy. Back row: Dawson Muller, Cael Hoing, Chloe Largent, Lydia Grizzle. Not pictured: Joseph Hayes. ■

Thank you

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COMMUNITY BENEFIT FOR JAYA FEVER ON FEB. 3

Items available at the fundraiser auction will include a number of NFL football items.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

A benefit event for Jaya Fever will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Adair Fire Hall, sponsored by Adair Fire and Rescue and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Adair. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m., at which time the silent auction begins and carry-outs will be available. The on-site meal begins at 5 p.m., followed by a live auction at 6:30 p.m., and the closing of the silent auction at 7:30 p.m.

Fever was an ACGC High School senior in December 2022 when she was severely injured in a car accident on her way to



school, suffering a traumatic brain injury (TBI). For the first six months following the accident, she resided in rehabilitation centers in Chicago and Omaha. Since then, she has undergone outpatient treatments and therapies in Des Moines and Omaha.



Jaya Fever

Jaya's father, Pastor Kyle

Fever, said, "There's still a long road ahead of a lot of traveling and expensive treatments that aren't covered always by insurance. There's no clear end in sight yet. But she's made great improvements, considering that we're only a year out. The big goal for Jaya is that she still wants to go to college. She's a great artist, and she originally wanted to be an art teacher. But now, after her experience, she thinks she wants to be a speech therapist. We're so hopeful that she can live that life."

The items available during the fundraiser auction will include many from the local community. A number of NFL football items are also expected including several autographed items from the Minnesota Vikings and four tickets to a Vikings game. Items from the San Francisco 49ers, the Green Bay Packers, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Chicago Bears, and the Detroit Lions will also be included from players such as Brock Purdy, George Kittle, Patrick Mahomes, Justin Jefferson, Kirk Cousins, T.J. Hockenson, T.J. Edwards, Jack Campbell and yet-to-be-determined players from the Packers.

"It's been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk."

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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

COLLECTIONS AND HOBBIES POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Fred Campbell's antique postcards provide historical value.

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

Guinne Center Times

Interests or hobbies sometimes spring from random incidents, and that's true in the case of Fred Campbell of Guthrie Center. Campbell's hobby is collecting antique postcards, and he explained how it began three years ago.

"My wife was getting a lot of therapy at the time, and I would go down to the store and look at their merchandise," Campbell said.

While browsing, he discovered a few old postcards that caught his eye, and he's been collecting them ever since. Campbell, who lives at New Homestead Assisted Living in Guthrie Center, has organized his postcards into binders for each major holiday of the year.

While showing his cards, Campbell asked, "Aren't they colorful?"

The oversized postcards are from the early 1900s and have been written on. Most of the cards were mailed in the Midwest, and Campbell enjoys reading the messages, even though he admits much of the text is about everyday happenings. Even so, the postmarks are what catch his attention.

"You might have a postmark from a town that no longer exists," Campbell said. "Sometimes, you find one with people you know."

Campbell said most of his cards were bought from private individuals. Although he has dozens of the antique postcards, Campbell doesn't know an exact total and claims he doesn't have a favorite card, but he does enjoy occasionally displaying his cards at New Homestead so others can enjoy them and read a bit of history.



RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIME

Fred Campbell has dozens of historic postcards. Here, he shows an antique Thanksgiving one.



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Fred Campbell provides a glimpse of his

Saint Patrick's Day postcard collection.

Besides postcards, Campbell also has collected vintage photos of local members of the military. Campbell, who is an Army veteran, showed a photo of young men about to go off to fight in World War I.

There is no caption on the photo, but Campbell said, "I was hoping someone could give me their names. It would be interesting to find out."

Another part of history that has captured Campbell's attention is Springbrook State Park. He shared a binder of photos from nearly a century ago when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) helped construct the structures that allowed Springbrook Park to open.

Campbell doesn't collect his items for the monetary worth but rather for their historic value.

"Most of these postcards aren't worth much," Campbell said. "But I read a book once on the Chicago fire. If it wasn't for paintings and cards and things, they wouldn't have known what a lot of those buildings looked like. So they're a good reference."

Know someone with an interesting collection or hobby who we should feature? Contact Rich Wicks at rich@iow-alivingmagazines.com. ■

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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS



No. 10 senior Lance Bunde welcomes the double-team against West Central Activities Conference rival Panorama on Dec. 15.



