

NOVEMBER 2023

Mailed to all addresses in
Guthrie Center, Adair and Casey

Guthrie Center **TIMES**

HOME MAKEOVERS

**AREA RESIDENTS SHARE
THE PLANS, PROCESSES AND
RESULTS OF THEIR HOME
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

READ US IN PRINT OR ONLINE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

Welcome to issue No. 3 of Guthrie Center Times, the only news publication mailed to every resident and business in Guthrie Center, Adair and Casey. In this month's issue, we bring you news and information on home improvement projects of area residents, a business feature on Gap Creek Quilting, a summary of Guthrie Center City Council meetings and Guthrie County Board of Supervisors meetings, local film reviews, area obituaries, historical photos, election results and much more.

A FOCUS ON PHOTOS

One of the areas of focus we have is to publish as many photos of local people as we can. As such, you will find a variety of photos from area events in each issue of Guthrie Center Times, all printed in

beautiful full color. Have some photos you would like to share? We welcome them. Please send to me directly at shane@dmcityview.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

The ACGC student-athletes accomplished much in the fall season and have inspired generations to come. We salute all the athletes, managers, coaches, fans and everyone who has helped these young men and women to succeed. Look to our centerspread this month (and most months) for a summary of photos from school events occurring in the last month.



Shane Goodman

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS

This issue of Guthrie Center Times and our full archives of past issues are available for free online at www.guthriecentertimes.com. Check out the website and be sure to share it with your family and friends who have interest in the area communities, too.

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Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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HOME MAKEOVERS

Area residents share the plans, processes and results of their home improvement projects

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

A family's home is its castle, and there is no such thing as one size (or style, or layout) that fits all. Each family chooses what works for the needs of the household. And, from time to time, homeowners decide it is time to remodel, or add on, or make changes. These makeovers might be due to a growing (or shrinking) family, changes in needs, or just to realize a longtime dream. Below are a couple of stories about local families who made changes to their homes.

EMBLETONS PREPARE FOR THEIR FUTURE

Dave and Tara Embleton of Guthrie Center live in a beautiful home about a mile north of town. Because their two daughters are grown, Dave and Tara are now "empty nesters" other than when the kids come home for a visit. With that in mind, they decided to make some changes to their home, especially geared toward their future retirement years.

"We basically created a master suite," said Tara. "We had two bedrooms upstairs and a small bathroom. We took away one of the bedrooms to make the master suite and then added a guest bathroom."

Tara said it was not a big undertaking, but big enough.

"We had our bed in the dining room for

a few months," she laughed.

Tara explained that her husband, Dave, is the son of Doug Embleton, who ran Doug's Plumbing until he retired a few years ago, at which time Dave became the owner. As a result, Dave was able to do all the plumbing work on the project. Tara said that worked well, but occasionally the home project was delayed when Dave's workload was busier. But both Dave and Tara agreed that having the project start in the late winter months worked out well, as they avoided times when a contractor might be overlooked.

Dave said the only significant challenge he encountered in doing the plumbing for the project was that he originally planned for the new bathroom to be on the opposite side of the house. But, because the existing plumbing was on the east side of the home, he ended up altering plans slightly to tap into that more easily.

The project started in February 2023 and was completed in May. Tara said the timing worked out really well, since contractors are often busier in the summer months. The only contractor they used was Donovan Construction.

"He was great to work with," Tara said, noting that it was helpful to balance out what the family envisioned with a contractor's experience in what would and wouldn't work.

"We're empty nesters now," Tara said, "so we wanted to bring the laundry up-



Tara and Dave Embleton are pleased with the results of their remodel project, complete with a walk-in shower.

stairs. We had small, old closets, and we wanted a walk-in closet. We figured while we're both still working, let's get ahead of the game and start doing some of the

changes that we want, so that if and when we retire, it's already done."

Tara said they still have the two bedrooms downstairs for the two girls, but



The Embletons' bathroom before (left) and after (right).



Tara Embleton enjoys the spacious closet.





Steven and Glenda Bascom are proud of the improvements they made to their 110-year-old home.

they're not home very much.

"We thought now was the time to get what we want," she said.

With eventual retirement in mind, the Embletons included upgrades in their project to allow for possible increased accessibility needs.

"We were focused on not having a bathtub," Tara said.

The project resulted in three-foot-wide doorways and a walk-in onyx shower.

"We bumped out the dining room wall a little bit to make our bedroom a little bit bigger," Tara said while pointing out the large, walk-in closet that was part of the project. She said it is a big change compared to the small closets it replaced, and she especially likes the sliding "barn door" style door on the closet — and the large shelf for shoes.

"I grew up in this house, and we bought it from my parents in 2014, so we're making it ours," Tara said. "We wanted to keep it simple but very livable."

Dave and Tara's advice to anyone considering a home remodeling project is to plan ahead. Some items or materials may take months to arrive, and that can seriously delay a project and increase costs.

When asked if they have any "next" home project they want to do, Tara said, "The only thing I haven't done is the kitchen." But she and Dave agreed that they're going to wait at least a few years.

Regarding the recently completed changes, Dave said, "It came out pretty good; we were impressed. We're not getting any younger. This will take care of all our needs."

BASCOMS BRING MANY UPGRADES TO 110-YEAR-OLD HOUSE

Doctor Steven and Glenda Bascom of Guthrie Center have an older home they bought at auction in 2015. The home was constructed in the early 1900s, and the Bascoms knew they wanted to upgrade many of the home's features. As they began the project, they soon realized it was going to be a much larger task than they originally planned.

