

# Guthrie Center TIMES

**MARCH 2024**

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# BIG SHOES TO FILL

My father and my uncle owned a gravel and excavation company in a small town in north central Iowa. As such, my brothers and my cousin worked for them at various times through the years. My oldest brother and my cousin now own the company together, following in their parents' footsteps — and that's a good thing.

Dad wanted each of his three boys to learn about the business, and he did his best to teach us not only about digging basements and hauling gravel and clearing out tree groves, but also about job efficiencies and customer service and the joy in being tired after a hard day's work.

I wasn't the best student of his on the technical side, but I did learn much from him about running a business.

Let me be clear. Operating heavy equipment was not my strength as a teenager, and it still isn't today. Tasks as simple as backing the trucks into the shop made me uncomfortable. Part of it had to do with the 2-inch clearance, but more of it had to do with disappointing Dad if I clipped the mirrors off.

I did talk with Dad a lot about running a small business, though, and much of his advice sticks with me today.

He said when a new customer would ask him for a bid and accept it, he would always charge less than what he quoted. After that, the customer would never ask



Shane Goodman

for a bid again.

I asked him how he would handle customers who owed him money. He said he trusted everyone at first, and if a customer cheated him once, shame on that customer. If a customer cheated him twice, shame on him.

He told me that it was good to feel tired at the end of the work day, as it showed you gave it your all. And he said, if you worked hard, you deserved a beer at the end of the day — but only one beer.

Following in a parent's footsteps with a career choice isn't an easy task for those who accept the challenge, as there will clearly be differences of opinion on how to do things "the right way." There will also be many examples of continuing procedures or having policies in the

same way mom or dad did. We share a handful of local examples of these in this month's cover story.

Meanwhile, in one way or another, most all of us are continuing the traditions and lessons our parents shared with us by taking those same steps. And, as we are discovering, those can be big shoes to fill.

Thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
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# IN THE FAMILY'S FOOTSTEPS

## Family businesses pass on to the next generation.

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

*"If you are going to leave footprints in the sands of time, you'd better wear work shoes."* — Le Grand Richards, missionary (1886-1983)

Family roots run deep in Guthrie County. Because of this, many families have younger generations who have followed in the family business. Here are a few of their stories.

### LAUGHERY FAMILY (GUTHRIE LIVESTOCK AUCTION)

Most anyone involved in agriculture around Guthrie County is well aware that the Laugherys know livestock. Since 1951, the family has owned and operated Guthrie Livestock Auction at 407 S. Third St. in Guthrie Center, selling livestock for area farmers. Several members of the family (Jim, Terry and Dan) recently offered their perspectives on the family business, which is one of the oldest in Guthrie County.

"The barn started in 1928 as a livery stable. There were 75 shareholders," Jim said.

Then, in 1951, the building and business were sold at auction. Lloyd Laughery (Jim's father) bought it and went into partnership with his brother, Gerald. While running the business, Lloyd and his wife, Ila, raised sons Jim and Larry, who followed in their dad's footsteps by making their living at the business.

Larry passed away in January of 2024, but his son, Dan, has followed in the family tradition, as has Jim's son, Terry. Terry, Dan and Jim joked that, in their family, kids start helping out in the family business almost from birth. Jim recalled that, at age 14, he was already going to area farms, buying cattle for the next auction. He also remembers being initiated into auctioneering at a young age.

"My dad just pushed me up there and said, 'Go to it,'" Jim said.

Nowadays, there is a two-week training to become an auctioneer, but the bulk of the learning still happens on the job. Terry shared a favorite saying about auctioneering.

"You put a whole bunch of marbles in your mouth, and you try selling, and you spit a marble out. And once you're lost all

your marbles, you become an auctioneer," Terry said.

The three Laughery men said working alongside family has meant a lot to them.

"It has kept everybody living locally. The majority of our kids are around here, and they've helped out throughout their lives," Terry said.

The business has seen significant changes over the decades, mostly in the areas of technology and the decrease in the number of local livestock sellers. Jim recalled that, many years ago, it was common practice for a farming couple to come into town on the day of an auction, with husbands selling or buying livestock while wives shopped downtown.

Terry explained how having fewer auction barns has impacted the business.

"Back in the day, there was almost a sale barn in every town, and they're getting fewer and farther between," Terry said. "That enhances our numbers of getting more cattle here, but we have to draw them from a long ways away."

He said farmers bring livestock from as far as 100 miles.

Jim shared a memory of this difference in the industry.

"In 1966, my dad was president of the Iowa Livestock Association," he said. "There were 166 auction houses in the state of Iowa. There's about 36 now, and not all of them have weekly sales."

Because of the nature of farming, the Laugherys are busiest during the winter and when weather is inclement. Dan explained the reason.

"Basically, in May, June, July and August, the farmers have their cows and calves out to pasture, so they're not selling anything. And that's when they're out doing their row crops. Once they get crops out in September and October, then we start moving cattle," he said. "A nice day is a social event, and a nasty day is 'I'm here to buy something.'"

Other than the changes already mentioned, the Laughery family has kept to the business plan that's worked for generations.

"We haven't really changed in years. The only thing that's changed is now we have it online and in-person," Terry said.

All three spoke of the importance of earning and keeping the trust of the area cattle producers. They said the family name has become an important part of that.

"We're the owners, unloading your cattle, sorting your cattle, selling your cattle, and



**Above:**

Terry, Jim, Dan and the late Larry Laughery of Guthrie Livestock Auction.

**Left:** It's "no bull" that the Laughery name means an honest deal for farmers.

loading them back out," Dan said.

"We strive that you're going to get an honest deal. That's the whole thing in a nutshell," said Jim.

Jim also pointed out that, although the business requires a lot of hard work, it's worth it.

"Anybody that's worked here hasn't gotten rich doing it, but the fellowship has been outstanding," Jim said. "It's more the friendship and good times."

Dan said everything in the agricultural market is unpredictable due to the many global and economic factors, but he's still happy working in the family business and has no plans to make any drastic changes.

"You don't fix something that's not broken, I guess," Dan said.

Terry agreed, saying he's proud to continue the family's legacy.

"It's nice to have a family business, because you take a little more pride in it," Terry said.

### VANDEVANTER FAMILY (DOWD DRUG)

Family matters. And in small towns, family perhaps means even a bit more, which is why Dowd Drug in Guthrie Center still carries the name of the family that formerly ran the business, even though they haven't owned it for 40 years.

Julie Priestley, pharmacist and owner of Dowd Drug, explained her family's history in the business. She and her sister, Jane Clausen, have each followed in the







Julie Priestley, Janice and Jim Vandevanter, and Jane Clausen

footsteps of their parents, Jim and Janice Vandevanter, in running small, independent pharmacies.

"My dad went to pharmacy school at Drake, and then he came back here. The Dowd family ran Dowd Drug, and he worked for the Dowd family first. Then he and my mom took over the business in the early 1980s. My mom, Janice, worked on some of the bookwork side of it, and he was the pharmacist," Priestley said.

The Vandevaners eventually expanded, purchasing Adel Health Mart Pharmacy in 2008. Later, this allowed Priestley and Clausen to step in when their parents were ready to retire.

"In 2018, my sister, Jane, and I purchased both stores from him," said Priestley. "My sister and I also both went to pharmacy school at Drake. We just grew up in the pharmacy world, I guess. I started working here at Dowd Drug when I graduated as a pharmacist in 2003 and have been a pharmacist ever since."

Priestley remembers that, at a young age, she already planned to follow her father's career path.

"There was a career day in third grade where kids could dress up as whatever they wanted to be," Priestley said. "I remember I wore a white lab coat, as a pharmacist, and I took a bottle with some M&M's in it. So, I guess ever since then, I realized that's what I wanted to do."

Working with family members can create some unique challenges, but Priestly has found the advantages outweigh any disadvantages.

"I worked alongside my dad for several years," Priestley said. "The pros are that I could bounce things off him and gain the



Julie Priestley and Jim Vandevanter

knowledge that he's had of the pharmacy world."

Over the decades the family has worked in the pharmacy field, they've seen many changes, but the commitment to small town service has remained.

"The technology has definitely changed over the years," said Priestley. "I remember when I was little, they'd have the typewriters out. The billing has changed, too, and not many people had pharmacy insurance, but now it's like everybody has it. And we have machines that help us count the pills."

Priestley recalled a notable time when her parents were especially helpful.

"We had the incident with the fire in June of 2020. It was in the building next door, but we had complete smoke damage in the building," Priestley said. "We had to gut everything and move it all out. This was after

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In October 2021, the staff celebrated Jim Vandevanter's 50 years as a pharmacist.

my dad had pretty much retired... Through-out that time, he was kind of the manager for getting everything put back together. He really helped me out a lot, because we had to move the pharmacy across the street for eight months. My parents both helped me out tremendously during that time."

#### OWEN FAMILY FARM

Charles Owen, Sr., who was born in 1851, was responsible for starting the Owen family legacy on the farm, which is along Highway 44, just west of the "M & M Divide." Charles and his wife, Anna, relocated from Wisconsin to Guthrie County.