Payton Jacobe, senior at 285, placed first at the Dennis Field Invitational at Woodward-Granger High School on Dec. 2.



Carter Richter, at 215, placed sixth at the Dennis Field Invitational at Woodward-Granger High School on Dec. 2.



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Dafne Hernandez at the West Central Valley Invite Jan. 6.



Jacie Baker at the West Central Valley Invite Jan. 6.

KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



No. 22 senior Reagan Carney works to get past the Panorama defender on Dec. 13. lacksquare



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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

JANUARY 2024 | PAGE 19

MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Presenting the 2023 Grant Recipients from the

In 2023, the Guthrie County Community Foundation awarded over \$200,000 in funding to organizations and groups who serve Guthrie County residents.



Adair Fire Department New SCBA Filling Station



City of Panora Police Technology upgrades



Guthrie County Public Health Making AEDs accessible across the county



Bayard Church of Christ Feeding children in areas of high poverty in Guthrie County



Guthrie County Conservation Lenon Mill Park Tree Replacement



IA College Access Network Promoting opportunities to high school students



Adair Boys & Girls Club Activites for Adair youth



Guthrie County Historical Village Renovations to the 1900 Youtz Carriage House



Little Charger Early Learning Center New building for early learning center



Coon Rapids Fire Department Outdated airpacks replaced



Guthrie County Hospital Foundation New Hospital EKG machines



Little Panther Daycare Upgraded security, new chairs, and playground equipment

If you have questions, email GCCFoundation@gmail.com or contact a board member.

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Guthrie County Community Foundation



Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library New outdoor electronic sign





Panora EMS Upgrading communications equipment



Panora Fire Department New rescue equipment



Panora Booster Club New wrestling mat



Stuart Fire Department Upgrading radio communications



Women Food & **Argiculture Network** Supporting a seminar on water quality



Yale Community Club Community **Repairs to Yale Community Building**



Yale Fire Department Upgrades to its fire-fighting equipment



Casey Library Building repairs & updates



Menlo Public Library Resources for youth reading program



Menlo Fire & Rescue Firehouse updates

City of Coon Rapids Little League equipment **Coon Rapids-Bayard Education Foundation Teacher Grant Program**

Guthrie County Fair Foundation Fair bathhouse renovation

Now's the time to submit grant applications for 2024 funds. Funding is available to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and government entities that reside in Guthrie County or serve Guthrie County residents. The deadline to apply is midnight, January 31, 2024.

> Applications and more information about eligibility are available at GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org

> > \$200,000+ is available to be awarded in **Guthrie County for 2024**

STRAWBERRY PATCH CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM

Owner Marlene Lake has been with the store for 45 years.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Running a small business in a small town can be challenging, and, unfortunately, few such businesses stay open for a decade or more. That makes the Strawberry Patch in Guthrie Center even more of a success story, as it has been open for more than 45 years and is going strong.

"I've been here since 1978 and just had my 45th anniversary with the store," owner Marlene Lake said. "I was in the fair parade with my daughter and her daughter, throwing candy."

Throughout the past 45 years, the inventory at the Strawberry Patch has varied with the times, but it has remained a women's clothing store for the entire tenure.

"Basically, young missies is what the clothing is, and I carry sizes from four to 18," Lake said when describing her current inventory. "A lot of casual wear. A lot of tops and jeans and slacks, some skirts. I have gift items, too. When I started, I was carrying prom dresses and swimwear and sleepwear." Nowadays, besides clothing, the store carries a wide variety of home décor, jewelry and knickknacks. Lake pointed out that the gnome decorations have become quite popular. Other best-selling items are the reed diffusers, which use oils to release continuous scents into the room. And because there's an automatic shut-off when the water runs dry, the diffusers are safer than scented candles.

"They are very easy to run," Lake add-ed.

The store hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Lake said her customers are mostly local but, "We have some Des Moines people that come out, and a lot of lake people. We have customers on a regular basis from Audubon, Exira, Adair. There aren't a lot of retail women's clothing stores around."

When asked what makes Strawberry Patch different, Lake said, "I do my own alterations, which a lot of places don't."

