

# Guthrie Center TIMES

FEBRUARY 2023

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## LOVE LESSONS

ADVICE FROM LOCAL COUPLES WHO HAVE BEEN  
SWEETHEARTS FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS

PAGE 6

**CHRIS BLASS LOST  
BOTH ARMS BUT  
KNOWS NO LIMITATIONS**

PAGE 16

**TWIGGS HELP PEOPLE  
BY PROVIDING  
SUPPORT THEY NEED**

PAGE 22

**SMOKY GERMAN  
POTATO, SAUSAGE  
AND BACON CHILI**

PAGE 30

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# CONTENTS

FROM THE PUBLISHER .....	5
COVER STORY: LOVE LESSONS .....	6
ARGANBRIGHT SEEKS REELECTION .....	9
LOCAL FILM REVIEWS .....	10
OBITUARIES .....	12
SUPERVISORS EXPRESS FRUSTRATIONS ABOUT EMS PLANNING .....	14
PEOPLE: CHRIS BLASS .....	16
THE MONTH IN ACGC SPORTS .....	20
BUSINESS FEATURE: TWIGG FUNERAL HOME .....	22
HARMANN ANNOUNCES RUN FOR SHERIFF .....	24
ACGC SETS PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CALENDAR .....	25
MJB LIBRARY NEWS .....	26
AREA CHURCH GUIDE .....	27
ASK GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES .....	28
RECIPE: SMOKY GERMAN POTATO, SAUSAGE AND BACON CHILI .....	30
GUTHRIE COUNTY BEEF ROYALTY .....	31
COUNCIL APPROVES PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE .....	32
YESTER YEARS .....	34
GCH TRUSTEES APPROVE WAGE MARKET ADJUSTMENTS .....	36
WHERE IS IT? .....	37
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING .....	39

**FROM THE COVER:** Karen and Bill Sparks of Guthrie Center have been married 61 years. Photo by Rich Wicks



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### EDITOR & PUBLISHER:

Shane Goodman

### ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:

Jolene Goodman

### ADVERTISING SALES:

Kerry Jacobsen

### CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Cheryl Castile

### EDITORIAL DESIGN:

Beckham Miller

### ADVERTISING DESIGN:

Jayde Vogeler, Clare Baker

### BUSINESS OFFICE:

Brent Antisdal

### DISTRIBUTION:

Mike Chiston

### EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Rich Wicks  
 Jolene Goodman  
 Michael C. Woody  
 Susan Thompson  
 Mark Reno  
 Kevin Fister  
 Tabby Slaybaugh

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# MEMORABLE MARRIAGES AND MAGIC NUMBERS

I remember working at a gas station in my high school years and talking with a customer who said he was in town for his five-year class reunion. I recall thinking how I could not even begin to relate to what life would be like five years after graduating from high school. That seemed like an eternity, at least to this 15-year-old. Then graduation came and went. And so did my five-year class reunion. And my 10-year. And 15. And 20. And 25. And 30. And 35. Somewhere along the line, I got old.

I also recall reading my hometown newspaper and seeing photos of couples who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries. Those people seemed ancient. Well, Jolene and I have now been married nearly 29 years, so we are more

than half-way there, and I look forward to the second half of the journey.

In the meantime, much can be learned from those who have been married for 50 years or more. When I was in my 20s, a man who had been married that long told me to “give your sweetheart a kiss and tell her you love her every day.” Another said to remember to “forgive and forget.” And yet another very honest man told me, “Hearing loss isn’t all that bad.”

Malcolm Gladwell wrote in his best-selling book, “Outliers,” that “10,000 hours is the magic number of great-



Shane Goodman

ness.” He says, in order to be an expert at anything, you need to first put in 10,000 hours doing it. The older I get, the more this seems to hold true. As those of you who are married know, marriage also takes work... and time... and understanding. Those things are not learned overnight.

Every marriage is different, as are each of those who choose to tie the knot, but there are some underlying principles that seem to carry through with couples who have made it work. In this month’s feature story, we share the stories of these folks who have made their marriages memorable for 50 years or more.

I was back in my hometown recently, and I stopped by that old gas station. It changed names a few times over the

years, but some things still looked the same. I told the young clerk behind the counter that I used to work there 40 years ago. He looked at me with that same look I gave the guy going to his class reunion. Someday, he, too, might understand.

Thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
Editor and Publisher  
Guthrie Center Times  
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# LOVE LESSONS

Advice from local couples who have been sweethearts for more than 60 years.

BY RICH WICKS  
Guthrie Center Times

Actress Audrey Hepburn once said, “They say love is the best investment; the more you give, the more you get in return.”

Three local couples who made lifelong investments in each other agree. Each couple has been married for more than 60 years, and, as you’ll see, they have reaped the dividends of these investments and enjoyed wonderful lives together.

## PAUL AND WANETA SCOTT

In 1953, Paul and Waneta first met at a bowling alley in Kankakee, Illinois. It was not a random meeting. To their friends, it was obvious that Paul and Waneta should meet.

“He grew up on the east side of the county, and I lived on the west side, so we didn’t know each other. Three different people that didn’t know each other introduced us, at three different times,” said Waneta.

Their daughter, Laura Kemble, helped explain how her parents fell in love.

“Dad was working at Sears, and Mom was working at a bank,” Kemble said. “He was probably the most eligible young man in Kankakee at that time. A good looking guy.”

Was it love at first sight?

“Well, for me it was,” said Waneta.

And what about Paul?

“Finally, after the third time they met, he asked her out,” Kemble said. “After that, it was a pretty short courtship.”

“Yeah, she caught me at a bad time,” said Paul, with a grin.

The couple were married on June 6, 1954, exactly 10 years after the D Day invasion of Nazi-occupied France during WWII. Paul served in the Navy for two years during WWII and was to be part of an invasion of China that was planned, until the atomic bombing of Japan brought the war to an abrupt end. Paul believes that saved his life, because he did not expect to survive invading China.

“All along that coastline, they had landmines,” he said.

Waneta recalled the unusual setting for the couple’s wedding.

“We got married in my great aunt’s house,” Waneta said. “Right in front of her fireplace.”

Following the wedding, the young cou-

ple continued to work and live in and around Kankakee County. Paul worked for Sears for 40 years. Waneta operated a candle shop in her basement for 17 years. Waneta recalled using the candle shop as an opportunity to help her daughter learn math skills. She would have young Laura create receipts for customers. Then, in 1993, the couple moved to Lake Panorama. Coming from a county of more than 100,000 people to rural Iowa obviously was a significant change, but the Scotts were happy to be closer to family. They quickly became active in the local community.

“We really liked it. We built a house out there,” said Waneta of the move to the lake.

One thing about lake life that meant a lot to Paul was golfing.

“Dad was a great golfer for years,” Kemble said. “He didn’t even start golfing until he was retired, and he played until he was 90.”

Even after he stopped playing golf, Paul liked to watch and be around the game.

“When they were having a tournament, I’d go out there and watch them,” he said.

Kemble said that Waneta was one of the founders of The Children’s Clothing Closet (3Cs), an organization in Panora that provides clothing for needy families at no cost.

Paul and Waneta have three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. As the couple nears their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they have a clear answer when asked about the secret to their lifelong wedded bliss: communication.

“I can’t remember having a quarrel. We’ve had disagreements, but we’ve never had a real quarrel,” Waneta said. “We’ve had disagreements, but we work through them. And not many.”

Paul explained that his wife never needed to say many words to get her point across.

“She has a stare,” he said.