"The older Charlie Owen, they came in a covered wagon. Coincidentally, this would be the 150<sup>th</sup> year, because 1874 was when they came in the wagon, from Green Lake, Wisconsin," said Charlie, Jr.

That journey was more than 400 miles and took three weeks. The farm started out as 80 acres, but, over time, adjacent land was added. Charlie, Sr. and Anna's son, Fred, took over the farm, and he eventually turned it over to his son, Fred, Jr. Later,



Julie Priestly and Jane Clausen at a national pharmacists convention in 2021.

Fred, Jr. passed the farm to his son, Charlie, Jr. Now Charlie and his wife, Ruth, have retired. That allowed their son, Jon, and his wife, Donna, to take over farming the land.

Even in retirement, Charlie likes to stay involved in parts of the farm work. He still runs the tractor at times.

"It's enough that it keeps Jon busy, and it gives me something to do," Charlie said.

Jon and Donna's children (Parker, Anna and Maxwell) are all young adults and rep-

## Happy 90th Birthday, Mom!



Dorothy Leib  
March 21, 2024

"Our mothers are our first teachers, & we teach others the same lessons we learn from them. As a child, when your mother believes in you, you believe in yourself, & when that happens, there is nothing you can't do."  
--Caroline Kennedy

Thank you for being our first teacher, Mom!  
And for teaching & touching the lives of so many others too!

Love,  
Mary, Ann, Beth & Sara





Jon, Charlie and Maxwell Owen carry on the farming tradition.

resent the sixth generation of the Owen family to live on the farm. So far, it's unclear if any of the three will one day take over farming the land.

"They're all trying to figure out what they're going to do," Jon said.

The Owen family reminisced about the challenges and changes that the family and the farm have experienced.

"One of the things that I think is amazing is that they were able to keep the farm through the Depression years. Charlie's granddad was helpful in developing Farm Credit Services," said Ruth.

Although the farm initially grew a variety of crops and livestock, that has changed over the years.

"Charlie's great-granddad was one of the first in the area to use hybrid seed corn,"

Ruth said.

"We kind of tried to stay with the times, I guess," said Charlie. "We don't have live-stock anymore. We did have a cattle herd, but now we're just corn and beans."

Jon said he hadn't necessarily planned on being a farmer. He earned a college degree in the technology field but recalls in 2008 when his dad decided it was time to move into town. That's when Jon decided to move his family to the farm and continue in the family tradition.

After 150 years as a family farm, there are no plans to make major changes now.

"I don't know what would be different," Jon said. "It just kind of depends on how innovative you can get to come up with something different. What we're doing has always worked." ■



Charles, Sr. and Anna Owen



Fred, Jr. and Lena Owen



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# TEACHERS' SUBTITLES. ANOTHER FRANKENSTEIN. MORE SPIDER-VERSE.

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
*Guthrie Center Times*

If you have not been to the movies lately, you've missed some good films. Some of these will still be in theaters, but others might be close to streaming. Keep this article handy to remind you to look for them.

**“THE TEACHERS’ LOUNGE”**

I knew nothing about this movie going in and have praised it ever since that day. It is nominated for Best International Film (formerly known as Best Foreign Film). It is in German with subtitles. By the way, contrary to public opinion, no one has ever been injured by a subtitle. The movie is about a teacher in a German school who discovers a co-worker is responsible for thefts in the teachers’ lounge. When she confronts her, you know what hits



“The Teachers’ Lounge”

the fan. And, of course, the person denies the accusation, and it becomes a “she said/she said” battle with the accuser being the one who is persecuted. It is a powerful film and a powerful statement on the world we live in. One of the best films I saw last year. **Grade: A**



“Lisa Frankenstein”

**“LISA FRANKENSTEIN”**

I drove across Des Moines from the south-side Fleur Cinema to Waukee and The Palms Theatres to see the second movie of the day, a modern twist on the Frankenstein story. My expectations were low, but the film managed to surprise me. It was entertaining and,



“The Zone of Interest”

at times, charming. A high school girl hanging out with a guy who literally pulled himself from his grave during a lightning storm is a unique story, but Diablo Cody, who wrote the great movie “Juno” back in 2007, shows that she still has the chops to write a funny and clever film. **Grade: C+**

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"Madame Web"



"Bob Marley: One Love"



"Drive-Away Dolls"



"Dune: Part 2"

### "THE ZONE OF INTEREST"

"The Teachers' Lounge" was intense and powerful, but this look at the people living in an opulent home next to the notorious Auschwitz prison camp ranks close. It's an oddly made film, giving us scene after scene of their everyday life with little formal storytelling. It is a story that is difficult to believe. The screams and gunshots were completely ignored as if they didn't happen. Tough to sit through, but a fascinating tale.

**Grade: A-**

### "MADAME WEB"

Dakota Johnson from the "Shades of Grey" films joins the Marvel Universe as a fringe character in the Spider-Verse in an effort from the Sony company to continue to milk the Spider-Man deal they

signed years ago with Marvel Comics. The film has been universally trashed, and Johnson has been excoriated. My grown son and I went to this with low expectations, and we both enjoyed it. Not sure what people were expecting.

**Grade: C+**

### "BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE"

My knowledge of Bob Marley is limited. I know a couple of his songs, but the depth of his political activism and his dogged artistic drive were surprising to me. The movie is well made, but I really could have used subtitles as the accents, though accurate, were difficult to understand. It is a good movie that I will rewatch at home with subtitles and will probably appreciate it even more.

**Grade: B+**

### "DRIVE-AWAY DOLLS"

Director/writer Joel Coen (of the Coen brothers) gives us a raunchy and profane story of two women on a road-trip in a car with a unique present in the trunk. The movie and the language never hold back, which produces a mixture of shock and "laugh-out-loud" moments. One of the craziest movies I've seen in a while, and it is sure to offend many.

**Grade: C**

### "DUNE: PART 2"

One of the movies I was most looking forward to this year. Director Denis Villeneuve and a tremendous returning cast deliver a super-long (2:45) sequel that, in my opinion, brings up more questions than answers. I loved the first film, but this sequel was long and confusing. Word to the wise — if you are going to see

this film, do yourself a favor and drive to Waukee and see it in the IMAX theatre. Visually stunning! **Grade: B-**

The recent weather tells me spring is coming soon, but a true Iowan is a little skeptical. Enjoy! ■

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.



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**PATRICIA ANN STEENSEN**  
1949-2024

Patricia Ann Steensen, 74, passed away peacefully on March 2, 2024, at The New Homestead in Guthrie Center in the presence of family.

Pat was born Nov. 28, 1949, to Beryl and Grace (Blood) Berkenbosch. She attended Adel High School during which she served as a historian for 4-H. Pat graduated from high school in 1968. After high school, she pursued an education as a beautician in Des Moines at Iowa School of Beauty.

Pat married Dallas Lee Steensen on May 7, 1976. Together they had two

children, Donald Patrick and Katherine Annette.

Pat learned the skill of embroidery at an early age from her mother, Grace. Her artwork was displayed on numerous pillowcases and dish towels.

One of Pat's hobbies was playing music on the piano and organ. Pat loved hymns the most. She would sometimes encourage her son, Donald, to play duets with her on his baritone. Pat shared her talent with the public, as she was an organist for her church family and later she played for residents at The New Homestead.

Pat enjoyed writing poetry. While most of these writings she kept private, there were a couple that she had published. Her favorite topics to write about were her Christian faith and family. Pat also wrote about aspects of her life in an autobiography called, "Growing Pains, I Believe in Miracles."

Pat liked to make recordings of her music and poetry on cassette tapes and give them to her children when they were young.

Pat was proud of her family. She happily introduced visitors to her children and grandkids any time she had the chance to do so. She enjoyed making

crafts with Levi and Olivia.

Character traits that will be remembered about Pat are her bright, beautiful-eyed smile, spunky attitude, and fun sense of humor. Pat was not afraid to say what she was thinking, and sometimes those comments would catch people off-guard. She had a sweet, loving personality that will truly be missed.

Pat was preceded in death by her husband, Dallas; father, Beryl; and mother, Grace. Pat is survived by children, Donald (Valerie) Steensen of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Kathy (CJ) Leaf of Des Moines; sister, Charlotte (George) Hunt of Guthrie Center; brothers, Paul (Christy) Berkenbosch of Adel, and Lyle (Sue) Berkenbosch of Bettendorf; grandchildren, Levi and Olivia Steensen; step-children, Karen (Larry) Fiebelkorn of Des Moines and Ron (Nova) Steensen of Guthrie Center; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Friday, March 8, 2024, at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. Burial was in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center. Visitation was Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family. ■



**WILLIAM EDWARD LITTLER, III**  
1955-2024

William Edward Littler III, 68, of Adair, passed away Saturday, March 2, at his home in Adair, surrounded by family.

Bill was born May 29, 1955, in Greenfield, the son of W. E. Littler Jr. and Joanne Johnson Littler. He graduated from Adair-Casey High School in 1973.

Bill started work for his parents at The Adair News at a young age and became a full-time employee at the newspaper in 1973, learning the Linotype and hand-fed presses. He continued working until his death. Bill spent a lot of time behind a camera at school and community events but especially liked to photograph his kids and grandkids.