"We had bought a house before and fixed it up and had a rental," Dr. Bascom said. "When this came up for auction, we'd had fun doing the other one, so we thought maybe this would be fun to do again."

He said this turned out to be a much bigger job.

"When we got it, the floors were sagging," Bascom said. "There was a chimney here; it had an enclosed front porch." He also showed where the stairway to the upstairs bedrooms was narrow, as was common in homes built at the time. It has now been widened and turned into an attractive feature.

The main contractor on the project was

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The Bascom basement before the improvements

Kevin Laughery, and Bascom said Laughery was good at finding solutions to the various challenges they found along the way, like the desire to have a bathroom upstairs where there are two bedrooms.

"We wanted a bathroom up here," he said. "We had a bathroom, but it didn't have a tub or shower. Laughery talked me into doing this shower with this onyx stone."

But because of the angled ceiling, Bascom said they had to have a special shower door made in Ames.

Bascom chuckled as he recalled the preliminary tear-down work done before Laughery started.

"The gut job was Glenda and me," he said. "That's what we did during COVID. It was lathe and plaster and dirt and dust. It was a mess."

The Bascoms said the best way to describe the project is that they took it "all the way down to the studs" and rebuilt everything. Bascom said bats and squirrels had found their way into the house before the project started.

"That's what I like about that foam insulation we put in," he said. "It fixed the problem of those bats and squirrels getting in."

The master bathroom, on the ground floor, includes an old clawfoot bathtub



The basement now



The "before" image of the Bascom home



The Bascom home now has strong curb appeal.

that was original to the home. Bascom also showed a combination bench and coat rack that he created from old doors that were part of the house. Behind the house, a large deck provides plenty of room for patio furniture, a grill, or even a hot tub.

The Bascoms shared a few surprises they discovered along the way. A well and a cistern were found next to the house, which caused water problems before solutions were found. Bascom also explained that the basement was "a mess" of concrete at differing levels. Now that

the cistern is cleared up and the basement floor is leveled, it's much more appealing, although not finished as a living space.

Bascom says the whole house has modern features like being wired for Internet and cable, but it also has some notable items like an antique Hoosier cabinet in the kitchen that held flour and canned goods. It originally belonged to Dr. Bascom's grandparents.

Regarding the overall project on the 110-year-old house, Bascom said, "Rather than just burning it down, I think it's nice to bring back some of these old things." ■



The Bascoms repurposed old doors into a bench with coat hooks.



The new, wider stairway

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SWIFTY AND SCORSESE. BEGEEBERS. BURR, BENING AND BURIAL.

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Guthrie Center Times

As the big holiday movies lay in wait, there were more surprises than I expected in October.

“EXORCIST: BELIEVER”
(still in theaters)

Most of us of a certain age will tell you that the original movie “The Exorcist” is the scariest movie we’ve ever seen. Ellen Burstyn, Linda Blair, etc. scared the bejeebers out of us in the early 1970s. Sue and I watched the original a few months ago and, for the most part, it still holds up. I am happy to report, so does this sequel. **Grade: B**

“TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR”
(in theaters)

I think it won’t surprise you that I’m not a big Swifty, but a guy’s gotta do what a guy’s gotta do. So off Sue and I trudged to



“Exorcist: Believer”

The Palm Theatres in Waukee to see this concert film. As we walked into a packed IMAX theater, I saw a mass of prepubescent girls and their parents on their feet dancing in anticipation of the start of the film. One girl brought a flashing light-saber type device. So you want to guess who was right in front of me when I sat down? Aarghh. The only thing worse was her dad who sang every song along with Taylor. So, did I like



“Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour”

it? Not really, but it was great to see a concert in IMAX, and I do appreciate the talent Taylor Swift has and the work she obviously put in. In my book, she gets an A for effort but an A- for the overall movie grade. **Grade: A-**

“KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON”
(in theaters but headed for streaming)

When you get to Martin Scorsese’s age



“Killers of the Flower Moon”

and with his resume, you can make a 3.5-hour movie and get it released in theaters. The guy has directed some of the greatest films in the history of cinema. This, by the way, is not one of them. It is dreadfully long and very, very sad. DeNiro and DiCaprio are excellent, but the young woman (Lily Gladstone) who plays the lead in the film steals the show. Ultimately, it depicts not one of our proudest chapters

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I have always had an interest in art and began drawing early. With the encouragement of friends and other artists, I have tried various mediums including pen and ink, colored pencils, watercolor, oils and acrylics. The majority of my work has been landscapes done with oils, but I am always interested in “new” ideas. I learn by experimenting and reading what others are accomplishing using a particular medium.

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"Old Dads"

as Americans. Still, it is a good film and worth seeing in the theater if you've got half a day. **Grade: B+**

"OLD DADS" (on Netflix)

Comedian Bill Burr writes, directs and stars in "Old Dads," a very funny and very raunchy comedy on Netflix about three men who are fired from their careers by a snot-nosed, new-age boss. The humor is sure to offend many, but you will find yourself laughing and cringing at the same time. **Grade: B+**

"THE BURIAL" (on Apple TV)

If you have Apple TV, you should check



"The Burial"

out this new movie starring Jamie Foxx and Tommy Lee Jones. It is based on a true story about a huge conglomerate trying to take over a locally owned funeral home. Jones is the owner of the home, and Foxx plays the attorney he hires to help save his family business. Jones and Foxx are still at the top of their games, and the story is fun to watch unfold. **Grade: B+**

"THE CONTINENTAL" (on Peacock Network)

Of course, I had to get the Peacock Network for Iowa football and women's basketball. The commercials for "The Continental" looked interesting, and then I hear the phrase "from the world of John Wick." I watched the first episode but have not



"The Continental"

made it back for the last two, as I keep forgetting to watch. It stars Mel Gibson as a bad guy, so that was kind of fun. **Grade (for episode 1): B**

"FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S" (in theaters and also on Peacock)

This is a horror comedy of sorts about a young man raising his little sister and dealing with the trauma of a lost little brother. When he gets an overnight job at the closed local kid's playhouse (read, Chucky Cheese), the truth about his little brother's disappearance starts to become much clearer. My expectations for this movie were low, and I was pleasantly surprised. A touch of humor always helps a scary movie, and this one worked for me.