## ROGER AND COLLEEN TALLMAN

For some couples, fate seems to intervene to bring two hearts together. The way that Roger and Colleen met was unique and memorable. According to Roger, he had met a young lady from Des Moines and made a date with her, but, by coincidence, he overheard another young man say he was dating the same girl. Later, she



Paul and Waneta Scott have been married for nearly 70 years.

had her roommate (Colleen) call Roger to cancel the date due to illness.

“I knew it was a lie,” Roger said. “Then around a week later, I called Colleen up and asked for a date, and that’s how we met. That was in the fall of the year. Then, in the spring, we got engaged, and she set the date for the 14th of August of 1960.”

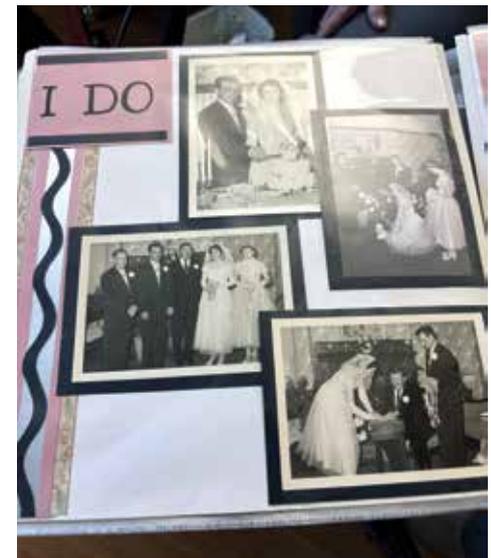
Colleen recalled a humorous memory of their first date.

“Our first date was the fifth of December,” she said. “He took me to see a show, ‘The Man Who Understood Women.’ I don’t think that ever worked out.”

The romance quickly became serious, as Colleen explained.

“Actually, he gave me my diamond on my birthday, which was the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, so we’d only known each other for about a month.”

One of the lessons in any long-term relationship is being able to look back and laugh about things that were not humorous at the time. Colleen told of coming home over the lunch hour one day and asking for some money to buy a loaf of bread that she would bring home after



Paul and Waneta Scott on their wedding day in 1954.

work. The price of bread at that time was 21 cents.

“I gave her a quarter out of my pocket,” Roger said. “And I just jokingly said, ‘Bring back the change.’”



Roger and Colleen Tallman reminiscing over old photos.



Colleen and Roger Tallman as newlyweds.



Colleen and Roger Tallman enjoying their wedding cake.

Although Colleen didn't appreciate the comment at that time, she and Roger both laughed as he told the story.

Throughout most of their marriage, the Tallmans farmed, which demands teamwork and hard work. Those habits served them well in their careers and in their marriage. Roger and Colleen each spent several years driving school buses and, later in their working career, they teamed up to operate a funnel cake trailer at local fairs and festivals.

The Tallmans had a stillborn daughter, then they had a daughter (Karen) and later a son (Bill). Bill died of cancer in 1986 at the age of 21. Colleen acknowledged that marriages that experience the death of a child are statistically at a higher risk for divorce, but she said she and Roger have always faced their challenges together.

"My dad always said, 'Never get involved with a woman that you don't want

to spend 365 days a year across the table from,' " Roger said. "And it's worked out. I'd do it again."

#### BILL AND KAREN SPARKS

High school romances often flare up suddenly but sometimes don't last long. Bill and Karen were Guthrie Center high school sweethearts that dated for less than a year before getting married, but they have beaten the odds, by a long ways.

"It'll be 62 years in September," said Karen. "I graduated in May, and we got married in September. He graduated the year before."

Karen recalled that she was surprised when her parents didn't object to her wedding plans.

"Years later, I said to my mom, 'How in the world did you and dad say OK when Bill asked if he could marry me?' Mom said, 'What good would it have done if we'd said no? You're stubborn enough,

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Karen and Bill Sparks enjoy their home in Guthrie Center.

you just would have went and done it, and we'd have never seen you again," said Karen.

Karen recalled that getting married radically and suddenly changed her life plans.

"I was going to go to college, and I was not going to live on a farm. I was going to be a secretary. Well, it ended up I did not go to college. I was a secretary to the superintendent of schools, and we were on the farm," said Karen.

"Neither one of us went to school," said Bill. "We went to the school of hard knocks. Sometimes, I think you remember that better."

Karen and Bill each had a ready answer when asked about the first moment they each realized they wanted to spend their lives together.

"He left to go down south and set up signs," Karen said. "Dec. 26 is the day he left, and I discovered that I really did miss him. And I guess he missed me, because he sent me an awful lot of letters."

Bill recalled that he was away for about six weeks, and they didn't have any chances to speak on the phone during his absence. Once he returned, he didn't want Karen to go off to college.

Bill and Karen each have vivid memories of their wedding day.

"It was family and friends," said Karen. "By today's standards, it was small. We just had coffee and cake afterwards. We were to be at the church at noon, to get married at three o'clock, and he wasn't there."

"Well, I had a car, and I had put dual exhaust on it, and they were really loud," Bill said. "We were going to go to California for a honeymoon, so I had to get them off.



Bill and Karen Sparks in their early days.

Well, we started working on it that Sunday morning. That caused a little panic."

Despite being "fashionably late," Bill arrived at the church, and the wedding went as planned.

After working at the school for a couple of years, Karen gave that up to raise kids and help out on the couple's farm. Bill and Karen were blessed with three sons, who each pitched in on the farm as needed.

Karen recalled that the challenges of farming eventually convinced the couple that they could no longer make ends meet as farmers, so they moved to town.

"But, there again, I say God knew what was best for us," Karen said.

When asked for their advice on how to make a marriage last, Bill said a favorite method is to simply say, "Yes, dear."

After laughing at Bill's answer, Karen said, "It's a lot of give and take." ■

## ELECTIONS

# ARGANBRIGHT SEEKS REELECTION AS GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Sheriff Marty Arganbright announced he is running for a fifth term as sheriff. He is seeking the 2024 Democratic nomination for the office of Guthrie County Sheriff in the June 4, 2024, primary election.

Arganbright graduated from Panorama in 1981 and became sheriff in 2008 after serving as chief of police for the city of Panorama.

"I still teach the DARE program. I've been teaching it for 25 years," he said.

Arganbright mentioned some of the new programs and accomplishments during his years as sheriff.

"We've done a lot of things since 2008," Arganbright said. "We grew our staff to eight deputies. I started the work on the new jail 10 years ago, and now we're using the jail for our inmates and we're also housing inmates from outside the county, and that makes great revenue."

Arganbright seeks grants, when possible, to save taxpayer money.

"When I became sheriff, I restarted the deputy reserve program," said Arganbright. "They help when needed. I've added more dispatchers to accommodate 911 calls and regular traffic. We adopted a 28E agreement with Guth-

rie Center; they couldn't keep a police department. We got top-of-the-line equipment to protect our deputies and citizens."

Arganbright said he also restarted the K9 program.

"We have two dogs, and it's all funded through donations," he said.

Arganbright says one of the biggest issues in the county is drugs.

"I want to continue what we've been doing and stay on top of the drug problem," he said. "That's one of my biggest goals."

When he's off-duty, Arganbright stays active in the community.

"I belong to Ten Squared Men and the Guthrie County Cattlemen's Association," said Arganbright. "I've been active in Saint Cecelia's and Saint Mary's Church my whole life. I live on a farm and have cattle."

Overall, Arganbright has a simple philosophy of service.

"I try to treat everyone the same — the way that I would want to be treated," he said. ■



Marty Arganbright



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# GIRLS. BEES. POOR THINGS. AND A MISSING APOSTLE.

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
Guthrie Center Times

So, how were your holidays? See any good movies? Me neither! I am somewhat joking on that one, but I was not blown away by much that I saw. We tend to expect high-impact movies during the holiday season. This one came up short.