On June 1, 1974, he married Connie Jo Carritt at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla. This union was blessed with four children: William

Edward IV, Ella Maria, Andrew Joseph and Benjamin Thomas. Bill and Connie would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June this year.

In 1991, Bill and Connie purchased The Adair News from his parents. The paper has been in the family since 1937. He served as publisher of the paper from 1991 until his death and enjoyed writing his "Seems to Me" column.

Littler was active in the community. He was a member and past president of the Adair Chamber of Commerce; a member of RIADA, Inc.; member of the Iowa Newspaper Association; member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; member and past president of the Southwest Iowa EMS Association; and past president of Adair County Fire and EMS.

He was named Adair's Citizen of the Year in 1988 and again in 2005. In 2022, Bill and Connie were named "Master Editor-Publisher" by the Iowa Newspaper Association.

He served his community for 35 years as a member of Adair Fire and Rescue, joining the department in 1979 and retiring in 2014, and held various positions during those 35 years. He became an EMT in 1980 and took on the role of Ambulance Captain for more than 30 years. He received his EMT-I certification in 1992 and his Paramedic certification in 2005. To his closest EMS friends,

he was referred to as "Doc."

Survivors include his loving wife Connie; children, Bill (Amy) Littler, Andy (Suzi) Littler and Ben Littler; grandchildren, Bryce (Chelsea) Littler, Brock Littler (Cloe Hoyt), Becca Littler, Madden Littler, and Caden Littler; sisters, Mary Beth (Kevin) Petty and Diane Littler; brother-in-law, Ray (Mary) Carritt; sister-in-law, Caroline Carritt (Dave Reinke); father and mother-in-law, Gordan and Lillian Carritt; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his unborn daughter, Ella.

Public visitation with family was held on Friday, March 8, 2024, from 4-7 p.m., at the Adair Fire Hall in Adair.

The funeral service was at noon, Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Adair Fire Hall in Adair, with Pastor Kyle Fever officiating the service. A luncheon followed the funeral service also held at the Adair Fire Hall. A private interment was held at Sunnyhill Cemetery in Adair.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Adair Fire and EMS for EMS education, The Adair Public Library, or the Boys & Girls Club in Adair, in memory of Bill. They may be mailed to the Schmidt Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 523, Atlantic, IA 50022.

The Schmidt Family Funeral Home in Adair handed the arrangements for the Littler Family. ■

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# OBITUARIES

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**JOAN ANN MILLER**  
1948-2024

Joan Ann Miller, 76, daughter of Folmer and Frances (Andersen) Walters, was born Feb. 28, 1948, in Carroll. She passed away Sunday, March 10, 2024, at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center, Des Moines.

Joan was baptized June 27, 1948, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Audubon. She attended rural school then when they moved into Audubon, attended high school there, graduating in 1966.

After graduating, she

met her husband, Gary Lee Miller, and they were married Sept. 23, 1967, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Audubon. They moved to Guthrie County, having Michelle in 1968, and in 1972 bought a farm and having Jill in 1973 and residing there until till their deaths.

Joan did various jobs throughout her married life, ending her last job for 21 years as being self-employed so as to be able to help her husband on the farm when needed. She loved farm life.

Joan was a member of the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center. She had a love for the outdoors, going camping, swimming and hiking, but her favorite was her horse riding and showing. She passed this on to her girls and grandchildren, spending good times with them showing at IASC and trail-riding as a great family sport. Her dogs and cats were also a big part of her family as anyone who knew her would agree. She was active in 4-H and taught dog obedience classes for 10 years and also announced for the 4-H Horse Show for many years. But her greatest love was for her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gary; sister, Kathy Boust; brother-in-law, Bill Boust; and sister-in-law, Delores Walters.

Joan is survived by her daughters, Michelle Kay (Kevin) Heckman and Jill Mary (John) Thompson; grandchildren, Chris (Carly) Heckman, Colton Heckman, Clairissa Thompson, Katelyn Thompson, and Kaden Thompson; and great-granddaughter, Lainey Ann Heckman, all of Guthrie Center; brother, Gary (Sandy) Walters of Atlantic; sister, Judy (Gary) Duffield of Fort Dodge; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center. Joan's wishes were for those attending the graveside service to bring one of their favorite flowers to place on her grave, if you wish. Following the graveside services, a celebration of life and luncheon will be held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, Guthrie Center.

Twigg Funeral Homes is entrusted with her services. ■



**JEANETTE R. WETZEL**  
1926-2024

Jeanette R. Wetzel, age 97, of Bayard, passed away on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at Thomas Rest Haven in Coon Rapids.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the United Methodist Church in Bayard with Carolyn Schwartz officiating. Organist for the service was Martha Wolf. Casket bearers were Jennifer Maskel, Nisa Newgard, Erin Kossow, Julie Wilson, Laura Tesch and Molly Wetzel.

Honorary casket bearers were Matthew Wetzel, Eric Wetzel, Luke Wetzel, Brett Wetzel, Nicholas Wetzel and Paul Wetzel. Burial was in the Highland Township Cemetery near Bayard.

Visitation was held at the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Coon Rapids from 5-7 p.m. on Friday. The casket was moved to the United Methodist Church in Bayard at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday where visitation resumed until 10:15 a.m. prior to the service.

Memorials are suggested to the Bayard United Methodist Church.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Coon Rapids, and online condolences may be left for the family at [www.dahnandwoodhouse.com](http://www.dahnandwoodhouse.com)

Jeanette was born on May 16, 1926, near Bayard. After graduating from high school in 1943, she attended Iowa State Teachers College until certified to teach country school. She taught for two years until her marriage to Albert Wetzel on Sept. 22, 1946. She lived more than 77 years in the same

home, raised four children and assisted in farming. Jeanette also lived her entire life within three miles of her birthplace. After retirement, she and Albert traveled, visited children and grandchildren, and continued to be active in the Bayard United Methodist Church, a church she attended all her life. She lived an independent life in her home, which was her desire and for which we are most grateful. Her farm legacy is a part of all of us.

Jeanette is survived by her two sons and their families: Jim Wetzel (Linda) of Olathe, Kansas, and Steve Wetzel (Ly Bibiana) of Bradenton, Florida; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; a son-in-law, Maurice Nielsen (Marylin) of Mukwonago, Wisconsin; two daughters-in-law, Bonnie Wetzel of Cedar Falls, and Sue Wetzel of Fleming, Florida; a brother, Philip Miller of Waterloo; and other extended family members.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Wetzel; her daughter, Linda Nielsen; her son, David Wetzel; her parents, Clive and Jennie Miller; and a brother, Wayne Miller. ■

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# OBITUARIES

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**WILLIAM ANTHONY HOLLE, JR.**  
1941-2024

William Anthony Holle, Jr. passed away peacefully on Feb. 15, 2024, in Guthrie Center. Born on Dec. 3, 1941, in Lincoln, Nebraska, William's life was marked by dedication, hard work and love for his family.

William, known affectionately as Bill to his friends and loved ones, was the rock of his family. His unwavering partnership with his wife, Charlotte, spanned an impressive 60 years, a testament to their deep love and commitment to each other. Together, they raised a loving family, including their children Carolyn (Don) Schwartz, James (Richelle) Holle, Linda (Scott) Clark, Janet (Dan) Barrett, Kimberly (Terry) Betts, and Arthur (Hannah) Holle. The joy of his life was further multiplied by his 18 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren, all of whom brought him immense pride and happiness.

William's early education began in a country school, after which he continued to Adair-Casey High School, graduating in the class of 1960. Professionally, William was a dedicated worker, starting his career at AMF Western Tool, where

he remained until 1988. Following this, he embraced the life of farming and milking dairy cows.

William spent countless hours playing pinochle on the computer, mastering the game of cribbage at the local library, and enjoying the simple pleasure of watching television.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Charlotte; his children and their spouses; his adored grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and his brothers, John (Evelyn) Holle and Francis Holle; along with many nieces and nephews. Each family member will forever hold dear the memories and values that William instilled in them.

Preceding him in death were his father and mother, William and Anna Holle; his sister and brother-in-law, Julia and Lyle Davis; his daughter, Linda Clark; and his grandsons, Anthony Clark and Adam Clark. ■



**VIOLA SHEEDER ROHE**  
1929-2024

Viola Sheeder Rohe, daughter of Emmett and Helen Stephenson, was born on July 9, 1929, on a farm near Beaver. The family moved to a farm near Monteith where Vi attended country school through

grade eight. The family then moved to Guthrie Center, and Vi attended high school for two years and then moved to Linden where she graduated in 1947.

On June 6, 1948, Vi married the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Gay Sheeder. They moved to the Sheeder family farm west of Guthrie Center. They were proud parents of three children. Vi helped her husband with farming and raising their children. The family later moved to an acreage in Guthrie Center. Vi worked at the ASCS office for 13 years. In 1979, Vi lost her beloved husband of 30 years. On Feb. 18, 1984, Vi married Vernon Rohe at the Sacred Heart Church in Manning.

Vi was a member of the Sacred Heart Church, Altar Society, Catholic Daughters of America, Hospital Auxiliary and Plaza Rosary. Vi had many hobbies, enjoying

flowers, gardening, oil painting, ceramics, sewing and making quilts for her family. Vi and Vernon loved to travel, dance and be with family who she dearly loved.