Describing her jewelry displays, Lake said, "I try to keep it reasonably priced. I don't get into really expensive jewelry. I kind of look at stuff like, would I buy it?"

Part of Lake's job in stocking the store involves attending gift shows and clothing markets to pick out the items she wants on her shelves. She admits that, since orders are generally about six months ahead, it can feel odd to be or-



Strawberry Patch owner Marlene Lake displays a wide variety of items in her store.

dering shorts during the dead of winter, but that's just the nature of the business.

Lake has two part-time employees to operate the store when she has to be gone.

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PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

source of income, Lake has always had a second, part-time job. She doesn't shy away from hard work or long hours.

"I worked for Younkers for 16 years as a full-time employee while I had this store," she said. "I'd go in at 9:45 in the morning and get off at 9:30 at night." Looking ahead, Lake said she plans

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There is something for everyone at Strawberry Patch.

to expand into the second half of her building, which is on the west side of the store.

Overall, Lake said the secret to her long-term success is, "Treating the customer like you'd like to be treated. And if something's wrong with something, get it corrected."

For the foreseeable future, Lake plans to continue running the store as she's done most of her life.

"If you like what you're doing, why quit?" she said. ■

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Hawkeye and Cyclone items are some of the store's many offerings.







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EDUCATION A-C SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSES PURCHASE OF \$300,000 ELECTRIC BUS

Vehicle could be purchased through a grant, but \$30,000 will be needed to upgrade electrical service at the bus garage and to obtain a charging station.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

On Dec. 20, the Adair-Casey School Board held its regular monthly meeting, as well as the annual organizational meeting. Superintendent Josh Rasmussen presented a plaque of appreciation to outgoing board member Dallas Dinkla, who served more than 20 years. Randy Carney and Justin Crawford, winners in the school board election in November, took the oath of office.

Transportation Director Todd Batey updated the board on the school bus fleet.

"One of the concerning items is that the fleet is all relatively the same age," he said, noting the need for future planning.

Batey also addressed the board about a grant available to help the school purchase an electric school bus. He said a new electric bus would cost about \$300,000, which is the grant amount, whereas a new diesel bus costs about half that amount. Batey discussed the advantages and disadvantages of an electric bus and pointed out that, if the district receives the grant and uses it to obtain a bus, there would still be a cost of about \$30,000 to upgrade electrical service at the bus garage and to obtain a charging station.

Board members brought up that because Guthrie County is a largely agricultural county, an electric bus may be viewed as not supportive of the ethanol industry that helps fuel combustion vehicles. Members also pointed out that if the district were to spend \$30,000 on a charging station and upgrading the electrical service, it would be logical to eventually have more than one electric vehicle. The consensus from the board was that Batey can pursue the grant application process, because the board can decide later whether or not to accept the grant, if or when it is offered.

Board members discussed a target percentage for the district regarding the General Fund Unspent Authorized Budget (UAB) and came to a consensus that a 15-20% UAB target percentage will give them a cushion in case of changes to enrollment or additional program needs while also ensuring the board and administration are using the school's authorized funds on current district needs.

The board was scheduled to meet in a joint meeting with the Guthrie Center School Board on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m., which was after this publication went to press. Look for coverage in next month's issue. ■



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EDUCATION

GUTHRIE CENTER SCHOOL BOARD SEES DECLINING ENROLLMENT, DISCUSSES POSSIBLE BUDGET CUTS

Board discusses offering early retirement as a way to decrease expenditures.

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center School Board on Dec. 13, Superintendent Josh Rasmussen reviewed the district's Comprehensive Financial Projection Model, which shows a long-term financial projection of the district's general fund. Due to declining enrollment, the district will need to consider budget cuts in the 2024-25 school year. The board discussed offering early retirement as a way to decrease expen-

ditures.

Rasmussen reported the ACGC fall sports teams had many accomplishments, which include qualifying for team academic awards through the state organizations. Football received the Academic Excellence Award with football cheer, cross country boys, cross country girls and volleyball all receiving the Academic Distinguished Award.

Dave Osen was present to provide an update on the district's transportation fleet. He recommended purchasing a used gas bus to replace current bus No. 8, which is needing major repairs, as well as planning to purchase a new diesel bus for activities in the next year or two.