Meanwhile, we trudge forward into 2024, eagerly awaiting "Dune Part 2" on March 1. If you didn't see the original, you only have a short time to catch up. Watch it on the biggest television in your house, and you will be blown away.

Alright, let's catch up.

## "MEAN GIRLS" (in theaters)

I loved the original movie and was looking forward to what I thought was an

update. I was wrong. It is a film version of the award-winning Broadway play. So you know the story, but every once in a while they stop to break into song and dance. It is still a lot of fun, just not quite as much as I was hoping for.

**Grade: B**

## "THE BEEKEEPER" (in theaters)

I like Jason Statham, but the man makes some stupid action movies. That being said, he does make a good one every once in a while. Based on the box office draw, I'm not alone in saying that "The Beekeeper" is one of his better, maybe his best? He is retired military and minding his own business in the back of a rented barn. His business is honey and keeping a few beehives. When a scam caller takes all of the money from



"MEAN GIRLS"



"THE BEEKEEPER"

the old woman he rents from, Statham is on the trail immediately and, let me tell you, he is unhappy. No one is going to stop him from catching these idiots. From there we get lots of punches, kicks, gunshots and a kitchen sink. It is

non-stop action with a flimsy story but enough to keep you entertained. The action is great, the bad guys are really slimy, and you will relish the butt-kicking you get to watch. The box office has been brisk, so this will likely not be the

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"I.S.S."



"POOR THINGS"



"SOCIETY OF THE SNOW"



"THE BOOK OF CLARENCE"

last time we see this beekeeper.

**Grade: B-**

**"I.S.S."**

The International Space Station is the setting for this movie that tells the story of an American crew that joins the Russians at the Space Station for a joint venture. When huge trouble on Earth strikes, both teams are told to take over the station. An action film in a tight situation in space always proves to be fun. It is not a great film, but it has enough moments for me to mildly recommend it.

**Grade: C+**

**"POOR THINGS"**

This film is by director Yorgos Lan-

thimos, who gave us "The Lobster" and "The Killing of a Sacred Deer," two movies I reluctantly suffered through. His new film, "Poor Things," has received the same type of praise as those earlier films, and I will respectfully disagree. The cast includes Willem Dafoe, Mark Ruffalo and a brilliant (and Oscar-nominated) Emma Stone in a film that defies description — and that's not a good thing. It is dark and disturbing but also tries to be funny. Let's just agree to disagree.

**Grade: D-**

**"SOCIETY OF THE SNOW"**

You can find this one on Netflix. It's a remake of the true and harrowing story of a plane full of rugby players who

crash in the Andes mountains. There was a movie titled "Alive" years ago that tackled this same story but not nearly as well. Both movies are good, but this one ramps it up yet tempers itself in certain areas that are controversial. This is well made and enthralling, to say the least.

**Grade: A-**

**"THE BOOK OF CLARENCE"**

My Catholic education failed to clue me in on this missing Apostle who has quite a bit to do and quite a bit to say. It is a thought-provoking and well-produced film that will challenge you and might even start some very interesting conversations.

**Grade: B+**

Have a great February and, God willing, I'll be back next month with my thoughts on new movies and that little annual celebration called The Oscars. Now, pass the popcorn. ■

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



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# OBITUARIES

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## KAREN KAY KRAFT PIERCE

1941-2024

Karen Kay Kraft Pierce, 82, beloved daughter of Dwight and Elvina (Petersen) Kraft, was born on Oct. 11, 1941, in Carroll. She peacefully passed away on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at Taylor House in Des Moines.

Karen attended the Gardner Store country school in Audubon County for grades K-9 before graduating from Audubon High School in 1960. She was a loving

mother to her two sons, Tim and Jon.

For 36 years, Karen dedicated her time and compassion as a certified nursing assistant at Guthrie County Hospital. She also selflessly volunteered for six years, driving the hospital van. Karen found immense joy in supporting her grandson's activities and cherishing precious moments with her two great-grandsons. Showing her love through cooking meals for her family was one of her greatest joys. Family gatherings were always a delight, especially the fond memories of Christmas Eve at Grandma's house, where they often played poker and Grandma seemed to win every year.

Karen held her family and friends dear to her heart. She possessed a selfless nature, always putting the needs of others before her own. Karen was known for her willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone who asked, and even to those who didn't. She respected the privacy of

others and was a patient teacher, whether it was guiding someone in the kitchen or imparting her knowledge on patient care at the hospital. Her absence will be deeply felt, but her legacy of compassion and service will continue to inspire.

Left to cherish her memory are her two sons, Tim (Christi) Pierce of Grimes and Jon Pierce of West Des Moines; her grandson, Nathan (Amy) Pierce of Grimes; her two great-grandsons, Bennett (3) and Cameron (1); her sister, Connie (Randy) Steffen of Griswold; her niece, April Steffen (Tony Sorensen); her nephew, Blaine (Julie) Steffen; as well as great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins. Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Dwight and Elvina Kraft.

Karen's wishes were to be cremated. A private family graveside service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation. ■



## SONJA LEANN 'LOUIE' HAMBLETON

1969-2024

Sonja Leann "Louie" Hambleton, 54, daughter of Harley and Melba (Ray) Moore, was born May 2, 1969, in Des Moines. She passed away Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

Sonja was raised in Carlisle with her five siblings. She graduated from Carlisle High School in 1987. She worked in banking and then went into annuities. She worked

for DNA in Des Moines for about 10 years before going to work for Brokers International in the early 2000s, where she continued to work as a marketing consultant up until her death. On July 20, 2002, she married Todd Hambleton at the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center. To this union, two children were born, Trent and Zoey. They made their home north of Guthrie Center.

Sonja enjoyed golfing, playing slow pitch softball with her sisters and playing cards. She was very competitive in all she did. She enjoyed watching her children in their sporting events and Zoey in her dance competitions and recitals. She was a "Dance Mom." She loved her Busch Lights, watching her movies and hanging out at home. She also looked forward to Black Friday shopping and loved her cats.

Sonja is survived by her husband,

Todd, son, Trent, and daughter, Zoey, all of Guthrie Center; sister, Kim (John) Cataldo of Carlisle; brother, Harley Scott (Stephanie) Moore of Overland Park, Kansas; mother-in-law, Barb Hambleton of Guthrie Center; sisters-in-law, Tracy (Corey) Welberg of Panora and Kelli (Dave) Lemke of Guthrie Center; along with many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; father-in-law, John Hambleton; and her three sisters, Rhonda Hook, Pam Vitiritto and ArLynn Baber.

Cremation has taken place, and visitation was held on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, from noon until 2 p.m. followed by a short service and then a luncheon at the Lake Panorama Conference Center, Panora.

Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family.

Services entrusted to Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. ■

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# OBITUARIES

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married Mel Sheley at the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center. They made their home in Guthrie Center. In 2003, Janice retired from Dallas County Hospital.

Janice enjoyed watching Tess' softball games, and, following the games, she had a bag full of bubble gum to give to everyone. She also enjoyed keeping the stats for the games.

Janice was a member of the card club, the Monteith Community Club, she helped with Harvest suppers, funeral meals, the Wednesday After School Program at the church, and Meals on Wheels. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and quilting, especially for the grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was a member of the First Christian Church in Perry and Guthrie Center, where she served as the financial secretary for many years.

Janice is survived by her husband of 30 years, Mel Sheley

of Guthrie Center; daughters, Tess (Mike) Jaspering of Grimes and Lisa (Randy) Ahrenholtz of Defiance; stepsons, Chad (Deanne) Sheley of Casey and Casey (Katy) Sheley of Huntington, Maryland; grandchildren, Brooke, Alex, Chase, Kylea, Katelynn, Zach, Katie, Ty, Maddy and Isabelle; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, and two sisters.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at the First Christian Church, Guthrie Center. Burial was in the Monteith Cemetery, rural Guthrie Center. Visitation was one hour prior to the services at the church.