"Five Nights at Freddy's"

Grade: B

In December, we will see the big holiday releases and, probably, a good share of Oscar contenders. Until then, 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.



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**JULIE ANN
(PRIESTLEY)
CHRISTENSEN**
1947-2023

Julie Ann (Priestley) Christensen, 75, of Guthrie Center, died in her home Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023. Julie was born Dec. 10, 1947, in Carroll County to Charles and Phyllis Priestley. Much of her childhood was spent on the Guthrie County farm where she ultimately lived a majority of her life. It was at that farm where she learned and honed her tractor driving, cattle sorting, hog raising, and other farm skills. She was a true country girl who cherished her simple

life.

On Nov. 19, 1966, Julie married her high school sweetheart and lifetime best friend, Bob Christensen. They began their married life as students at Iowa State University. After the birth of their son, Troy, and daughter, Kelly, they moved back to Guthrie County and began their life on the farm.

Julie and Bob were blessed with four grandchildren whom they loved deeply. Neither missing more than a few of Gabe, Cale, Jenna, or Charlie's various activities. It did not matter if there were two events a good distance apart, their grandchildren could always count on seeing Bob and Julie in the stands encouraging them. Their calendar and hearts were full. No grandma cared more for her grandchildren than Julie. She was always spoiling them — making their favorite foods, hosting sleepovers, engineering treasure hunts, patching up clothes, everything that a grandchild remembers. She knew she was truly blessed to have her children and grandchildren live within 15 miles of the family farm.

Through the years, Ju-

lie worked tirelessly at Bob's side in the fields, in the barn, and in the garden. She would have never chosen any life other than working alongside her husband and her dad while raising her children and grandchildren to possess a strong farm work ethic. She was also an artist and always had multiple craft projects going. Her home was a display of her many cherished treasures.

While Julie was active in so many other endeavors, she had a deep commitment to Bowman Chapel Church, where she absolutely loved giving the children's sermons. You would also find her and Bob helping with the various church-sponsored meals and events. At her core, she was a servant to God, her family and anyone in need. If called (and sometimes when not), she blew in like a summer storm with a smiling face and helping hands. The job did not matter, as she was there to help in any way she could, never expecting anything in return. She spent her life lifting up others through small but perfect gestures. She knew no enemies. Her door was

always open to family and friends who would crowd around her kitchen table while Julie entertained them with a variety of appetizers that she always had at the ready. As the beverages would flow, so would the stories, which she greatly enjoyed.

On Oct. 25, 2023, while in her dear husband's arms, this amazing wife, loving mother and doting grandmother left her earthly home to fly to Jesus. The heartbroken family she leaves behind are her forever husband Bob; son Troy (Dina) Christensen; daughter Kelly (Brett) Rowley; beloved grandchildren Gabe, Cale and Jenna Rowley and Charlie Christensen — all residing in Guthrie Center; sister Pam (Dennis) Kunkle; sister-in-law Marcia Priestley; brother-in-law Ed (Kathy) Christensen; and a host of remarkable nieces, nephews, neighbors and lifetime friends. Today, she is sitting at heaven's table with those preceding her, including the parents she missed dearly, brother Bill Priestley, brother-in-law Ken Christensen, and other loved ones. ■



**CRAIG EUGENE
SPRINGER**
1955-2023

Craig Eugene Springer, son of Harold Eugene and Mary Louise Stofer Springer, was born Aug. 2, 1955, in Jefferson. He died of a heart attack Oct. 28, 2023, at Avery Holy Family Medical Center in Estherville. He was 68 years old. Craig was educated in Guthrie Center Community Schools and graduated in 1974. Craig made a living working with his hands. He worked as a butcher, worked in construction and cabinet making, restoring cars, and making prosthetic limbs. He was artistically talented, especially in drawing with

ink. One of his drawings was submitted by his high school art teacher and was chosen to be displayed at the Iowa State Capitol rotunda for three months. He enjoyed pheasant hunting, fishing and car races. He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; one brother, Paul; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He is survived by his sisters, Donna Cyr and her husband Don of Bristol, Connecticut; Debra Jensen and her husband Paul of Adel; and Julie Kipp and her husband Kevin of Yale; brother Raymond Springer and his wife Kimberley of Des Moines; 10 nieces and nephews; 12 great-nieces and great-nephews; and one aunt, Florence Siegenthaler, of Jefferson, along with numerous cousins and friends. Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at the Franklin Township Cemetery in Cooper. A Celebration of Life took place at 11:15 a.m. at the Cabbage Rose (313 State St. in Guthrie Center) followed by a luncheon. Memorials may be sent to the funeral home. Hastings Funeral Home in Perry was in charge of these arrangements. ■

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**VELMA
LAVONNE
LOWER**
1933-2023

Velma Lavonne Lower, a loving and generous soul, passed away peacefully in Guthrie Center on Oct. 12, 2023. Born on Nov. 11, 1933, in Coon Rapids, Velma was a beacon of faith and love throughout her 89 years of life.