Vi is survived by her three children, Randy (Mary) Sheeder, Rick (Bev) Sheeder and Terri (Darwin) Holmes, all of Guthrie Center; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren, making five generations. She is also survived by Vernon's seven children, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren and his sister, Ruth Morrell, of Waukee.

Preceding Vi in death are her parents, Emmett and Helen Stephenson; Gay Sheeder; Vernon Rohe; sister, Jean (Bill) Clouse; sister, Lorene Moore; brother, Marvin (Lavonne) Stephenson; and brother-in-law, Keith Morrell. ■

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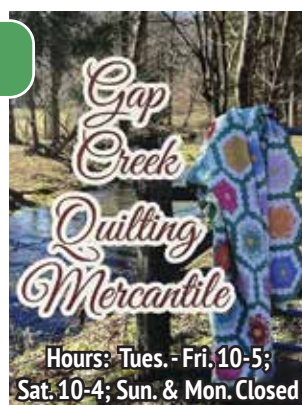
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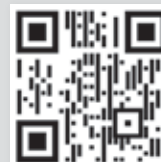
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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS STORAGE CONTAINER ORDINANCE

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center city council on Feb. 12, the council returned to the topic of large storage containers that some homeowners use on their properties either briefly or long-term.

The council voted to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2024-01 "Adopting Chapter 154 Temporary Storage Containers." The council then voted to waive the third reading and immediately adopted the ordinance. Council member Fidel Hernandez was the sole "nay" vote.

City Clerk Kris Arrasmith shared with the council that she submitted a grant to the Guthrie County Community Foundation for the new park equipment and the shelter house that was talked about at the last meeting.

"I don't know when we'll hear, but fingers crossed," she said. The estimated project costs came in at slightly less than \$50,000.

As part of the consent agenda, the council approved a beer/liquor/tobacco permit for the Guthrie County Ag Society (fair board) and a building permit for a portable shed at 1101 North St. (Baird).

## FEB. 26 MEETING, RISING INSURANCE COSTS

The Guthrie Center City Council heard an update on the city's housing project status at the Feb. 26 meeting. Councilmember Ian Steensen and Don Beardsley told of the ongoing efforts to promote affordable housing in the city.

City Clerk Kris Arrasmith informed the council that the city is awaiting information on any changes to the city's insurance rates for the upcoming fiscal year. She added that an expected rate hike has been budgeted.

"We're budgeting about a 20% increase in insurance," Arrasmith said.

Arrasmith informed the council that staff at the public library are pursuing a Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) grant.

## MARCH 11 MEETING, JUNK ORDINANCE VIOLATION

During the March 11 regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council, citizen Mitchell McNeil explained his concerns about possible violations of the city's "junk ordinance" and other safety issues. McNeil lives on North Fourth Street.

"My main concern is all the junk that my neighbor has accumulated and not getting cleaned up... one of my main concerns is the extension cord that's running from the house and powering one of the buildings out there, with a bungee cord through the tree, hanging it up there. That's definitely a fire code (violation)," said McNeil.

McNeil also stated that some of the construction materials used on the buildings at the property are reused shingles and other repurposed materials.

The council reviewed photos of the property McNeil mentioned. The photos had been taken by the city's Compliance Officer, Wes Clark. Clark said the photos confirmed the complaints made by McNeil. The council consensus was for City Clerk Kris Arrasmith to begin the process of amending the city's building ordinance to match the fence ordinance regarding acceptable construction materials. The council also noted that cleanup of the property has visibly begun but will need to be maintained long-term. Councilmember Ian Steensen reminded the rest of the council that any actions taken should also apply to other similar violators within the city.

Steve Smith spoke to the council and provided information on the 2024 Main Street Guthrie Center appeal for donations. He shared information about how 2023 donations were used, including various events, trainings, flower pots and ongoing care of historic buildings. Smith shared that this year's Wine Walk will be May 10, and the farmers' markets are set to begin June 1.

Smith also talked about the need to find new individuals willing to take a lead role on events such as the annual Christmas lighting at the park. He said those who have led this project for many years are ready to pass the torch, and he encourages the city to find replacements while the current project leaders are willing to share their knowledge and experience.

The council set a public hearing regarding the city's budget and levy for April 8 at 6:30 p.m. On that evening, the public hearing will be followed by the regular council meeting, after a short recess.

The council approved the consent agenda, which included a beer/liquor permit request from the Guthrie County Arts Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. ■

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## LOCAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS HEAR UPDATES FROM ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMS SERVICES

**Public hearing regarding the proposed tax levy set for Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m.**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met on Feb. 13 in regular session. County Engineer Josh Sebern and County Health Director Jotham Arber provided updates on their departments.

Arber said flu shots will continue to be available through April.

"We did deploy 27 AEDs (artificial external defibrillators) throughout the county," said Arber. "We're going to be deploying another 12."

AED devices are portable electronic devices that automatically diagnose life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia and are able to treat them through defibrillation, which is the application of electricity that stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm.

Arber mentioned that he is seeking appropriate places for an AED in the Bayard and Adair-Casey areas.

### FEB. 15 MEETING, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REVENUES QUESTIONED

On Feb. 15, the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met for a budget work session.

Supervisors discussed ways to control/ lower the tax levy rate to ease the burden on taxpayers throughout the county. The plan is to reduce it over the next four years.

Supervisor Mike Dickson shared his opinion that the county needs to do this gradually.

"If we go by the plan where we're lowering it every year for the next four years, then we should keep enough fund balance in there that we can cover everything," he said. "If we go too fast here, we could be hurting ourselves."

Regarding the upcoming fiscal year budget, Dickson questioned the projected rev-

enues in the Sheriff's department. He said the revenue in that department through six months of the current year would not project to what is shown in the budget. The supervisors plan to visit again with department heads from which the supervisors need clarification about budgetary numbers.

### FEB. 20 MEETING, OVERTIME COSTS PROBED

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie County Supervisors on Feb. 20, Supervisor Mike Dickson asked that the payroll reports approval be considered separately from the other items in the consent agenda.

"I just don't like all the overtime that's in the payroll," said Dickson. "I am going to vote 'no' on the payroll reports because I don't agree with all the overtime in there."

"One of the things I think we can do, that I would like to see ... would be for each department to have an overtime policy," said Supervisor Maggie Armstrong. "I think it would be beneficial for us, since this is part of our process now, to have an understanding as to what warrants overtime."

"There can be good reasons for it, which is fine," Dickson said. "I'd just like to know what they are if you're asking me to approve it."

The supervisors voted to approve the payroll reports, on a 3-2 vote, with Armstrong, Brian Johnson and Steve Smith voting to approve and JD Kuster and Dickson opposed.

### FEB. 22 MEETING, BENEFIT OF HOUSING OUT-OF-COUNTY JAIL INMATES EXAMINED

During the Feb. 22 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, Conservation Director Brad Halterman addressed the supervisors about the proposed 28E agreement with the Iowa DNR regarding the Middle Raccoon River access. The supervisors approved the agreement, pending review by the county attorney.

The bulk of the meeting was a review of budgetary numbers for the upcoming fiscal year. Supervisor Mike Dickson again questioned the revenue numbers for the sheriff's department, saying the yearly number looks unrealistic based on the current year-to-date actual revenue.



County Auditor Dani Fink agreed with the idea of budgeting revenues conservatively.

"If they bring in \$378,000, great. But it's going to hurt us if we overbudget that revenue and don't have it," Fink said.

Dickson questioned whether or not housing inmates from other counties is truly beneficial financially for the county.

"There's seven jailers, and the only reason we need seven jailers is because we're contracting with other counties to bring in inmates," Dickson said. "And if that's costing us \$200,000, after benefits and other things,...it's costing us to house other people's inmates. We either up our rate, or we stop it."

The consensus among the supervisors was to request more detail on the revenues and expenses.

### **FEB. 27 MEETING, EMS ISSUE CONTINUES, RFPS TO BE SENT OUT**

During the Feb. 27 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, the supervisors heard an update on the progress of the EMS Advisory Council's efforts to find an agreement regarding the various services and municipalities that would be involved in the proposed county-wide service. County Health Director Jotham Arber shared the efforts of the council to develop a proposal.

"When we try to sell this to Guthrie County residents, we want to be sure that we put in there that this isn't just the county giving cities money," said Arber. "This is the county asking for services to be delivered and holding the service providers to account for every tax dollar... and in exchange, Guthrie County residents are receiving quality services that are reduced in timeframe that allow our EMS professionals to save lives."

The advisory council is proposing a levy of 75 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. No formal action was taken at this time. If the supervisors decide on such a levy proposal, it will need to go to the voters to approve or reject.

The committee also suggested sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP) as the best way to get information on how the existing EMS services could cooperate to meet the service needs of the county. The supervisors chose to schedule time to dig deeper into the EMS issue at the March 5 meeting.

As part of the consent agenda, the supervisors approved a liquor license for Shoot-out Saloon LLC and a conservation claim for Hicklin Powersports LLC.

Regarding the existing property tax levy and the county's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, the supervisors tentatively set a public hearing for Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m. That date and time were formally set during the supervisors' meeting on Feb. 29.