Memorials may be left to the First Christian Church, Guthrie Center, or Hospice of the Midwest.

Services entrusted to Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center. ■



## LARRY LLOYD LAUGHERY

1945-2024

Larry Lloyd Laughery, the youngest son of Lloyd and Ila (Hayes) Laughery, was born on March 6, 1945, in Carroll. He passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at the Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center.

Larry attended Guthrie Center Community Schools through 12th grade, graduating in 1963. He married his high school sweetheart, Sherry Smiley, on June 21, 1964; to this union, three children were born: Deena, Danny and Danae.

After high school, Larry attended Wayne State College in Nebraska and graduated with a BS in business. After college, they moved back to Guthrie Center where he worked at Guthrie Livestock Auction. In 1974, the B&L Feed and Grain Elevator was born, and Larry became the manager until they sold in 1994. Larry went back to work at Guthrie Livestock Auction, which was his true passion. He loved working with family all the way up until he retired.

He was a Guthrie County Supervisor for 12 years and also enjoyed being a Mason and Shriner.

Some of his favorite lifetime joys involved fishing, Christmas with family, traveling, Guthrie County Fair, Iowa State Fair, camping, fireworks, family barbeques, turkey hunting, raising cattle, and his Dallas Cowboys football team. He also loved following all his grandkids' activities, hosting lifelong hunting friends from Arkansas, and drinking beer with friends and family in his sports bar.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry Laughery of Guthrie Center; daughter, Deena (Dan) Wells of Greenfield;

son, Danny (Michelle) Laughery of Bagley; and daughter, Danae (Charlie) Baumert of Bayard; five grandchildren, Dylan (Kenzie) Laughery, Gavin (Ashley) Laughery, Leigan (Grant) Cleveland, Ilana and Andrew Baumert; three great-grandchildren, Mayer and Motley Laughery, and Lyla Rose Laughery; and brother, Jim (Mary Jo) Laughery of Guthrie Center. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Ila Laughery, and niece, Tawny Stetzel.

Funeral services were Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at the First Presbyterian Church, Guthrie Center. Burial was in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center. Visitation was Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, from 4-7 p.m. at the Guthrie County Events Center, Guthrie County Fairgrounds, Guthrie Center. Twigg Funeral Home, Guthrie Center, is entrusted with his services.

Memorials may be left to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners Children's Hospital, or Wounded Warriors Project.

Larry's final words would be, "It's 5 o'clock somewhere!" ■

## JANICE K. SHELEY

1946-2024

Janice K. Sheley, 77, daughter of Glenn and Genevieve (Van Landingham) Jacobsen, was born Oct. 26, 1946, in Perry. She passed away Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at Spurgeon Manor in Dallas Center.

Janice graduated from Perry Community Schools in 1964. She made her home in Perry and worked at the Dallas County Hospital. On Nov. 13, 1993, she



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## COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS EXPRESS FRUSTRATIONS ABOUT EMS PLANNING

BY RICH WICKS

*Guthrie Center Times*

On Jan. 11, the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors held a weekly budget preview meeting where the supervisors heard from three departments (treasurer, recorder and facilities). Each department provided a brief overview of the main budgetary factors that are being used to develop the initial numbers for the upcoming fiscal year's budget.

Facilities Manager Brandon Thompson explained the motor vehicle line item, saying, "At some point, we'd like to either get another tractor replaced or a semi or a trailer. We're coming up on that six-year mark on the trailers. We have three trucks right now and two trailers, and it's been very helpful to have that extra truck."

Treasurer Brenda Campbell and Recorder Tristen Richard each provided the supervisors a summary of their department's main budget assumptions and answered questions from the supervisors. No formal action was taken at this time.

### ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS, OTHER NEWS

On Jan. 16, the supervisors held a regular meeting. The item generating the most discussion was the possibility of having annual performance reviews for all county employees.

"I just wondered if we wanted to make a decision on having annual reviews for all employees," Supervisor Brian Johnson said. "I know some departments do it, and some don't. I think it's a best, practice, and, at worst, it protects you in case you need to let somebody go."

The supervisors discussed that, if the county were to expect annual reviews of all employees, there should first be coaching/training for the staff who would be asked to perform such reviews.

No formal decision was made, but JD Kuster summarized the discussion, saying, "We shall move forward on that and bring it up at a department head meeting."

Maggie Armstrong asked if the board was OK with her continuing to move forward with Neapolitan Labs on the plan to develop a county website. She said Neapolitan Labs seems to be the best match for what the county wants. No objections were voiced.

The supervisors also heard a report from Beth Watson regarding Veterans Affairs and General Relief.

### UNEXPECTED REPAIR COSTS TO LEC

The Jan. 23 meeting of the supervisors included discussion of unexpected repair costs to two areas in the new Law Enforcement Center (LEC). Facilities Director Brandon Thompson explained the situations and said it appears that the elevator repair is not covered under warranty.

"I guess I would like to get clarification on the service agreement and why this doesn't qualify under the warranty that we have," Supervisor Mike Dickson said.

Dickson suggested having the county attorney draft a letter to send to Schindler Elevator. Supervisor Maggie Armstrong agreed that there needs to be an explanation of what happened to create the situation in which repairs are needed and why the cost wouldn't be covered by Schindler.

Thompson explained that the showers in the LEC are allowing water to leak out due to the design of the shower stalls. He said he would check to see if a repair can be made.

### MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

The supervisors met in regular session on Jan. 30. Jotham Arber provided a summary of the budgetary numbers for Public Health, Environmental Health, and the Transfer Station.

Brenda Dudley addressed the supervisors, giving an annual update on services provided by Midwest Partnership. She asked the supervisors to consider providing annual funding of \$35,127, which she said is the same amount the

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county contributed the previous year.

"In the two county area (Guthrie and Adair), surprisingly, we've had 20 new businesses start this last year. That just amazes me. I can't take credit for any of them, but a couple of them I have helped with financing, revolving loan funds. I led them to Region 12," said Dudley.

The supervisors also heard budgetary summaries from the County Attorney and Secondary Roads departments. The supervisors approved a liquor license renewal request from The Links. The 2024 County Substance Abuse Prevention semi-annual report was also approved.

### EMS SERVICES

The supervisors met again on Thursday, Feb. 1 for a Fiscal Year 2025 budget work session. The main topic of discussion was the ongoing efforts to reach an agreement regarding EMS services in the county. Supervisor Mike Dickson summarized the efforts so far, as the cities and county have not been able to compromise on an overall plan.

"Another subcommittee formed. It happened to be on that, and a few of us on the (advisory) council met with the city council representatives," he said. "Out of that, I don't know if there is the opportunity to still come together or not. So then I put together three different options. Well, just two, really. The third option is just for the county to have their own. And at the meeting the other night, those options were taken off the table."

Asked to summarize the first two options, Dickson said the first would involve a countywide tax, if approved, and the county would then contract with the two entities in the county that currently provide EMS services (Stuart and Pandora). A coordinator would be hired to oversee the countywide services.

The second option, as described by Dickson, would be "combined forces."

"Everybody can keep their own identities, but working together, sharing employees if we need to," Dickson said.

Supervisor Steve Smith shared his opinion that compromises need to be sought so that each entity can get their concerns addressed.

"I'm trying to figure out why this has so many lines drawn in the sand, and we can't cross over and get it so that we can move forward. It just stays in the same place," Smith said. "It just feels clunky. It feels that it's taking forever to do something that I don't think should take this long."

Smith said he feels that rather than just a yes or no response, there needs to be work on tweaking proposed options

as needed to find something workable.