The board was scheduled to also meet on Wednesday, Jan. 17, after the press time of this publication. Look for coverage next month. ■



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HEALTH GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL TO REPLACE CARDIAC TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

The Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees met in regular session on Dec. 28. The trustees reviewed quality measures and finance numbers and also heard administrative updates from the various departments.

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The trustees approved spending up to \$175,000 to replace cardiac telemetry equipment, which continuously monitor patient ECG, respiratory rate and/or oxygen saturation while automatically transmitting data to a central monitor.

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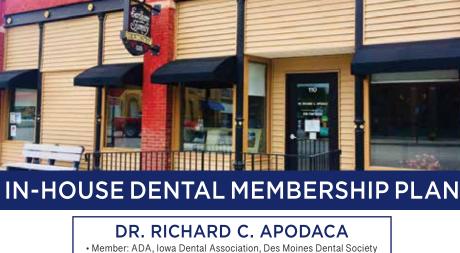
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The trustees also discussed appointing officers for the new year. After discussion, the trustees chose to retain the officers from 2023, which include Mike Underwood (chair), Doug Kent (vice chair), Dana Tews (secretary) and Cheryl Marks (treasurer).

The board's next regular meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 25 at 4 p.m. Board meetings are open to the public and may be attended in person or virtually. Information about these meetings and the virtual link can be found at http://guthriecountyhospital.org/newsandevents.



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GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



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COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS DENY APPEAL OF MINOR SUBDIVISION DECISION

JD Kuster appointed chair with Maggie Armstrong as vice chair.

BY RICH WICKS Guthrie Center Times

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors on Dec. 19, Brad Halterman, conservation director, addressed the supervisors with his request to purchase a new pickup truck for the conservation department. Halterman explained that the requested truck is a half-ton truck with four-wheel drive, and he expects the cost to be around \$50,000. He said conservation board members were in agreement that it's time to obtain a new truck.

Halterman explained that his department has been creating a savings that could help cover the cost of the truck. The supervisors' consensus was for Halterman to put in the order for the truck now, since costs will only increase over time

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved two payroll changes. Carly Heckman will be a new hire in the Recorder's office at \$20 per hour. Kelli Smith (Auditor's office) will have a wage increase to \$21 hourly.

On Dec. 27, the supervisors opened and reviewed seven bids for the Transfer Station pasture and four bids for the County Farm. In each case, the supervisors accepted the highest bid. The board accepted a bid from Kelly Kopaska for \$140 per acre for the Transfer Station pasture. The supervisors accepted a bid for the County Farm from Jake and Paige Anderson for \$54,848.88.

The supervisors met again on Jan. 2 to decide a variety of annual appointments to various boards. JD Kuster was appointed chair of the Board of Supervisors with Maggie Armstrong to serve as vice chair.

IT Director Brian Hoffman addressed the board about a proposed upgrade to the Public Health door access system. He said the system would be cloudbased, and the total cost would be \$10,691, but a grant would pay \$10,000 of that, so the county's cost would be \$691. The supervisors approved the upgrade.

On Jan. 4, the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met for their first weekly budget workshop meeting in preparation for budgeting for the upcoming 2025 fiscal year. The supervisors heard from two departments, Veterans Affairs/General Relief and the Auditor's Department.

The supervisors held their regular meeting on Jan. 9. Zoning Administrator Chris Whitaker spoke to the supervisors regarding a requested appeal from Brian and Michelle Bailey, regarding the requirements for a minor subdivision.

Whitaker said that, according to the guidelines, "Even a minor subdivision does require a paved surface."

"The rules are pretty clear as to what we can and can't do right now, so we're not in a position to where we can change that for this particular situation," Supervisor Maggie Armstrong said.

Armstrong added that, going forward, she feels the supervisors should review the rules to see if any need to be updated. The consensus among supervisors was that the rules as they are currently written are clear. Mike Dickson made a motion to deny the appeal, and it was unanimously passed.

The supervisors heard from two members of the Guthrie County Compensation Board, John Tews and John Twillmann, regarding recommendations for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 salaries for elected officials. Guthrie County salaries currently are below the average and the median when compared to all counties in Iowa. The recommendation was for an increase of 7.25%. The supervisors voted to approve the recommendation.

CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES UTILITIES TRUSTEE INCIDENT

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

On Jan. 8, the Guthrie Center City Council met in regular session.

Mayor Mike Herbert discussed concerns with recent actions by a Utility Board trustee toward city staff. Dan Nickell was in attendance on behalf of the GCMU Board of Trustees. After much discussion, the consensus by the council was that this behavior would not be tolerated, and if there was another incident, the council would vote to have said trustee removed from the board.

City Clerk Kris Arrasmith shared the Library Board had recently approved a 5% salary increase for its staff effective Jan. 1 at its December meeting. She explained this increase was not included in the 2023/2024 budget and was approved by the MJB Library Board without a conversation with Arrasmith or the council prior to the meeting. The council instructed Arrasmith to give clarification to the library board president, Steve Bascom, on salary budgeting, timing, approvals and proper procedures.

Public Works Superintendent Darin Sloss provided his departmental report. He shared his department had been prepping for snow removal season, taking down holiday lights, and removing some trees. He also shared that the DNR was going to require an upgraded wastewater sampler. He had received a quote for a new sampler from GPM Environmental Solutions for \$4,853. The council unanimously approved the request.

Arrasmith shared that city hall would be closing at noon on Wednesdays during the month of January so they can move forward with transitioning to the new financial software program. She will keep the council posted on the progress of the software migration.

As part of the consent agenda, the council approved a beer/liquor permit for Dollar General.

The council's next regular meeting will be Monday, Jan. 22. ■



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Cheers to a New Year!

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.



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EVENTS RUCKUS HEADING TO ALTOONA



River Ruckus will be moving and changing dates after 15 years at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds.

Ruckus 2024 will be June 7-8 just west of the Adventureland theme park.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

One of the Midwest's longest tenured country music festivals will continue its 16th year but with a few changes. Guthrie's River Ruckus is moving locations and changing dates after 15 years in its hometown of Guthrie Center. The Ruckus 2024 will be June 7-8 in Altoona in an area just west of the theme park. This relocation coincides with Adventureland's 50th year celebration.

This move offers a wider selection of lodging options including Adventureland Inn and Campground, restaurants, shopping, full hook-up camping onsite and paved parking. All festival tickets include admission to Adventureland theme park and Adventure Bay water

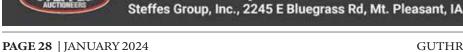
park throughout the two-day event.

"Our team is excited to move to a more centralized location that is easily accessible and offers more amenities for our fans," said event organizer Grant Sheeder. "We will miss being in our hometown of Guthrie Center, but it will remain an important part of where we came from."

Regarding the reasons for the change, Sheeder said, "The rising cost of production, advertising, security and artists all played a role with the move. It's not Guthrie's fault, and we have no hard feelings toward anyone in town... We have been fortunate to be where we've been this long, but the numbers don't lie. Ultimately, it came down to a business decision we had to make to either hang it up or find a new home. Nothing but love for those in the community who helped sponsor, volunteered, or simply attended the last 15 years."

Details on tickets, camping and the acts performing during the festival will be announced soon. For more information, visit www.guthriesriverruckus. com.





SPORTS CHANCE EARNS ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

ACGC student Nate Chance was honored as an Iowa Football Coaches Association (IFCA) Class A Academic All-State selection, following a successful football season. According to ACGC Activities Director Taylor Morris, "Nate excelled both on and off the field, and that is evident with his Academic All-State award."



GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECEIVES \$29,580 IN DECEMBER FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY INMATE FEES

According to jail reports from the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office, the Guthrie County Jail processed 30 out-of-county inmates through the facility during the month of December. The jail was able to invoice for prisoners as follows: Adair County Sheriff's Office, 1 inmate, 7 days, \$420

Greene County Sheriff's Office, 3 inmates, 14 days, \$840

Polk County Sheriff's Office, 19 inmates, 339 days, \$20,340

Webster County Sheriff's Office, 7 inmates, 133 days, \$7,980 ■





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RECIPE DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY ASPARAGUS — TRY THIS EASY ASPARAGUS SCRAMBLE

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

Guthrie Center Times

Each year, I choose a word. It's kind of like a New Year's resolution, but simpler. The word guides me through the year, keeping me focused on what I want to work on. My word for 2024 is healthy. I am an admitted sugar addict, so I am working to cut down the consumption while adding more greens into my daily menus. This asparagus scramble is de-



Jolene Goodman

licious, and you will have a serving of greens before you leave the house for the day. Asparagus intimidates me, but this recipe keeps it crisp and provides great flavor. So, if you are an asparagus lover, you'll thank me for this simple and easy recipe. As well, the bits of green provide a great presentation when served. Broccoli and sweet potatoes work well, also.