She was a dedicated wife to her late husband, William C. Lower, and a wonderful mother to Ron Lower and Rayann (Lower) Polivka. Her family grew to include her son-in-law, Rod Polivka, and her brother, Robert Brumback (Delories), and sister Caroline Vaughan (Gerald). Velma was a beloved grandmother to Patrick Lower (Annie Lower), Elizabeth Polivka, Amanda Uhl (Kody Uhl), Chris Polivka, and Emily (Lower) Graves (Mitch Graves). The joy of her life were her great-grandchildren, William, Lewis, Chloe, Brody, Mya, and Elizabeth. Velma was preceded in death by her daughter Rayann (Lower) Polivka, grandson Ronald Polivka, parents Orvil and Helen Brumback, and sister and brother in

law, Caroline and Gerald Vaughan.

Velma's work history was as diverse as it was rewarding. She worked diligently for the Coon Rapids Newspaper, served as an aide for the Guthrie County Hospital, and was a beloved lunch lady for Guthrie County Schools. Her most cherished role, however, was that of a homemaker, creating a warm and inviting home for her family.

Velma had a passion for quilting, a hobby that allowed her to weave her love and warmth into each stitch. She enjoyed savoring a good cup of tea with friends and family, and her home was always open to those she held dear.

Her life was a testament to her loving, generous and faith-filled nature. Velma's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. She will be deeply missed, but her memory will continue to inspire and guide us. We take comfort in knowing that she is at peace and reunited with those she loved who preceded her in death.

Graveside services were Saturday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. at Orange Township Cemetery in Coon Rapids. ■



**BONNY M.
SNYDER**
1949-2023

Bonny Mae (Tiefenthaler) Snyder, 74, of Lake Panorama, died Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Guthrie Center, with Father Michael Peters and Deacon Dennis Patrick presiding. A burial followed at Resurrection Cemetery, Guthrie Center. A visitation was held Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. at the Twigg Funeral Home, Panora.

Bonny was born on

June 9, 1949, in Carroll, the daughter of the late Arthur and Lorna (Smid) Tiefenthaler. She enjoyed her childhood in Breda and graduated from St. Bernard High School in 1967. Following high school, Bonny received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Iowa State University in 1971 and taught for two years following.

On June 2, 1973, she was married to her high school sweetheart, Len Snyder, also of Breda. The couple resided in Bayard; Ames; York, Nebraska; and Little Rock, Iowa, before moving to Guthrie Center in 1987 and, finally, Lake Panorama in 2003. The couple had four daughters, Amy, Katy, Abby and Kelly.

Bonny was a wonderful mother and a homemaker. She devoted her life to her husband and four girls and later in life her sons-in-law and grandchildren. Of course, next in line to her love for her family was her love for the Iowa State Cyclones. This was all well reflected in her Iowa State GIRLS license plates.

She was an avid bridge player (winning many

bridge marathons) and loved to bowl, swim, read, cross-stitch and play games and cards. She had a heart for theater, music and singing. Bonny led the choir at St. Mary's for several years and was also in PEO and Friends of the Library in Guthrie Center. She loved to travel with her fondest memories being time spent with family at Black Hawk Lake in Lake View, the annual week (41 years strong) at Fillenwarth Beach Resort in Okobojo and meeting new friends with winter stays in Arizona and Florida. (She didn't love the baseball spring training as much as Len.)

Bonny was the life of the party, the smile who lit up every room, and a friend to everyone. As a result of her generous spirit and fun personality, she was loved by many.

Survivors include her husband of 50 years: Len Snyder of Lake Panorama; four daughters: Amy (Jerry) Hoover of Guthrie Center, Katy (Quinn) Hildman of Waukee, Abby (Brett Smith) Snyder of Waukee, and Kelly (Nolan) Grimm of

Waukee; 11 grandchildren: Genevieve, Jorja and Jayla Hoover; Kyla and Kobe Hildman; Brady, Bo and Andi Snyder-Smith; Rossi, Sage and Gianna Grimm; brother Alan (Marlene) Tiefenthaler of Breda; sister Jean Huegerich of Lake View; and nieces and nephews.

Bonny was preceded in death by her parents; in-laws, Leonard and Janet Snyder; grandson, Paul Hildman; nephew, Keith Huegerich; and niece, Gina Tiefenthaler.

We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Bonny's extended family, friends and the Guthrie Center community for their many kind condolences and heartfelt sympathies. ■

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 - 10 Yule Candle making
 - 13 Winter Solstice cleansing
 - 14 Spell bar - self love
 - 17 Rest, retreat, and recharge class
 - 21-22 Winter Solstice Celebration & Sale
- Close December 23-27



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CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES SPEED LIMITS, ONE-WAY STREETS

Hear concerns about Workers Compensation physical exams and potential corn stalk drainage issue

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

At the Oct. 9 Guthrie Center City Council meeting, the council discussed a suggestion by Deputy Kent Gries to lower the speed limits in two areas of town. The streets in question are School Street and Bluff Street east of North 12th Street to Highway 44 (between the cemeteries). Both streets currently have a speed limit of 35 mph. The council discussed the traffic and speed in these areas. No action was taken at this time.

The council members also discussed the city's Workers Compensation coverage, which is currently provided by IMWCA. Fire Chief Cory Campbell said the firefighters have many trainings and certifications to stay current on, and the physical exam required for the Workers Comp coverage is adding to their busy schedules. The city will look into options for finding a Workers Compensation carrier that doesn't re-

quire the physical exam.