"You don't have five years to get this right, or six months to get this right. Get it right," Smith said.

Dickson asked for clear direction of which general option the supervisors prefer. Brian Johnson asked for more time to consider that. No board decision was made at this time.

During the Feb. 6 meeting of the supervisors, the main topics of discussion were the ongoing efforts and challenges to find a countywide EMS services plan. Guthrie County Health Director Jotham Arber shared the status of proposals and negotiations.

"The only way to push forward here is to get a proposal and then to start working on it," Arber said. "We've gone around about and we've done all kinds of things... It's going to take a collaborative effort."

Supervisor Brian Johnson voiced a concern about the timeline. He said if there is anything that will need to be on the ballots in the November election, the process needs to start moving soon.

"I would propose we set up a smaller committee," said Johnson. "We have some really talented people in this county. If we get the right people at the table — and it being five or seven at the max — we can try to put together a proposal to work with the cities to move forward. Because otherwise, I don't see any way that we can be successful at the ballot box. It's getting awful late."

Supervisor Mike Dickson voiced a concern that a smaller committee might be perceived as not having representation from all interested areas and organizations. No formal action was taken on the issue at this time.

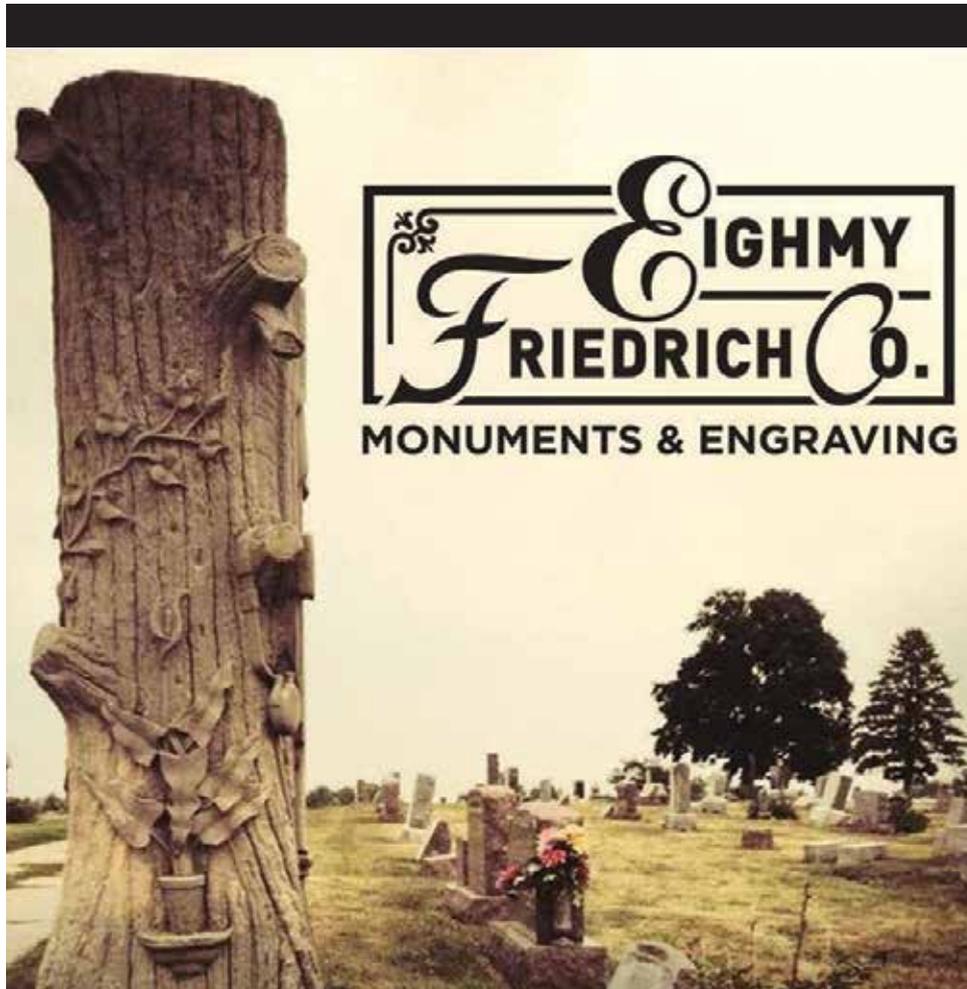
### OTHER NEWS

Brian Hoffman provided an update on the Information Technology (IT) department. He discussed the option of paying for a five-year license extension on both the Verkada door and Verkada panic system that were recently installed. The cost of these extensions would be \$2,217 and \$2,060. After discussion, the supervisors voted unanimously to purchase the extended licensing.

Jotham Arber provided a budgetary review of the expected revenues and expenses for the Transfer Station budget.

The supervisors unanimously voted to appoint Brenda Dudley to the Enterprise Board.

The supervisors meet in regular session each 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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## PEOPLE

# GET IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

**Chris Blass, who lost both arms as a result of electrocution as a youth, knows no limitations and continues to operate cars, trucks, farm vehicles, motorcycles and snowmobiles, and rides horses, too.**

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

Chris Blass of rural Casey was a typical 8-year-old farm boy. Then, something happened in a split second that changed his life drastically.

Or did it? Read on and see if your opinion changes.

"There was a snowstorm up in Storm Lake," Blass said. "We were living north of Rembrandt on my grandfather's farm. We had a three-day snowstorm and, finally, the sun came out. My younger brother, Jeff, and I wanted to go out and play."

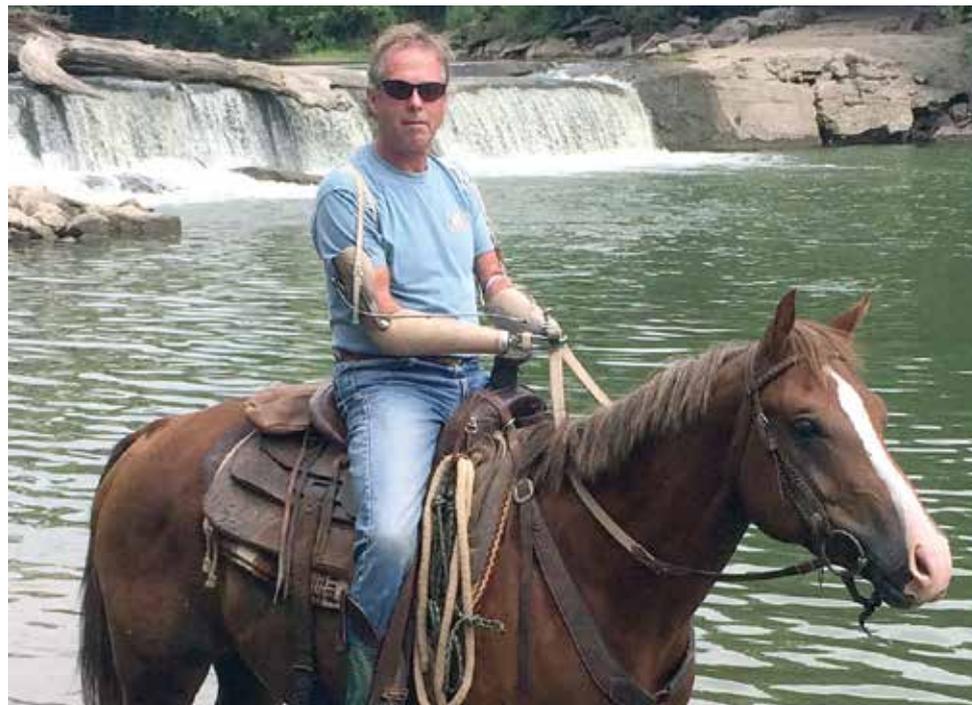
He recalls being instructed to stay close to Grandpa and to avoid the electric

wires, but Blass said those instructions went in one ear and out the other.