Here's to a healthy new year. Happy cooking.

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

ASPARAGUS EGGS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 bunch of asparagus, trimmed and cut to 1/4" pieces
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- 1.5 tablespoons chopped chives (optional)
- freshly ground black pepper

Add olive oil to a pan warmed at medium heat. Heat for one minute. Add asparagus and 1/4 tsp salt. Cook and stir for 4 minutes until tender. While asparagus cooks, whisk eggs, 1/4 tsp salt and 1 tbsp chives. When asparagus is tender, turn heat to low. Add egg to pan. Cook and stir slowly, scraping eggs from the bottom of the pan. When eggs are almost set, but slightly wet, turn off heat and remove pan from burner. Continue to stir until eggs are not wet and mixture is creamy, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle with chives and pepper. ■



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WHERE IS IT?



The answer for the location of last month's photo is a mural painted on the planter in front of the Adair Public Library. Megan Farnsworth was the first person with a correct answer. 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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AREA CHURCH GUIDE

SUBMIT CHANGES OR UPDATES TO 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

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

Online messages: 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*

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*

First United Methodist Church 405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center, 641-332-2408 *www.gcumcia.org*

First Presbyterian Church 701 State St., Guthrie Center 641-332-2425

Guthrie Center First Baptist Church 113 N. Fifth St., Guthrie Center 641-747-8198 www.guthriecenterbaptist.com **Guthrie Center Seventh-day Adventist Church** 1305 North St., Guthrie Center 641-332-2778 *www.guthriecentersda.com*

Immanuel Lutheran Church 713 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center 641-332-2918 *www.immanuelgc.org*

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 1300 Grand St., Guthrie Center 515-747-8524 *www.jw.org*

Saint Mary Catholic Church 603 Main St., Guthrie Center 641-747-3843 st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com

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Q: HOW DO I ACCESS THE GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES ONLINE, AND CAN I FORWARD IT TO OTHERS?

A: You can view the full digital edition of Guthrie Center Times online at www.guthriecentertimes.com. You can copy that web address and forward it to anyone you so choose. You can also sign up to receive an email once per month that will be sent to you, or anyone else, with a link to the latest edition, as well as our Panora Times, Lake Panorama Times or our twice-weekly Times Vedette digital edition. Sign up for free at www.gctimesnews.com and unsubscribe at any time.

Q: IF I DON'T GET MY GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES IN THE MAIL, WHO SHOULD I CALL?

A: We pay the United States Post Office to mail a copy of Guthrie Center Times to all residents of Guthrie Center, Adair and Casey. We also pay for all businesses to receive a copy. With that in mind, we expect that you will receive what we are paying to have mailed to you, and that is exactly what happens the vast majority of the time. If you have a mailing address in one of the listed communities and, for some reason, you are not receiving your copy, please contact your local post office. In Adair, that number is 641-742-5511. In Casey, it is 641-746-2618. And in Guthrie Center, it is 641-747-2042.

Q: WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE THREE CROSSES LOCATED EAST OF GUTHRIE CENTER ON HIGHWAY 44?

A: The crosses were erected in 2000 and are constructed of 8-inch steel square-shaped tubing so they will last a long time. We were told there is not a specific reason for these but they were created "just for the glory of God."

Q: WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE VALUES OF IOWA FARMLAND?

A: According to the recently released Iowa State University Land Value Survey, Iowa farmland values rose in 2023 but at a slower pace than the last two years. Average land values in Iowa rose 3.7%, or \$424, to \$11,835 per acre. That number is an increase of .5% after adjusting for inflation. This follows a 17% increase in 2022 and a near-record 29% increase in 2021. ■

COLLEGE NOTES

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FETT NAMED TO CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S HONORS LIST

Leah Fett of Guthrie Center was recently named to Concordia University, Nebraska's Honors List for the fall 2023 semester. A total of 226 total students were named who earned a 3.9 GPA or higher while also completing at least 12 credit hours.