During the Oct. 23 meeting, citizen David Schachtner brought up his concern that people are driving both directions on some one-way streets in town, and he said it's becoming a safety hazard. He shared a map he's created, showing the one-way streets and where signage for each is posted. He suggested additional signage would be beneficial in making sure drivers realize which areas are designated for only one-way traffic. The consensus among the council was that this is a good first attempt to curtail the problem.

Mayor Mike Herbert said he'd recently been contacted by Mary Benton with a concern about the crop that's growing on the "well field" on the western edge of the city. According to Mayor Herbert, Benton felt hay was the only crop that was approved for growing in that field, and she was concerned that, in case of a flood, corn stalks would create drainage problems on her nearby property. City Clerk Kris Arrasmith said the agreement does not stipulate any particular crop. Council member Garold Thomas suggested the council adopt a response of "The city council and the utility board both agree that we are within DNR guidelines." The council voted unanimously in agreement with this. ■



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COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS APPROVE SALE OF GRADER SHED, SMITH ACRES SUBDIVISION PLAT

OK pay increases and hiring of assistant county attorney

BY RICH WICKS

Guthrie Center Times

The Oct. 17 meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors included a public hearing regarding the proposed sale of the county's grader shed to the City of Bayard for \$1,000. A hearing was held, during which County Engineer Josh Sebern explained the reasons for the proposed sale. The board later voted unanimously to approve the sale of the shed, located at 105 Prairie St. in Bayard, to the City of Bayard.

During the regular meeting on Oct. 24, the supervisors considered Resolution 24-11 to approve the final plat of the Smith Acres Minor Subdivision. County Auditor Dani Fink read the resolution aloud. The supervisors then voted 3-1 in favor of the resolution, with Supervisor JD Kuster voting against (Supervisor Mike Dickson was absent).

At the Oct. 31 meeting, the supervisors heard from Facilities Department Head Brandon Thompson, who advocated for a \$1.50 hourly pay increase for his staff. Thompson explained his request is due to the increased workload that has resulted from the new Law Enforcement Center (LEC) and from the fact that it's seen high occupancy as the county houses inmates from outside the county. Thompson said the square footage that his staff main-

tains has roughly doubled since the LEC opened.

Supervisor Dickson and Supervisor Kuster voiced opposition to giving mid-year pay increases. Supervisor Steve Smith said he has faced similar situations in the past, and he has seen the long-term costs in staff turnover and difficulties in attracting applicants.

"I've made this mistake before, and it's been a bad mistake over time," Smith said. Smith made a motion for a \$1 hourly pay increase, and it passed on a 3-2 vote, with Kuster and Dickson in opposition.

A citizen voiced a complaint to the supervisors regarding the work recently done on the road where he lives, which is 180th Trail. He said the County Engineer and staff were attempting to seal coat the road-way but admitted to not knowing how to do so. The citizen, identified as Larry, said the attempt resulted in two inches of rock on top of an oiled surface, and he said the rock will simply wash into the ditch. Smith said the county will look into the situation.

A brief meeting of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors was held on Nov. 7. The only new items on the agenda were payroll change notices. The first was regarding a new hire, Charles Abel, as assistant county attorney. Supervisor Dickson asked County Attorney Dana Minter, who was participating in the meeting via remote technology, whether Abel would be full-time or part-time. Minter said Abel would be full-time. Supervisor Smith then asked if the hiring would necessitate a budget amendment in that department, and Minter said it's too soon to know. The supervisors approved the payroll change notice unanimously. ■

Welcome to the team, Lila Lutz!

Meet Guthrie County State Bank's newest hire.



Lila Lutz joined the Guthrie County State Bank team on September 1, 2023, as a Personal Banker in the Guthrie Center location.

She brings expertise to GCSB with customer service and accounting experience as a previous senior accountant at UHY Advisors. Lila's long work history includes bookkeeping and preparing financial statements, 1099's and W2's, financial analysis and relationship building. Her education includes a Bachelor's in Accounting, Business Administration and Finance through Grand View University.

Lila has been a long time resident of Panora and still resides there! In her spare time, she enjoys reading and often you can find her curled up with a good book and a cup of hot tea. In those warmer months, she spends most of her time gardening her herb garden. Lila has three children: Levi, Maddy and Laicey.

When asked what drew her to Guthrie County State Bank, Lila said "I have banked at GCSB for many years as well as served on a board or been in organizations with team members of Guthrie County State Bank. Over the years I have appreciated the friendly service and dedication that GCSB has not only given to me personally but also the communities they serve! GCSB is truly "connecting communities" and I am proud to be a part of this team. I look forward to the face-to-face connections as well as serving the communities of Panora and Guthrie Center."

Stop by the Guthrie Center branch and give a warm welcome to Lila!

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THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS



MARK REND | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

ACGC COMES UP SHORT IN BATTLE OF THE UNBEATENS: Anthony Solorzano jumps over a Madrid defender during ACGC's Class A quarterfinal playoff game against Madrid Nov. 3. The Chargers lost, 21-14.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

BUNDE PLACES 33RD AT STATE XC MEET: Senior Lance Bunde crossed the finish line in 33rd with a time of 17:12.9 at the state meet on Oct. 27.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

MAHAFFEY PLACES FOURTH AT STATE XC MEET: Senior Andrew Mahaffey set a new school record and finished fourth with a time of 16:10.1 at the 2023 Iowa High School State Cross Country Meet at Lakeside Municipal Golf Course in Fort Dodge.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

SLOSS PLACES 39TH AT STATE XC MEET: Junior Gavin Sloss placed 39th at the state meet with a time of 17:21.9.