"That's the first place we went," said Blass. "The wires were drooped down, and I went over and picked them up... and electricity came out both palms and both wrists. I had rubber boots on and was standing on 4 feet of snow. That's what saved my life."

Although Blass survived, he lost both arms as a result of the electrocution.

"I spent three and a half months at the Shriners Hospital in Cincinnati," Blass said. "Then, that fall, I went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Mary Free Bed Hospital and got fitted for hooks. I spent about eight or nine weeks there. They showed



Horseback riding is a favorite hobby of Chris Blass.

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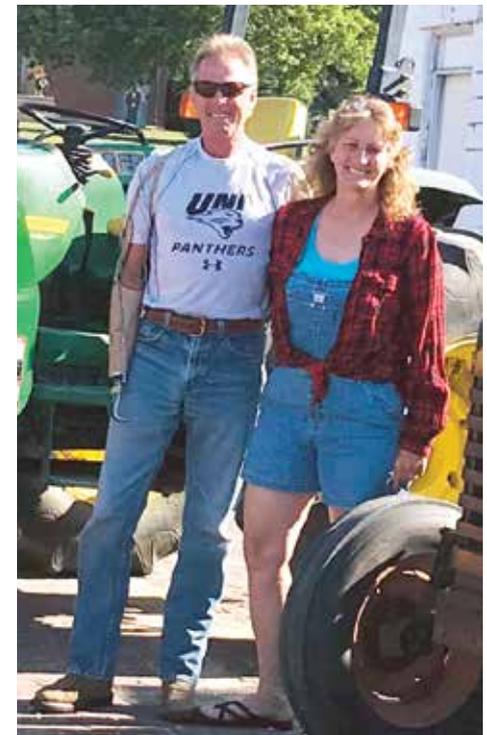
Blass admits that, because of a motorcycle accident in 2022, he doesn't really mind having fewer acres to farm. Like everyone, he has eventually made a few concessions to the aging process.

“Until the last five or eight years or so, I'd done almost everything out here by myself,” he said. “But in the last years, I sometimes point at the hired man and say, ‘Go do that.’”

Blass' life appears to be a testimony to the “tough stuff” that he's made of, and perhaps the accident many years ago simply allowed his determination to show through more obviously and immediately than it otherwise may have. This much is clear: If you're waiting for Chris Blass to feel sorry for himself, don't hold your breath. And it's never wise to bet against him when he encounters an obstacle in his life.

Looking back at all of the accidents and setbacks he has endured, Blass maintains a unique and humorous outlook. He recalled being asked why he continues to live such a daring lifestyle, riding motorcycles, snowmobiles, and other vehicles aggressively, despite numerous accidents and injuries.

“You know, when you pick up 7,200 to 7,600 volts of electricity when you're 8



Chris and Gwen Blass enjoy their farming life.

years old, you kind of figure you're never going to die,” he said. “Personally, I think God kept me around just to aggravate everybody around me.” ■

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**Fourth Row:** Ava Sneller, Lucy Knutter, Irelyn Wirt, Gracie Hodges, Caydence Boals, Camdyn Richter, Brexton Schneider, Carter Dinkla  
**Fifth Row:** Laurin Davis, Nora Langgaard, Montana Douglas, Carter Railsback, Garrett Lemke, Colt Douglas, Ty Ganzer  
**Sixth Row:** Lilly Rochholz, Piper Downing, Meranda Gruber, Rylee Robson, Lilah Heinz, Allison Drake, Calleigh Wolfe  
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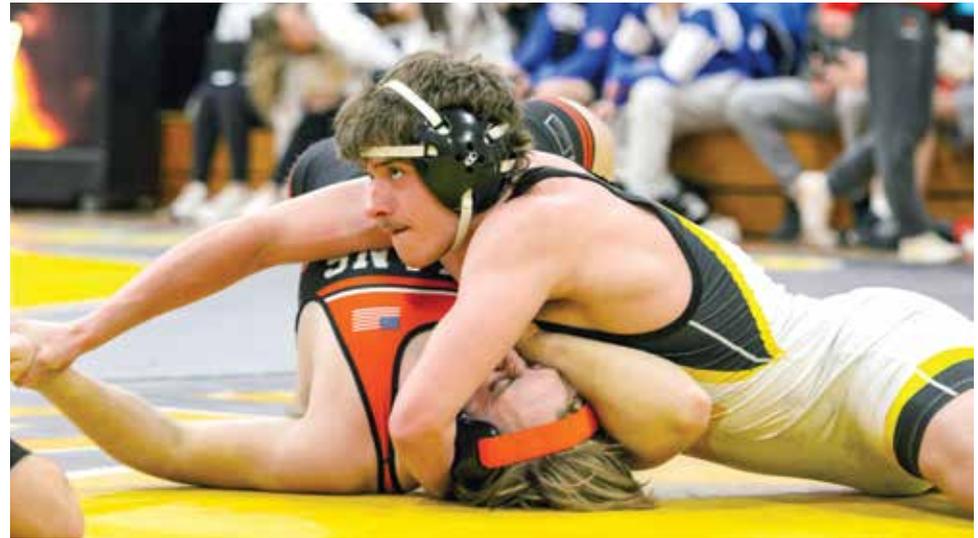
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BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Michael Fuller placed second at the WCAC invite on Feb. 1.



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

No. 14 Junior Noah Kading in the game against Earlham on Jan. 25.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Emma Brown at the West Central Valley Invite Jan. 6.



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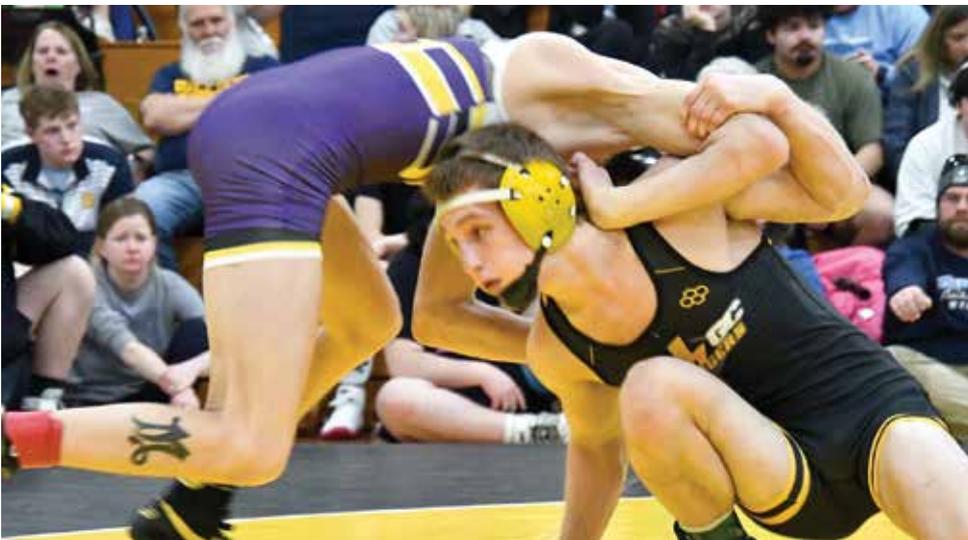
KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Cadence Petersen at the West Central Valley Invite Jan. 6.



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

No. 34 junior Payton Policky in the game against Pleasantville Jan. 2.



TABBY SLAYBAUGH | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

Tegan Slaybaugh placed third at the Charger invite on Jan 27.



MARK RENO | SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

No. 3 senior Emerson Van Meter and No. 14 junior Shay Lemke in the game against Pleasantville Jan. 2.