### **MARCH 5 MEETING, SOME ANSWERS ON OVERTIME**

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on March 5. The supervisors met with Health Director Jotham Arber to discuss details of the budgetary numbers he has proposed. The supervisors also met with Sheriff Marty Arganbright and Jesse Swensen to discuss the Sheriff's department budget.

When asked about overtime, Sheriff Arganbright pointed out that, in the upcoming fiscal year, he expects overtime to be somewhat lower because the River Ruckus will not be in the county this year due to the venue being changed. He told of his ongoing efforts to control overtime.

"We try to work with using comp time, but then when you do that, you end up with people gone, and then you have to hire part-time. It's a vicious cycle," said Arganbright.

### **MARCH 12 MEETING, SALARY INCREASE DEBATED**

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors on March 12, the item generating the most discussion was a salary increase for the upcoming fiscal year. Supervisor Brian Johnson suggested an increase of 3.2%, saying he preferred to stay "conservative." Mike Dickson pointed out that staying conservative eventually leads to salaries no longer being competitive.

After lengthy discussion, Supervisor Steve Smith proposed a compromise.

"We could sit here for another hour and continue to beat the bush, but I'm going to throw out... to have their raises at 3.5 (percent)," he said. Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed on a three to two vote, with JD Kuster and Dickson voting nay. Kuster and Dickson stated that they felt 4% would have been feasible.

Health Director Jotham Arber addressed the supervisors with a departmental update. He spoke of recent dog bite incidents in which dogs have left their home property and bitten neighboring farmers.

"At our next Board of Health meeting, I'm going to be bringing an Animal Bite Ordinance recommendation," Arber said.

Arber explained that there are dogs that have been repeat offenders, leaving their home property and biting people on neighboring properties. He said currently, unless victims press charges, there is little the county can do. The proposed ordinance would help give the county more ability to deal with these situations.

The supervisors hold a regular meeting every Tuesday at 9 a.m. The public is welcome. Attendees may participate in person or by calling 323-792-6123 and inputting conference ID 547029216#.

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## EDUCATION

# SCHOOL BOARDS HEAR REACTIONS TO FEB. 3 INCIDENT IN ANKENY

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

A joint meeting of the school boards of Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center was held at ACGC High School in Guthrie Center on Feb. 21. The board heard an emotional presentation from Kelsey Dinkla, instructor of vocal music and drama. She told of the troubling experience the staff and students faced on Feb. 3 when attending the State Speech Contest in Ankeny.

Dinkla said the ACGC one-act group had originally planned to perform using a script about a school shooting, but because of the recent shooting in Perry, the students agreed to change their plan, which meant learning an entirely new script in the few weeks before the district competition. She praised the students for their hard work in getting ready on a short timeline and said they excelled, allowing them to go on to the State competition on Feb. 3.

Dinkla said the State event was going on as expected when several police officers arrived in the auditorium and announced that the contest was over and that everyone needed to leave immediately. Although police later indicated the situation was a bomb threat and was eventually determined to be “not credible,” that information was not known at the time.

According to Dinkla, partly because of the recent tragedy in Perry, students and staff immediately feared there may have been an active shooter in the building, and they promptly left the building as instructed without gathering their belongings. Many of the students did not have their cell phones.

“I’ve never been through one of these before. I don’t care to go through it ever again, but I also know that this is real and this is going to happen, and I know that we are not prepared to deal with it,” said Dinkla.

Dinkla shared her memories of students’ reactions that day.

“I have kids in tears. I am trying to take roll of everyone who is there... so we left, and we were told that we could go pick up our stuff the next day,” said

Dinkla.

The competition was postponed until Monday, Feb. 5. ACGC students and staff returned and competed despite the fresh memories of the troubling incident.

“I don’t know what this means moving forward,” Dinkla said. “But we need something. Our kids need better, and our teachers need better, and our coaches need better.”

Guthrie Center School Board President Matt VanMeter asked what additional support would help for situations when staff and students are participating in events away from ACGC. Dinkla replied that she and other staff members will need to communicate beforehand with students and their families so everyone knows a plan in case emergencies occur. Superintendent Josh Rasmussen shared that following the Perry shooting, he has spoken with law enforcement officials to implement safety enhancements at ACGC.

High School Principal Ethan Lensch talked about efforts being made to assure that teachers are making connections with students. He explained this applies not only to “at risk” students, but even to students who have lots of peer friends, because it’s important that all students have an adult they feel comfortable confiding in in times of need.

“We want to make sure that each kid has at least one champion they can go to,” said Lensch.

## IN OTHER NEWS

Superintendent Rasmussen explained that the 2024-2025 school calendar is still not finalized due to an upcoming decision to be made by the state legislature.

“I already talked about the start date. Right now, it’s Friday, Aug. 23. If that start date changes, hopefully it does and I believe it will, we’ll start on probably Tuesday, Aug. 20,” Rasmussen said.

The boards each set a public hearing regarding the 2024-2025 Proposed Property Tax Rate. The Adair-Casey meeting will be March 27 at 7 p.m. The Guthrie Center meeting will be April 3 at 7 p.m. ■



HOBBIES

BRIDGE CLUB BRINGS FRIENDS TOGETHER

The group is as much a social event as a competition.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

For the past 15 years, a group of bridge players has been gathering weekly at the meeting room in the library in Guthrie Center to play cards. But the card game is only part of what they do.

Becky Carico explained how the group is as much a social event as a competition. She said it is a fun way to get out and



Martha Davis, Charlotte Holle, Roma Stetzel and Kay Phippen focus on the game.

connect with others while playing a game that keeps the brain active. Bridge is played with a standard 52-card deck, and the game involves bidding based on the cards in a person's hand, as well as their partner's. Although the basic rules are fairly quick to learn, strategies and tips come with experience.

"It's a thinking game. Every hand is different," said Kathy DeLucca.

Carico agrees, saying, "It's good for your math, it's good for your brain, and it's social."

Carico said she's served on the library board for 30 years, and she recalls that, when the new building was being planned, she didn't initially see the need for a meeting room. But she now admits that the room was a wise addition, because so many groups make use of the space.

Attendance fluctuates between six and 12 players. On this particular morning, seven bridge players showed up (Carico, DeLucca, Martha Davis, Charlotte Holle, Roma Stetzel, Kay Phippen and Patsy Goss).

"We haven't missed very often. If the weather gets really bad, we'll cancel," said Carico.

The bridge players stressed that everyone is welcome, including those who have never played before but are willing to learn. Carico said, over the years, she has often sat with a newbie and taught the ba-



Becky Carico, Kathy DeLucca and Patsy Goss play three-handed bridge.

sics of the game.

In order to keep things simple and free, food is not brought in, and only coffee is served. Although the group is mostly women, men are also welcome, as are all ages.

"We do have one gentleman that plays, but he's in Florida right now," said Carico.

The group plays from 9-11 a.m. every

Wednesday.

The members do not hold any special events, focusing instead on a regularly scheduled routine of getting together with whoever is available. However, members told of the Women's Service Organization (WSO) Bridge Marathon fundraiser that plays once a month from September through May. ■

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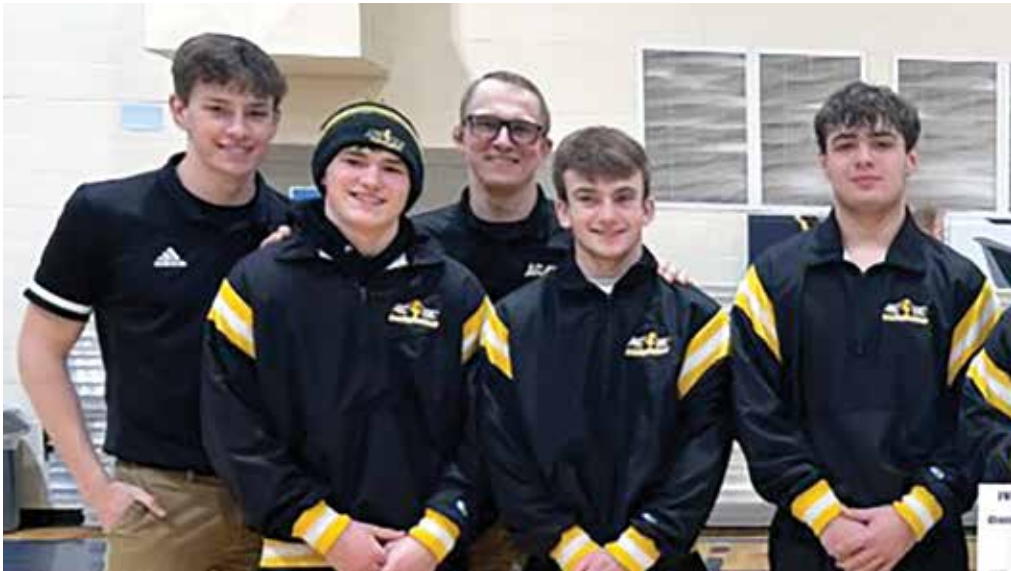
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# THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES  
No. 14 Noah Kading in the district final against Lynnville-Sully on Feb. 20.