FOR THE LOVE OF A SWIM: From left, Meranda Gruber and Stella Largent are ACGC students of the month.



ACGC SHUTS THE LID ON PANORA Robson, Olivia Mahaffey, Karli Kautzke and Ilana Baumert. Court: Mersadez Stella Largent, Shay Lemke and Camryn



DARREN TROMBLAY | TIMES VEDETTE

Left: Allison Drake, Natalie Kent and
competing on the Carroll swim team.



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

MA'S SEASON: Bench: Rylee
ky, Savanna Akers, Shyann Young
Richter, Becca Littler, Jenna Rowley,
ndyn Richter.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

ACGC CHARGES TO STATE: Preston Kent, Tate Fever, Andrew Mahaffey, Gavin Sloss, Bo Arrasmith, Noah Kading and Lance Bunde qualified for the cross country state meet.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

CHARGER GIRLS QUALIFY FOR STATE: Emmarae Ellis, Cadence Petersen, Emerson Van Meter, Hayden Coffman, Ava Campbell, Paige Van Meter and Adalyn Benson



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

ONE STEP CLOSER: No. 6 Nate Chance (senior) RB/LB fights off the Raiders defense on Oct. 20 to rush for a few yards.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

CAMPBELL PLACES 11TH AT STATE XC MEET: Junior Ava Campbell finished 11th overall in Class 1A and earned an all-state medal for the second year in a row, crossing the finish line with a personal best time of 19 minutes, 33.8 seconds.



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

ONE STEP FROM THE DOME: Chargers No. 3 Jathan South (junior) QB/DB runs with the ball before pitching it to No. 5 Anthony Solorzano (Sr) RB/LB, earning the team 20+ yards and the first down in a game against Lynnville-Sully on Oct. 27. ■

'SEW' MUCH GROWTH FOR GAP CREEK QUILTING

Lorrie Stringham's business is filled with quilting supplies, quilting people and quilting fun.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Running a business in a small town is often a lot of hard work and sometimes a risky proposition. But Lorrie Stringham, owner of Gap Creek Quilting in Guthrie Center, has succeeded in growing her business to the point that she moved into a larger space and has quickly filled the new store with quilting supplies, quilting people and quilting fun.

Stringham said the name Gap Creek Quilting was chosen to honor the memory of her grandfather, who was from Gap Creek, Kentucky. Regarding her love of sewing, Stringham says she has sewn all her life.

"My mother sewed. Both of my grandmothers sewed," she said. "It's kind of like inherited, I guess. I worked 31 years for the phone company, then retired from that.

So, I did a little checking around, and we didn't really have a quilting shop that was close."

Stringham opened her shop in March of 2021 on State Street in Guthrie Center but quickly outgrew that space and moved into the new shop in April of 2022 at 112 N. Third St.

"I've grown tremendously," Stringham said. "Because I went from about 900 square feet to 2,500 square feet. I have room now for my machines, so people can come in and sew. We have classes, and I have ladies that just like to come in once in a while and sew."

Asked if she encountered challenges in opening a business during the pandemic, Stringham responded, "There were some shipping issues. I had irons that I was waiting for, and everybody wanted them, and for the longest time, they were just sitting on a ship somewhere."

Stringham said such delays have now mostly been eliminated, but she has learned to plan well ahead. As an example, she said she's already ordering bolts of fabric for the 2024 Christmas season.

The increased square footage has allowed the shop to keep an impressive inventory. Stringham estimates she has



Lorrie Stringham is ready to help customers.

more than 2,000 bolts of fabric and more than 100 panels hanging from the ceiling.

"I'm kind of a 'go big or go home' person," she said, adding that her motto is, "If I don't have it, I can't sell it."

One of the stereotypes about quilting is that it's something only done by grandmothers, but Stringham is working to make sure everyone is welcome. She offers opportunities for younger hands to try sewing and quilting. On Oct. 25, when Guthrie Center school kids had an early-out, Stringham offered a "sew your own trick or treat bag" activity for kids 8-12 years old for only \$5 each.

"Those who participated were all smiles," she said.

Another way Stringham makes quilting more appealing to newbies and experienced quilters is by participating in "shop hop" events. She explained that these events are organized tours that take quilters to shops in various cities so participants get to see what each shop offers.

"The All-Iowa Shop Hop goes June and July of every year," she said. "And this year, there were 82 shops that were in it."

Only the shops that are part of that have access to the specialty line of fabric that's designed for the All-Iowa Shop Hop.

"In June and July of this year, I had 516 people come in my store that were part of the Shop Hop," she said. "So that's pretty awesome for a small-town fabric shop, kind of in the middle of nowhere. But it's fun to meet all those people, because they come from all over. I had ladies from Maryland and California this year."

Another Shop Hop event is upcoming but on a much smaller scale. Stringham explained that, on Shop Small Saturday (Nov. 25), she is teaming up with quilt shops in Dallas Center and Redfield.

"You can get your friends together, and you can do this all in just a couple hours," she said. "Go to all three shops. We have a little passport, and each shop is going to give away a \$50 gift certificate. We did it last year, and it was the best day since I opened."

Another small Shop Hop, with about 12 to 15 shops involved, will be held in February 2024.

Because beginning quilters may become overwhelmed at the complexity of the craft, Stringham offers "kits" that she has already put together with everything needed to make a particular quilt. She said these have become popular items in the shop and an easy way for quilters to try



Lorrie Stringham gives Donavon Wetzel a pointer.



Lillie Conner is pleased with her creation.

something new.