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# HELPING OTHERS GUIDES FUNERAL HOME BUSINESS

**Twiggs seek to lighten the burdens of people when they are at their weakest and provide the support they need.**

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

*Guthrie Center Times*

The family-owned Twigg Funeral Home, with locations in Guthrie Center and Panora, began in August 2000. That's when Doug and Kathy Twigg purchased the Beidelman Funeral Home.

Doug Twigg graduated from the Wisconsin Institute of Mortuary Science in 1969 and received his funeral director license in October 1970. He worked for funeral homes in Estherville, Clarksville, Keokuk and Waterloo, then spent 16 years managing Bruce's Funeral Home in Fort Dodge before purchasing the Beidelman Funeral Home.

Soon, their oldest son, Curtis, joined the business. Doug and Kathy lived at the Guthrie Center funeral home, while Curtis, his wife, Becky, and their two daughters moved into the funeral home in Panora.

"During high school, I didn't really know what I wanted to do," Curtis says. "But during my senior year, I started thinking the funeral business might be something I would be interested in. I started washing cars, vacuuming and cleaning at the funeral home Dad managed in Fort Dodge. Eventually, Dad bought me a suit, and I started helping with funerals."

After high school, Twigg started taking courses in a pre-mortuary science program at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge. He and Becky married in August of 1991. In 1992, they moved to Houston, where he enrolled in the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service for a year-long program.

The couple returned to Iowa in 1993, and Twigg served an internship at McLaren's Funeral Home in West Des Moines.

"After a year, I received my funeral director's license and stayed at McLaren's for another year before we returned to Fort Dodge, and I started working for my

dad in September of 1995," he says.

The formation of the Twigg Funeral Home was something both Curtis and his father wanted.

"We were tired of working for a corporation and wanted to run our own funeral homes the way we thought they should be run," Curtis says. "Our goal has always been to lighten the burdens of people when they are at their weakest and give them the support they need."

"I chose this business because I wanted to help people during the worst time of their lives with a death of a loved one," Curtis says. "I enjoy helping people in general. Now being in small communities in and around Panora and Guthrie Center, we know the people we are serving and appreciate the opportunity to help them."

In October 2010, Doug and Kathy's other son, Craig, joined the family business and made his home at the Guthrie Center funeral home. He graduated from the mortuary science program at San Antonio College in 2005 and worked in funeral homes in Waterloo, Dallas, Texas, and San Diego, California, before moving to Guthrie Center. Doug retired two years later and passed away in June 2019.

Curtis Twigg is president of the business with Craig as vice president. Their mother, Kathy, helps with visitations, funerals, answering phones and delivering death notices to area stores. Becky has been involved since the business began, but Curtis says, in the early years, her main job was raising the couple's two daughters.

"Now that they are grown, she decided she wanted to help us out more with visitations, services and wherever needed," he says.

The Twigg Funeral Home website ([www.twiggfuneralhome.com](http://www.twiggfuneralhome.com)) includes recent obituaries plus a wealth of information on funeral service options and advance planning.



The family-owned Twigg Funeral Home has been in business since August 2000. This is the Guthrie Center location; there also is a funeral home in Panora. Curtis Twigg oversees the Panora location, and his brother, Craig, manages the Guthrie Center location.

"People sometimes don't think about how pre-planning one's own services will help their children or other survivors make arrangements after they pass away," Twigg says. "The best thing to do is tell someone what type of services you would want. Any information will help the survivors."

"Whether it be a burial, cremation, memorial, celebration of life, visitation, graveside service and more, that's what we are here for, to help with guidance into whatever services the family wants," he says.

Twigg says the number of people who choose cremation is growing.

"I've been licensed for 30 years, and cremation has gained in popularity, perhaps for financial reasons or the person just wanted something simple," he says. "Most families still choose to have some sort of service, either a visitation, memorial service or celebration of life. We can either arrange to bury the cremains in

the cemetery, or families can take the cremains home."

Twigg recommends people write down vital statistical information for themselves or for loved ones who may not have done any preplanning.

"We use that information for the death certificate and also for the obituary," he says. "I've had some people write their own obituary before they die. People who want to pre-plan also can call us and we can help them go through everything."

Services can be paid for in advance, as part of the pre-planning process.

"We place the money in an irrevocable burial trust at the local bank, and it stays in that account until that person passes away," Twigg says. "Another option is if the person has life insurance, they can make the funeral home the beneficiary, or we can assign a portion of that policy to pay for their services."

Being involved in their communities is



Shown left to right are members of the Twigg family, including Curtis and Becky Twigg; their daughters, Mathison and Morgan; Kathy Twigg and Craig Twigg.

important to the Twigg family members. Curtis is a volunteer firefighter with the Panora Fire Department.

“I joined in 2005, and I’m currently the president and one of the assistant fire chiefs,” he says. “If I hadn’t chosen to be a funeral director, I would be a paid firefighter somewhere. It’s another way I’m helping people, and that’s what I enjoy doing.”

Curtis also is a member of the Panora Lions Club and the Panora Masonic Lodge. Craig is a member of the Guthrie

Center Lions Club and the Guthrie Center Fire Department.

Does Twigg think preplanning might make a good 2024 New Year’s resolution?

“I feel the most important thing is to tell your family what you want if something happens to you,” he says. “I’ve had many families tell me they have no clue what type of services their loved one wanted. People don’t like to talk about death, but, unfortunately, it’s something that’s going to happen to all of us.” ■

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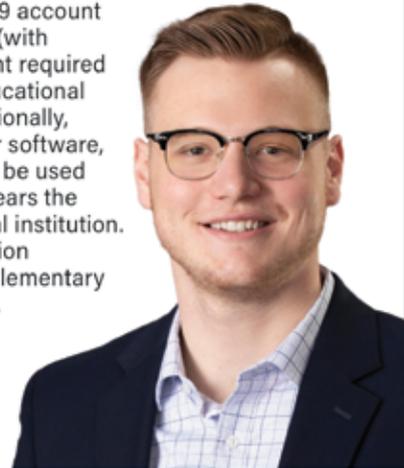
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**ELECTIONS**

# HARMANN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF

*Special to Lake Panorama Times*

Matt Harmann of rural Panora announced he will seek the 2024 Republican nomination for the office of Guthrie County Sheriff in the June 4, 2024, primary election.

Harmann has served as a Guthrie County deputy since 2018 and as the Panora Volunteer Fire Chief since 2006. He is a 2018 graduate of the police academy and currently serves as one of the Guthrie County Sheriff Department's two K9 officers.

Harmann has been active in a variety of community endeavors, including volunteer service with Guthrie County Fair Board and as an Advanced EMT with Panora EMS. He is a small business owner with more than 20 years of experience in managing budgets, projects and personnel. He enjoys farming and raising cattle in his spare time.

"I'm proud to call Guthrie County my home," he said. "I have made public service an important part of my life because I believe we must all do our part to ensure Guthrie County enjoys reliable public safety, fire protection and EMS services."

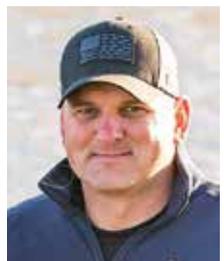
Harmann says his business background is also a highlight of his campaign.

"As the owner of Harmann Excavating, I understand the importance of managing a budget closely," he said. "As a business owner, I must balance the needs of my business, my employees and my customers. These same skills are essential to being an effective sheriff."

Harmann encourages voters to reach out to him with any questions or concerns.

"My time in public service has allowed me to meet a large number of people in Guthrie County," he said. "For those who I haven't yet met, I look forward to connecting with you as part of my campaign and appreciate your consideration for this important office."