State Wrestling Qualifiers: Ryder Cline, Gavin Sloss, Carter Richter, Tegan Slaybaugh, Payton Easton Benson and Coach Kris Lehman



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES  
No. 12 Kelsey Carlson in the first-round district game against Woodward-Granger on Feb. 13.



TABBY SLAYBAUGH | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES  
Payton Jacobo at the State Wrestling tournament. Jacobo placed 6th for 285.



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ton Jacobe, and Michael Fuller. Also pictured are Head Coach Lane Rummelhart, Coach

TABBY SLAYBAUGH | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



Tegan Slaybaugh wrestles at the State Wrestling tournament. Slaybaugh placed 3rd for 120.

TABBY SLAYBAUGH | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



No. 10 Lance Bunde in the district final against Lynnville-Sully on Feb. 20.

MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES



No. 14 Shay Lemke in the first-round district game against Woodward-Granger on Feb. 13.

MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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# ART ON STATE — MORE THAN EXPECTED

The Guthrie County Arts Council currently has about 130 members and roughly 30 contributing artists, with most from Guthrie County.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Most every community strives to foster an environment in which the arts are celebrated and where residents and visitors have plentiful opportunities to experience art. Art on State is the name of the storefront operated in downtown Guthrie Center by the Guthrie County Arts Council, and it is working to excel in that effort.

“It is a retail outlet for artists to sell their creations,” volunteer Ruth Owen said. “It’s staffed by volunteers and supported by the Guthrie Center Development group.”

Debbie Menning, another volunteer, pointed out how this arrangement benefits the various artists.

“Rather than artists having to, every weekend, pack up their art and go to a show somewhere, it’s kind of like a 12-month art show,” Menning said. “Their work is consigned, and we have no paid employees except one student intern.”

The Guthrie County Arts Council is a



Many types of art are on display at Art on State.

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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Displays change with the seasons at Art on State.

501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The overhead and other expenses are paid through a \$35 annual membership fee and the consignment revenues at the store.

Menning pointed out that the store has a “Kids Corner,” in which the artwork of elementary students is displayed. The store also offers coffee and treats for art lovers to enjoy while browsing the displays, which include paintings, pottery, candies, soaps, baskets, furniture, honey and more.

“I would like to get some of the high school students’ art here, too, because they do amazing work,” Owen said.

Phyllis Wakefield, who also volunteers at Art on State, told of a significant achievement by the Arts Council.

“One of the biggest things that we did was the Freedom Rock. I had read in the paper about an artist who was doing a rock in every county in Iowa... but you had to pay him \$1,000 to hold your spot,” Wakefield said. “We didn’t have \$1,000, but we got it.”



The Kids Corner is a popular area at Art on State.



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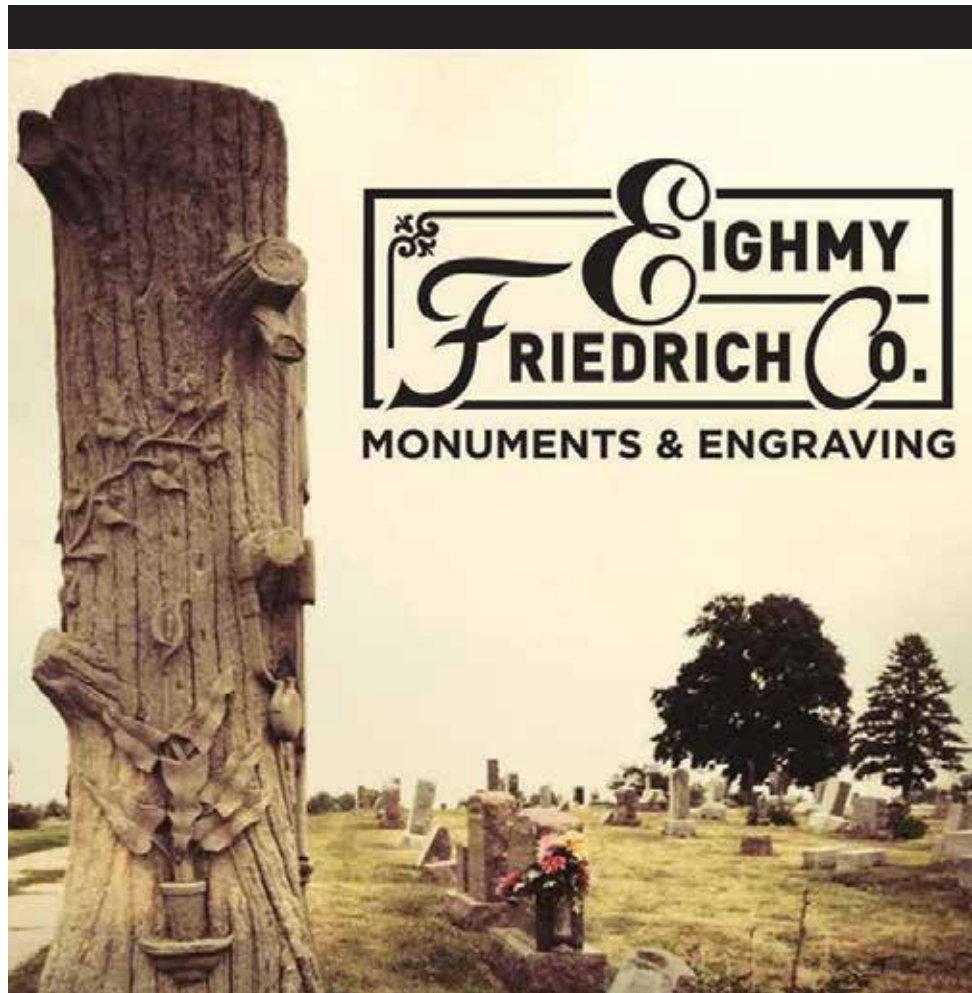
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The Art on State store even offers ACGC clothing.

The Guthrie County Arts Council currently has about 130 members and roughly 30 contributing artists, with most from Guthrie County. The current storefront, 320 State St., has been in use for the past

seven years.

"We always welcome new artists and new volunteers and new members," Wakefield said. "And you don't have to be an artist to be a member." ■

## The City of Guthrie Center is taking applications for:

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HEALTH

# GCH ADDS EAR, NOSE AND THROAT (ENT) SERVICES

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Guthrie County Hospital (GCH) welcomes Dr. Austin Bancroft, who is providing ear, nose and throat (ENT) services.

Dr. Bancroft completed his otolaryngology (ENT) residency at Michigan State University and his doctorate of osteopathic medicine at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He provides services for pediatrics and adults, including examination, diagno-

sis and treatment of issues with the ears, nose and throat.

Bancroft will be consulting with patients and performing surgeries. He is accepting new patients. For more information on this service or to schedule an appointment, contact the GCH Specialty Clinic at 641-332-3900. ■



Austin Bancroft

FAITH

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES ANNOUNCED FOR GUTHRIE CENTER CHURCHES

Special to Guthrie Center Times

The Guthrie Center Association of Churches announces the worship schedule for Holy Week Services, which will be at 7 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

**Monday, March 25:** First Presbyterian Church, 701 State St., Guthrie Center

**Tuesday, March 26:** St. Mary's Catholic Church, 603 Main St., Guthrie Center

ter

**Wednesday, March 27:** Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1305 North St., Guthrie Center

**Thursday, March 28:** United Methodist Church, 405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

**Friday, March 29:** Immanuel Lutheran Church, 713 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center. ■

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## HEALTH

# GCH LAUNCHES PATIENTS LIKE ME SUPPORT GROUP

*Special to Guthrie Center Times*

Guthrie County Hospital has launched Patients Like Me Support Group. This has been established for people in the community affected by neurological/movement challenges to provide support while also providing education on a wide variety of resources. Care partners, family members

and friends are all welcome to attend. A short exercise session, led by a licensed therapist, will start each group meeting that will be modifiable to all activity levels. Education and discussion will take place after. These meetings are held the second Thursday of the month (March – October) at 2 p.m. at the GCH Fitness Center (710 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center). ■

## EVENT

# GUTHRIE CENTER LIONS CLUB GEARS UP FOR JUNE 10 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

*Special to Guthrie Center Times*

The Guthrie Center Lions Club, founded in June 1924, announces plans for its 100th-anniversary celebration. This event is scheduled for Monday, June 10, at the Guthrie County Events Center at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds.

The Guthrie Center Lions Club has thrived for a century, embodying the spirit of service. To mark this historic occasion, the Club is organizing a dinner and program event, inviting community members, supporters and well-wishers to join in the celebration.

In a testament to their ongoing commitment to community service, the

Guthrie Center Lions Club has chosen the Little Charger Early Learning Center as the focus of their centennial celebration. As part of the festivities, the Club aims to raise funds to support the construction of the center's kitchen facilities.

Community members are encouraged to save the date and participate in this historic celebration. Tickets for the event will be available this spring and can be purchased from local Lions Club members.