BVU NAMES STUDENTS TO DEAN'S LIST

Buena Vista University congratu-

lates more than 500 students who were named to the fall 2023 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes fulltime students achieving a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester. Among those students was Audrey Franzeen of Guthrie Center.

GRUBBS NAMED TO FALL TERM DEAN'S LIST AT WARTBURG

Wartburg College recognized 484 students who were named to the 2023 fall term Dean's List, including Tatum Grubbs of Casey. ■

MJB LIBRARY NEWS SO MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS

January — a new year, new goals, new resolutions — all these things add up to change. While change is seldom easy, it nearly always brings new opportunities and challenges. This is the case at the MJB Memorial Library.

Our library is fantastic, but we are making some changes. Right now we are working on revamping the organization of our children's section.

We are in the process of changing the way we shelve our picture books. Currently, they are in bins organized by the last name of the author, but after we finish our project, books will be more user-friendly for our young patrons. Books will be organized by topics such as "animals," "things that go" and "holidays," making it easier for children to find the kind of books they want to check out.

This is just the beginning of what we have in mind for our children's section. We also would love to update our juvenile nonfiction books. Nonfiction books are important to keep updated as there are so many changes in our world. Currently, we have nearly 1,500 juvenile nonfiction titles. Of those titles, 84% have copyright dates before 2014; this means that only 16% of our children's nonfiction books have been published in the last 10 years. Thirty-six percent of the books were published in the last century with the oldest having a 1926 copyright date.

In our juvenile biography section, we have 210 titles. Of those, 96% are more than 10 years old with 68% copyrighted in the 1900s. Only eight of the children's biographies have copyrights from 2014 or later.

As we work to update our collection, we have been fundraising and writing grants, but we would welcome donations. Please remember that your donations are tax-deductible.

SAVE THE DATE

Friends of the Library are planning a trivia night fundraising event on Feb. 24. Start rounding up your team and put the date on the calendar. It will be held at the Guthrie Center Activity Center with Cabbage Rose catering the meal, which is included in the purchase of your ticket. More information will be coming soon.

EARLY LITERACY STORY HOUR

Remember that story hour for preschoolers and caregivers will be every Friday beginning at 10 a.m. The Jan. 19 theme is "cold." "Art" will be the focus of Jan. 26.

CRIBBAGE AND BRIDGE

A reminder that each Monday from 9-11

a.m., cribbage players are invited to stop by the library to play cribbage. All players are welcome to join, regardless of skill level. Wednesdays are bridge day. From 9-11 a.m., bridge players are invited to join in the play.

CARD-MAKING CLASS

Card-making class, led by Judi Zimmerline, meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9-11 a.m. All materials are provided; the cost is \$5 to pay for supplies.

COOKBOOK CLUB

"Beautiful Brunches" by Cider Mill Press is the featured cookbook for the January Cookbook Club. Cookbook Club is open to anyone who would like to participate. Stop in the library where the book is on reserve. Choose a recipe, prepare it and then bring it to share with the group on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 6:30 p.m. The library provides plate/napkins/cutlery; you provide your chosen dish and serving utensils for that dish.

BOOK CLUB

Anyone who wants to join the book club should stop by the library to check out a copy of "*The Paris Daughter*" by Kristin Harmel, the February book club selection which is set in World War II France. This gripping historical novel tells the story of two mothers who must make unthinkable choices in the face of the Nazi occupation. Book Club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Library will have their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6:15 p.m. It's not too late to join for 2024. The cost is \$25 for the year. This may be paid at the February meeting, or it can be sent to the library.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Wednesday, Feb, 14 is the next Lunch and Learn. From noon to 1 p.m., Meghan Mc-Bride with Guthrie County ISU Extension will be sharing about the Spend Smart/Eat Smart program with a Valentine's Day twist. A light lunch will be provided. Please preregister by calling the library (641-747-8110), clicking the website event calendar, or emailing the library.

The Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library is located at 400 Grand St. in Guthrie Center. Contact us at 641-747-8110 or mjblib@guthriecenter.lib.ia.us. Visit us online at www.guthriecenter.lib.ia.us.

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