Besides the fabric, Gap Creek also has the tools and gadgets needed for quilting, including a “long arm” sewing machine. Stringham explained that the long arm machine is what is needed when all of the detail work is done to finish a quilt. She rents out the use of the machine, because she knows some quilters feel a special sense of accomplishment when they’ve done the entire quilt from start to finish.

Stringham also hosts an annual quilting retreat and said it’s generally held in September or October. This year’s retreat was the biggest yet with 57 quilters participating.

Looking to the future, she said her ultimate dream would be to have a quilting retreat center for such events, allowing for overnight accommodations onsite. Stringham pointed out there are a handful of such in Iowa.

“I see that growing, where they can have maybe seven or eight ladies sit and sew and have lodging for them to stay and make it a ‘quiltcation,’ as we call it.”

Regarding her growing business, Stringham said, “My clientele started out just being local. There are a lot of quilters and seamstresses in the Guthrie County area, but I’m now pulling clients from Omaha and Des Moines, and from Clarinda, Creston, Carroll. So, my customer base is growing all the time, and that makes me very happy.”

Stringham attributes much of this growth to regular customers and infrequent visitors telling others about the wide selection and service offered at Gap Creek.

Two of Stringham’s favorites in the shop



“Flonnie” and “Blanch” hang around at the quilt shop.

are named Blanch and Flonnie, but they aren’t people; they are old quilts.

“Blanch is a garden path quilt, made by my husband’s great-grandmother. She was made in the 1930s,” Stringham said. “Blanch is completely hand-sewn. She’s kind of my shop mascot. I also have another quilt hanging up front, and her name is Flonnie. She was made by my grandmother.”

Stringham also has her grandmother’s antique sewing machine in the shop.

Besides herself, Stringham has a few local women who pitch in when she has to be gone or needs extra help. She said the main job qualification is being confident in cutting fabric.

Stringham gives credit to Main Street Guthrie Center and the Economic Development group programs that offer up to a \$5,000 interest-free loan.

“And they will pay half, up to \$5,000, on facades, painting the building, putting signage up, something to do with the building itself,” she said, adding that these programs were very helpful in getting her business and building the way they needed to be.



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A large and ornate quilt is nearly completed.

Stringham said what she loves most about her job is seeing what people have created.

"I have some pretty awesome customers that do some extravagant artwork," she said. "Several ladies from right here in town have been Best in Show at the Iowa State Fair or won blue ribbons at the State Fair, and that's a big thing."

Stringham said "it's kind of cool" when she goes to the State Fair and sees her own

fabric.

"That kind of brings it full circle, because I know they're getting recognition for what they've done, and I know they got the fabric at my shop," she said. "That's fulfilling to me."

Stringham said she loves helping people get started and helping them find their next project.

"Quilts are a piece of artwork that you create yourself," she said. ■

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Guthrie Center ASK TIMES

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Q: WHO ARE SOME OF GUTHRIE CENTER'S MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE?

A: Well, that depends on who you ask, but here is a prominent one, courtesy of various online reports.

James Ellison was born in Guthrie Center, the son of Edward James Smith and Ona Mary Ellis. He was an actor who spent much of his career in westerns, including a stint in the mid-1930s as Johnny Nelson, the sidekick of Hopalong Cassidy in the successful series.

In 1936, he played his highest-profile role as Buffalo Bill in Cecil B. DeMille's "The Plainsman," which also starred Gary Cooper and Jean Arthur. In 1938, he played the role of Keith Morgan in the romantic comedy "Vivacious Lady," receiving third billing to Ginger Rogers and Jimmy Stewart. The same year, he played a charming, romantic character opposite Lucille Ball in the comedy "Next Time I Marry." He later shared top billing with Ball in 1940s "You Can't Fool Your Wife."

Ellison spent most of the remainder of

his career shuttling between cowboy pictures and more varied roles, primarily in B movies. He died at age 83 in Monterey, California, after suffering a broken neck as the result of a fall. He is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles.

Q: WHAT IS THE RECORD LOW TEMPERATURE IN GUTHRIE CENTER?

A: The National Weather Service says the year was 1996, and the day of Feb. 2 saw a record low in Guthrie Center of -35 F. Brrr.

Q: WHAT YEAR DID GUTHRIE CENTER PEAK IN POPULATION?

A: According to the U.S. Census data, Guthrie Center had a population of 2,071 in 1960, which appears to be its peak. For comparison sake, the 2020 census showed 1,593. That same year, Guthrie Center saw a growth of 5.95%, which was 89 additional people. Other years of growth since 2020 include 2003, 2010, 2018 and 2022. The 2023 population is estimated at 1,549. ■



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NOV. 7 ELECTION RESULTS

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Here are the preliminary (unofficial) winning candidates and public measure results from area elections on Nov. 7. Official results will be announced at a later date by county auditors.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Adair Mayor: Joanne Byars
Adair City Council: Shannon Mullen
Haus, Jade Irlmeier, Renee Jensen
Casey Mayor: Nick Lindberg

Casey City Council: Leland Acker, Rick Blake, Bret Wedemeyer
Guthrie Center Mayor: Mike Herbert
Guthrie Center City Council: Fidel Hernandez, Garold Thomas, Ian Steensen

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Adair Casey School Board: Randy Carney, Justin Crawford
Adair Casey public measure: YES
Guthrie Center School Board: Tate Stetzel, Cara Underwood, Matt Van Meter
Guthrie Center School District public measure: YES ■

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WHAT'S IN YOUR GARAGE?

CHRISTENSEN'S VEHICLES ARE 'LIKE PART OF THE FAMILY'

He originally traded a pool cue for the 1971 Chevy pickup.