For further details, contact Joe Hanner at 641-757-9070, Kris Langgaard at 641-740 0814, Kristen Crouthamel at 641-757-9052 or email [guthriecenterlionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:guthriecenterlionsclub@gmail.com). ■

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**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
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<http://goodshepherdadair.com>

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

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

## CASEY

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

**Casey United Methodist Church**  
100 E. 2nd St., Casey  
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## GUTHRIE CENTER

**Bowman Chapel United Methodist Church**  
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**First Christian Church**  
105 N. Fourth St., Guthrie Center  
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[www.christianchurchgc.com](http://www.christianchurchgc.com)

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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# Guthrie Center ASK TIMES

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or email  
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## Q: HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO GRADUATE FROM ACGC THIS SPRING? AND HOW DOES THAT NUMBER COMPARE TO THE CURRENT NUMBER OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS?

A: The ACGC Class of 2024 is expected to graduate 50 students. This year's kindergarten class at Adair-Casey has a student enrollment of 23 and Guthrie Center has 39.

## Q: WHEN IS THE NEW BUILDING FOR THE LITTLE CHARGER EARLY LEARNING CENTER EXPECTED TO BE OPEN?

A: The new facility for the Little Charger Early Learning Center is currently under construction, and the plans are for it to open by May of 2024, according to Board Chair Laura Robson.

## Q: WHEN ARE THE GUTHRIE CENTER FARMERS MARKETS SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR?

A: The farmers markets will be held in

Guthrie Center on the following Saturdays from 9-11 a.m.: June 1, 15, 29; July 13, 27; Aug 10, 24; Sept 7, 21; and Oct 12 (Fall Festival).

## Q: WHEN IS THE CELEBRATE GUTHRIE CENTER EVENT THIS YEAR?

A: The Celebrate Guthrie Center event is scheduled for Friday, April 12, at the Guthrie Activity Center, 209 State St., Guthrie Center.

## Q: I HEARD A ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FEED WAS GOING TO BE HELD IN THE AREA. HAVE ANY DETAILS?

A: You heard correct. A Rocky Mountain Oyster Feed will be held at Café on the Hill, 2003 State St. in Guthrie Center on Saturday, March 23, starting at 5 p.m. and ending when all the oysters are gone. This event is a freewill donation, sponsored by American Legion Post No. 124. Contact Commander Tom Clayton with questions at 641-745-7159. ■

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RECIPE

# CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KABOBS ARE AN EASY SUMMER MEAL

BY JOLENE GOODMAN  
*Guthrie Center Times*

I like to cook, but it does take time. And as the weather starts warming up, I am drawn to the outdoors, working on yard projects, taking the dog for walks, hitting the golf course, practicing a new hobby of disc golf, hopefully jumping on my bike more and, soon, gliding across the water in a boat. As such, I spend less time in the kitchen. During April and May, I prepare meals for the upcoming summer months. Organizing my freezer full of marinated meats, chopped vegetables, baked muffins, mixed cookie dough and egg dishes makes summer meals a breeze. I make three to four batches each time and en-

joy these meals once a month, having plenty if others drop by. This month's recipe is a hit with my family and guests. Some even comment that kabobs are fancy. The fact is, when the prep work is done in advance, this summer meal is easy. Get planning now so you have more time to enjoy doing the things you love this summer. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KABOBS

12 servings

- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup white wine (or honey if you want sweet)
- 2/3 cup soy sauce
- ½ tsp pepper
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into 1 inch cubes
- 2 yellow or red onions cut in 2 inch pieces
- 2 green peppers cut in 2 inch pieces
- 1 carton of mushrooms, use whole
- Skewers (if using wooden, soak in water for 10 minutes prior to skewering ingredients)
- Ziploc freezer bags

Directions

In medium bowl, mix together first 5 ingredients. Place chicken in one bag and vegetables in another

bag. If cooking the same day, reserve ¼ marinade for basting. Otherwise, add half marinade to chicken and the other half to the veggies. Turn the bags several times to make sure all pieces are coated. If you are cooking this today, store bags in the fridge for 4-6 hours, turning the bags several times during that time. If you are not, label the bags with contents and date, then throw in the freezer for future use. When ready, preheat grill to medium heat. As the grill is heating up, assemble the kabobs. For a great, colorful presentation, thread skewers alternating chicken and vegetables. Lightly oil the grill. Place kabobs on and cook 6-8 minutes per side. Toward the end of cooking, use the ¼ cup of reserved marinade to baste the kabobs. Enjoy! ■



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# WHERE IS IT?



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



The answer for the location of last month's photo is in the front yard of the home at 1101 Oak 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](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com). ■

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## ELECTIONS

# MARCH 22 FILING DEADLINE FOR COUNTY OFFICES

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

Guthrie County's primary election will be held June 4. Filing for County Offices begins March 4 and the deadline to file is March 22 at 5 p.m. The following County Offices terms are up this year: Supervisor District 2 - Brian

Johnson; Supervisor District 5 - Mike Dickson; County Auditor - Dani Fink; County Sheriff - Marty Arganbright. Candidates for either Supervisor district must obtain at least 21 signatures from eligible electors in their respective districts. Candidates for Auditor or Sheriff must obtain at least 50 signatures from eligible electors in the county. ■

## GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS FEBRUARY INCOME OF \$31,500 FOR PROCESSING OF OUT-OF-COUNTY INMATES

Special to the Times Vedette

The Guthrie County Sheriff's Office reported incoming revenue of \$31,500 from processing of out-of-county inmates at the jail during of February. A total of 67 inmates were processed through the fa-

cility during the month including 36 from out of the county. Greene County had five inmates for 74 days with charges of \$4,440, Polk County had 28 inmates for 399 days with \$23,940, and Webster County had three inmates for 52 days with \$3,120. ■

# SHOP LOCAL

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Crafty Fox & Company joined Art on State in January 2024. Chloe (13) and Izzy (10), young entrepreneurs and their grandmother, Cindy enjoy making fun memories together while creating works of art.



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# GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD

## GCH FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

During the Guthrie County Hospital board of trustees meeting on Feb. 22, the trustees heard from foundation chair Dennis Flanery about ongoing fundraising efforts and plans for some of the funds raised. In particular, Flanery talked about the Feb. 24 cornhole tournament.

“That’s raising money for scholarships to any high school students in the four schools that serve Guthrie County that are going on to a health care-related field,” said Flanery.

Flanery also mentioned several upcoming foundation fundraiser events, including the April 5 Handbags and Bingo event. He said the event drew 240 participants last year, and he expects around 280 this year.

Flanery said the 5K color run will again be held this year but is being moved up to sometime in June and will include a health fair. He also mentioned the annual golf tournament will be July 9.

CEO Chris Stipe gave an overview of the

hospital’s financial status.

“I think things are going well. I thought January’s financials were going to be tough, and we actually turned out better than I thought,” he said.

Stipe also spoke about the challenges in collecting Medicaid revenues owed to the hospital. He said he’s been awaiting a quarterly payment for services provided July through September 2023.

“No news is not good news in this case,” said Stipe. “There’s still a lot of politics and a lot of process that have to happen for us to get our first payment. It’s very complicated.”

Stipe said he hopes to receive that first payment by June 30 at the latest.

The board’s next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 28, at 4 p.m. The public is welcome at all Guthrie County Hospital board meetings, in person or remotely, other than occasional special closed meetings. To attend remotely: Phone 1-469-208-1512 code: 915921694# or attend via Microsoft Teams meeting ID: 270 117 496 60 and enter code: PURhXW. ■



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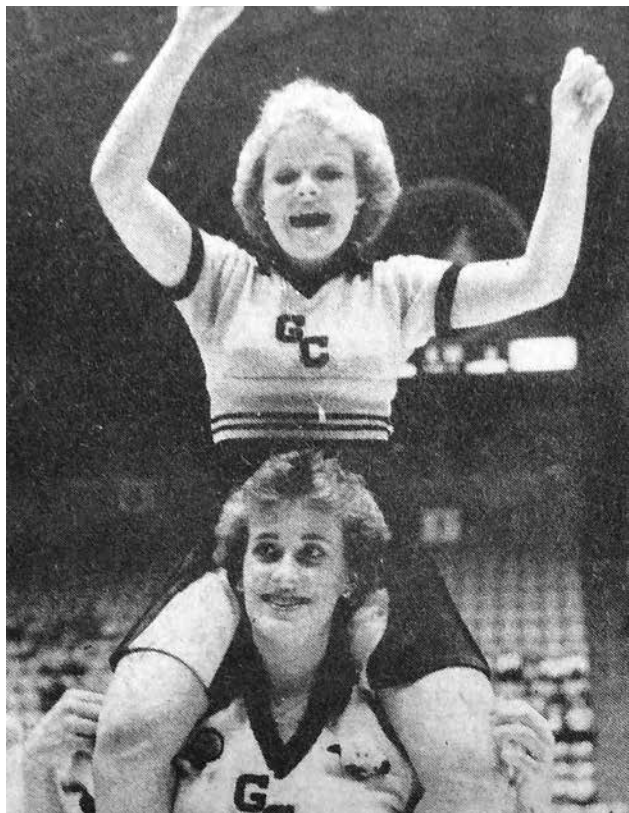
## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 20, 1974

**IT SURVIVED:** A brush hut built last fall by these youngsters made it through the winter without much physical damage, but just recently has become livable (no wet floors). Rodney Robson, left, and Ricky and Rodney Rumelhart are owners. It's not home, but it's cozy.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 7, 1984

**HANG ON:** Guthrie Center cheerleader Kris Thomas rides the shoulders of Kitte Dormady.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 16, 1994

**TIGERS TO STATE:** These five Guthrie Center third-graders were among nearly 100 elementary students to earn LaPetite pizza certificates from Breadeaux Pisa during February for participating in a reading incentive program. February's program followed an Olympic theme. Gold medal readers were, from left, Courtney Kopaska, Jenna Jensen, Mark Wessling, Zach Glade and Michael Born.