BY RICH WICKS
Guthrie Center Times

Whatever hobby a person enjoys, there are seemingly always more pinnacles to reach or accomplishments to strive toward. Max Christensen of Guthrie Center, however, is happy with his automobiles just the way they are. His pride and joy vehicles are a 1956 Chevrolet and a 1971 Chevy pickup.

"The '56, I bought it probably 35 years ago, over in Nebraska, and it was the ugliest white you ever saw, but the body was in pretty good shape," he said.

Christensen brought the car home and asked Kenny Kirkman to do most of the body work to get the car back in great shape. Christensen was so pleased with the result, he said, "I couldn't be any prouder if I'd done it all myself."

Regarding his pickup, which he's owned for about 25 years, Christensen said, "Old Red, it was pretty well done when I got it, but then I sold it, and it went through a flood, and the kid was going to get rid of it, so I traded a pool cue for it," he said about the C10 farm truck.

Christensen said he would feel confident driving either of these classic vehicles to California and back. In fact, he still uses the pickup to haul things around.

Both vehicles have a "Mad Max Edition" emblem on the chassis. When asked about it, Christensen laughed and admitted they're just emblems that he liked because his name is Max, so he put one on the rear



Max Christensen still uses his 1971 as a working pickup.

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

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Max Christensen and his 1956 Chevy.



The luxurious red and black bench seat in the 1956 Chevy.

of each vehicle.

Because he lives on a gravel road, Christensen said it's nearly impossible to keep his vehicles from getting dusty, even in the garage. He admits there are minor blemishes on each, but he wants to be able to drive and enjoy them rather than keeping

them locked away.

"My first car that I ever drove was a '55 Chevy, which is one year older than this," he said.

He recalled that soon after buying the '56, he knew he wanted to get it painted but wasn't sure what color scheme to go

with.

"I had a coffee cup that was that color of black with silver, and that's what clicked," he said. So, he had it painted in a satin black finish. The seats were taken from a Chevy Nomad, and Kirkman dyed the upholstery to the red and black scheme.

Christensen said both of his classic vehicles are driven in local parades occasionally, and he also drives them just for fun at times. When asked if he plans to sell either vehicle, Christensen said he may someday, but noted, "I've had them so long now, they're almost like part of the family." ■



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YARD OF THE MONTH



SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Del and Sharon Wedemeyer, 2507 State St. in Guthrie Center, are the winners of \$100 in chamber bucks from the Guthrie Center Lions Club and the Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce for the Yard of the Month contest for October. These two organizations have teamed up to award citizens who maintain and take pride in their yard with this monthly contest, which is the last one for the season. ■



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641-742-3802
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
709 Adair St., Adair
641-742-3821

CASEY

St. John Lutheran Church
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641-746-2734
www.idwlcms.org/congregation.php?id=29

Casey United Methodist Church
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GUTHRIE CENTER

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First Christian Church

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www.christianchurchgc.com
641-332-2571

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center,
www.gcumcia.org
641-332-2408

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701 State St., Guthrie Center
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Guthrie Center First Baptist Church

113 N. Fifth St., Guthrie Center
www.guthriecenterbaptist.com
641-747-8198

Guthrie Center Seventh-day Adventist Church

1305 North St., Guthrie Center
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641-332-2778

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www.immanuelgc.org
641-332-2918

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WHERE IS IT?



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



The answer for the location of last month's photo is the painted concrete pig in front of the Extension Office in Guthrie Center. Have a guess on where this month's photographed image is? Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@dmcityview.com. ■



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YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Nov. 7, 1973

1975 PLATES ARRIVE: The 1975 car license plates arrived at the Guthrie County Courthouse this week. The plates are made by inmates at the state penitentiary, and the state had no place to store them, so they shipped them to the county, which had to make room in a basement storeroom for them. Unlike the present truck license plates, the car plates for 1975 retain the county code number of 39. Displaying the plates are Mary Lee Brown, deputy recorder, and Charlotte Knauer, county treasurer.

40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Nov. 30, 1983

SNAP. CRACKLE. POP.: The wrought iron railing atop Merv Krakau's porch at 706 E. Prairie St. proved no match for the ice-crusted limb that snapped and demolished the railing and penetrated the porch roof.

30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Nov. 17, 1993

MEMBER FOR LIFE: On Veteran's Day, Jerron Herron, right, was presented a lifetime membership in the American Legion by Omar B. Shearer Post Commander Gifford Covault, center, and Barry Stetzel. Herron currently is department vice-commander for the American Legion in Iowa. Stetzel is a past department vice-commander.

20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Nov. 26, 2003

BOBCATS ARE ON THE PROWL: This is the bobcat snared last week by local trapper Jim Terwilliger northeast of Guthrie Center.

10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie Center Times, Nov. 27, 2013

PILGRIM'S PENMANSHIP PROGRESS: Little Pilgrim Michelle Brooks tries her handwriting with a turkey feather quill as part of Thanksgiving lessons in Mrs. Hanner's second grade classroom Wednesday morning at Guthrie Center Elementary.

5 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, Nov. 15, 2018

FAITH'S FOOD DRIVE — LOCAL 18-YEAR-OLD USES BIRTHDAY TO HELP RAISE ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY: Faith Hockenberry, center, smiles after she donated dozens of boxes of items to the food pantry in Guthrie Center. She's pictured with her parents, Howie and Patsey Hockenberry, of Guthrie Center. ■



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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**1 CHRONICLES 29:13 "Now therefore, our God, we thank thee
and praise thy glorious name."**



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