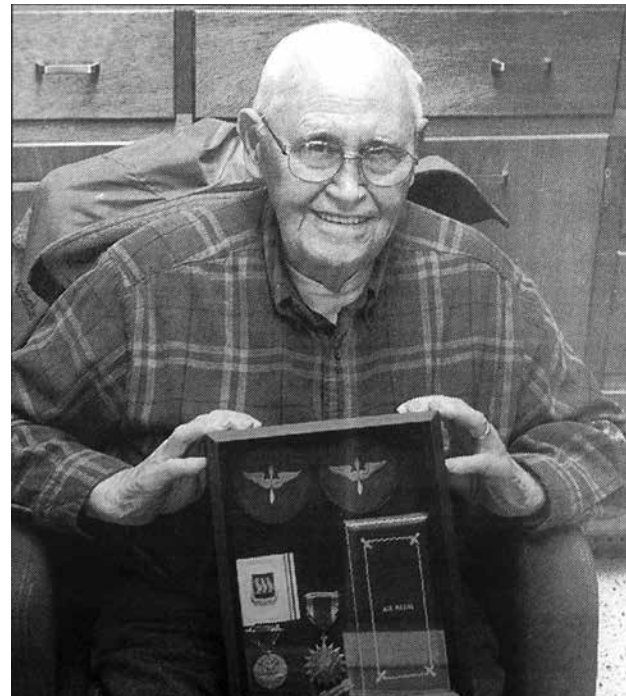
## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 5, 2004

**BOUND FOR BOYS STATE:** Members of Omar B. Shearer American Legion Post No. 124, Guthrie Center, recently selected three high school juniors to attend Hawkeye Boys State at Camp Dodge in June. With post commander Ray Smith are, from left, Heath Sheeder, Jordan Sorensen and Brandon Peterson.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, March 26, 2014

**EASY TO SMILE NOW:** Don Laughery, whose B-17 was hit by enemy fire over Berlin in Nazi Germany during World War II, displays the Air Medal he received in 1945.

## 5 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, March 28, 2019

**ACGC SWEEPS REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR:** The Regional Science Fair was held on March 16 at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge. Eight ACGC students participated in this event, and each student received awards. Pictured are (front row) Morgan Lemke, Alyssa Byars, Hailey Kintz, (back row) Ms. Marie Gipson, Lane Sheeder, Megan Lemke, NayChure Crawley, Joseph Hayes, James Hodges, and Ms. Alexa Groff. ■





MJB LIBRARY NEWS

# MJB MEMORIAL LIBRARY URGES FAMILIES TO SIGN UP FOR READ, RENEW, REPEAT

Special to Guthrie Center Times

Mary J Barnett Memorial Library launches its Read, Renew, Repeat summer reading program during the month of June. During June, the library will host a range of free activities for children to encourage and support a love of reading. Participants can win prizes for reaching their reading goals.

“We’ve planned a wonderful program for kids to make the library a great place to read, learn and discover what’s available for their enjoyment,” said Library Director Jerri Hawkins. “Karen, Cass, Ava and I are planning some exciting programs and creation stations.”

There’s also a serious side to summer reading. Research has shown that reading over the summer prevents

summer reading loss. “Studies also indicate students who read recreationally outperformed those who don’t. Students read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests,” Hawkins added. “Our library is committed to supporting lifelong learning and educational enrichment for all families.”

Registration is now open and continues through the first part of June. To learn more about the summer reading adventure at the library, call 641-747-8110 or check out the library’s website, [www.guthriecenter.lib.ia.us](http://www.guthriecenter.lib.ia.us). ■

*The Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library is located at 400 Grand St. in Guthrie Center. Contact us at 641-747-8110 or [mjbllib@guthriecenter.lib.ia.us](mailto:mjbllib@guthriecenter.lib.ia.us). Visit us online at [www.guthriecenter.lib.ia.us](http://www.guthriecenter.lib.ia.us).*

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# MAKING POM-POMS



Participants at Art on State made pom-poms out of yarn and bundled them together with ribbon on March 9 at 10 a.m. Art on State is located at 320 State St. in Guthrie Center. Learn more at [www.guthriecountyardartsCouncil.org](http://www.guthriecountyardartsCouncil.org). Pictured are Shua and Alyssia Westphal and Chris E. ■

## EVENT

# GUTHRIE CENTER COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT SET FOR MARCH 30

*Special to Guthrie Center Times*

The Guthrie Center Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Guthrie Center Elementary School playground on Saturday, March 30. The Easter Bunny will visit from 10-10:50 a.m., instructions will be given at 10:55 a.m., and the hunt will begin at 11 a.m. Age groups and areas will be as follows:

- Infant - 2 years old (in front grass area)
- Special Needs - Up to sixth grade (in grass area behind infant area), Support Person / Helper welcome
- Preschool (on the hill)
- Kindergarten to first grade (on the hill)
- Second - sixth grade (all together on playground)

Participants should bring Easter baskets. There will be lots of eggs and items to find, as well as prizes. When participants arrive, they should pick out an Easter bucket, which will have a raffle ticket taped to it. There will be a sign with ticket numbers from the drawing that will be checked for winning tickets. Those with a winning ticket will get to pick a prize from the prize table. Participants can help themselves to a treat bag with doughnut holes while visiting with the Easter Bunny. The event is sponsored by Rose Acre Farms. ■





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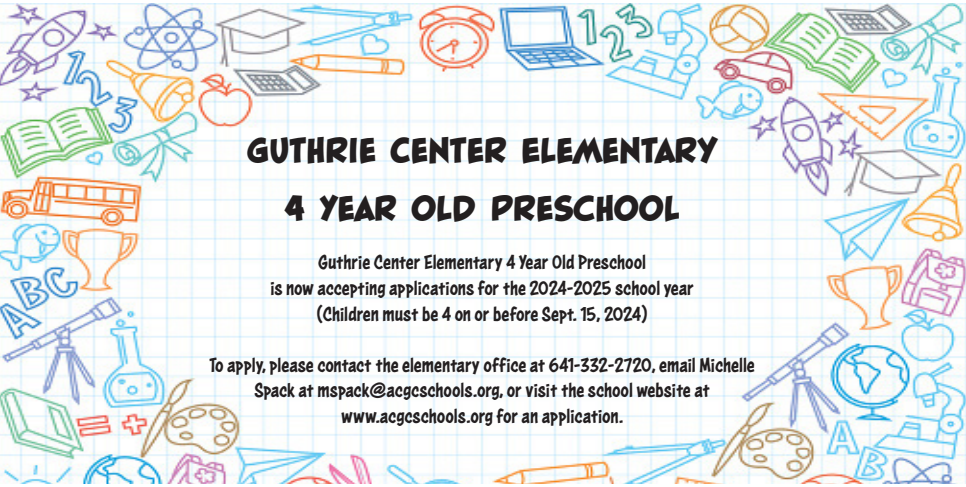
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## COMMUNITY

# DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR ACGC AFTER-PROM

Special to Guthrie Center times

The Guthrie Center and Adair Lions Clubs after-prom committee is again organizing an After-Prom party for the ACGC High School. The After-Prom activities will take place on Saturday, April 18, at IncrediBowl Family Fun Center. At the event, students play games such as bowling, billiards, horse races, card games, darts, foosball and bingo.

Students also enjoy food and a lot of prizes.

The committee's goal is to make prom night an enjoyable evening for students while providing an opportunity to create lasting memories in a safe environment. They are asking

community individuals and businesses to assist in the effort to make sure their students have a memorable and safe night.

Donations may be given to any committee member\* or mailed or dropped off to Guthrie County State Bank, P.O. Box 8, Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115, where an account has been established for this event. In-kind donations of goods and services at local businesses are also acceptable. Gift cards seem to really be a hot item for the students. The clubs request that all donations be submitted by Friday, April 5.

\*Lions Clubs ACGC After Prom Committee: Steve Smith, Josh Rasmussen, Kristen Crouthamel, Roger Underwood and Larry Brandt. ■

## EVENT

# LIBRARY TRIVIA EVENT DRAWS 72 COMPETITORS

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

On Saturday, Feb. 24, the Mary J. Barnett Library held a fundraiser trivia event at the Guthrie Center community building. A meal was served by Cabbage Rose prior to the trivia contest. Participants competed on 10 teams of up to eight members, racking up points over five rounds of trivia.

Proceeds from the event will go into

the Friends of the MJB Library account to be used for various projects of that group.

Library Director Jerri Hawkins pointed out that the attendance of 72 was up from 63 at last year's event, and she thanked the community for supporting the library. The winning team was Brilliant Blasters, while second place went to Crazy Old Farts.

"I thought it was really fun and great to see so many people from the community come out," Hawkins said. ■

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