Harmann is currently the only declared candidate for the Republican nomination for Guthrie County Sheriff. ■



**Matt Harmann**



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## EDUCATION

# ACGC SETS PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CALENDAR

## Hears report on trends in graduating students' post-secondary plans.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

The school boards of Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center school districts held a joint meeting on Jan. 17 with all members present. Each board voted to set a revised date for the public hearing on the 2024-2025 school calendar. The public hearing had originally been planned for Feb. 21 but was changed to March 20.

Counselor Barb South led a presentation to the board regarding the trends in graduating students' post-secondary plans and the programs and class offerings available. South handed out forms showing data on these topics. She summarized the trends over the past three years in graduating students' plans regarding college, career paths and military service.

One of the forms shared by South was the "Four Year Plan," which shows the various credit requirements for graduation. South noted that students who meet the credit requirements often can meet the criteria with one semester remaining in the senior year, which then allows the student to focus

on college readiness or career planning in the student's final semester of high school.

Matt Van Meter asked South, "What do you feel about our graduation requirements? Are we spot on, are we too hard? What's your opinion?"

South replied, "I feel that we are spot on. I feel like our kids are successful in college."

Superintendent Josh Rasmussen spoke about the recent school shooting at Perry.

"I did meet with our Sheriff's Department today," he said. "They were there in the building that day, so they learned some things and relayed those things to me. I'm going to discuss that with our administrative team at our next meeting. There are a couple of things that we can change to help in that area."

Rasmussen thanked all who helped deal with the challenges caused by recent snowstorms, and said he appreciates that, when nearly everything is shut down, it provides the opportunity for everyone to slow down and spend time with family.

Sarah Sheeder (School Business Official) provided a financial report on each district. For both school districts, parent-teacher conferences were set for Feb. 13 and Feb. 15, with no school on Feb. 16 and Feb. 19.

The next regular board meeting will be Feb. 21. ■



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## MJB LIBRARY NEWS

# EXPERIENCE HYGGE AT THE MJB LIBRARY

*Special to the Times Vedette*

Recently I have been reading about hygge. Hygge is a word used in the Danish and Norwegian languages, and according to Webster's Dictionary, it is a "cozy quality that makes a person feel content and comfortable. During the long, dark winters when Danes retreat inside their homes, hygge is what brings them a great sense of comfort and joy."

MJB Library is a very hygge place for people who are tired of being home and want a cozy getaway for a bit. Stop in, get a cup of coffee, and sit next to our fireplace and read the newspaper or put a puzzle together.

### COOKBOOK CLUB

Stop in and choose a recipe from this month's selection "The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Dinner's Ready" by Ree Drummond. The Cookbook Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15. Bring your prepared dish to share with the group.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME

Heart of Iowa Habitat program which serves Boone, Greene and Guthrie Counties, is recruiting for a house that will be built in 2025. See the poster on the library bulletin board for additional information. A brochure and application may be picked up from the information shelves in the entryway of the library.

### LUNCH AND LEARN

Wednesday, Feb. 14, the Guthrie County Extension Office will be sharing information about their Spend Smart Eat Smart program. Program and light lunch will start at noon. Wednesday, March 13, the Guthrie County Farm Bureau will be presenting at the monthly Lunch and Learn. The presentation runs from noon to 1 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required for both events.

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Friends of the Library will be sponsoring the second annual Trivia Night

Fundraiser. Organized to raise money to support the Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library, the event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner catered by the Cabbage Rose followed by trivia at 7 p.m. Trivia Night will be at the Guthrie Center Activity Center. Tickets are on sale now at the library for \$35 per person, which includes dinner and games. Teams can be up to eight people. Adult beverages will be available for a free will donation.

### BETWEEN THE COVERS

The March book club book will be Bill O'Reilly's "Killing the Legends: The Lethal Danger of Celebrity." Book club will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 3 p.m. Copies are available for check out.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Boredom Busters will meet Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 3:30 p.m. to make some exciting craft projects. All youth are welcome.

### Story Time

Preschool Story Time is each Friday at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16, the theme will be art. R is for Reading will be the topic of the morning on Feb. 23.

### FEBRUARY DISPLAY

Stop by the MJB Library to see Jerri Hawkins' display of Cherished Teddies and some special teddy bears she has collected.

### BOOK DISPLAYS

When you're at the library, take a minute to browse through the books in our book displays. We have displays for Black history month as well as a children's display of biographies of Black leaders, entertainers, scientists and athletes. We have some DVDs that would be great for a February date night at home. Additionally, we have a display of fiction that has been popular with our patrons. ■

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



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### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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### New Life Baptist Church

Meets in the Adair City Hall  
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[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  
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## CASEY

### St. John Lutheran Church

104 E. First St., Casey  
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### Casey United Methodist Church

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## GUTHRIE CENTER

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641-332-2408

### First Christian Church

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[www.christianchurchgc.com](http://www.christianchurchgc.com)

### First United Methodist Church

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[www.gcumcia.org](http://www.gcumcia.org)

### First Presbyterian Church

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641-332-2425

### Guthrie Center First Baptist Church

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### Guthrie Center Seventh-day Adventist Church

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### Immanuel Lutheran Church

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[www.immanuelgc.org](http://www.immanuelgc.org)

### Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

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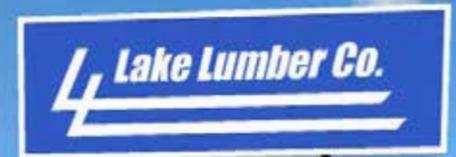
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or email  
[shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com).

## Q: WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM CASEY?

**A:** Thomas William Duncan was an author who was born and raised in Casey at 610 Wallace St. He was born in 1905. Duncan wrote circus novels, with his most famous one being "Gus the Great" in 1947. Duncan was educated at Drake University and Harvard University. He taught and worked as director of public relations at Grinnell College from 1942 to 1944. He was married to Actea Carolyn Young. Duncan died in 1987 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and was buried in an unmarked grave, which remained so until 2015.

## Q: HOW LONG IS THE SOUTH RACCOON RIVER?

**A:** The South Raccoon River is about 72 miles long. It rises in northeastern Audubon County and flows southeast through Guthrie County past Guthrie Center. The north and south forks join in Dallas County just west of Van Meter, and the Raccoon River flows eastward into Polk County, past Walnut Woods State Park and West Des Moines. It joins the Des Moines River south of downtown Des Moines and is

part of the watershed of the Mississippi River.

## Q: HOW MANY BUILDING LOTS ARE PLATTED IN CAMERON FLATS?

**A:** Cameron Flats is a housing development in Guthrie Center that is comprised of 32 residential and four commercial lots situated on 50 acres of land near ACGC High School. The lots are served by Guthrie Center Municipal Utilities including water, sewer and natural gas, as well as Panora Fiber communications services and Alliant Energy electricity.

## Q: HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RENT THE EVENT CENTER AT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS?

**A:** According to the Guthrie County Fair website, the Guthrie County Event Center, kitchen and restrooms can be rented for \$250 per day. The large room is 60 feet by 125 feet and can seat approximately 400 people. More information, a rental application and the rental rules can be found at [www.guthriecountyfair.com/rentals](http://www.guthriecountyfair.com/rentals). ■

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## RECIPE

# WARM UP WITH THIS SMOKY GERMAN POTATO, SAUSAGE AND BACON CHILI

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

*Guthrie Center Times*

There is nothing like a hot bowl of chili to warm you up during these cold winter months. I know I enjoy it, and my family does, too.



**Jolene Goodman**

If you are ready to introduce your taste buds to a new and zesty option, check out this recipe that is packed with comforting ingredients and smoky spices.

How can you go wrong with potato salad, sausage and bacon? ■

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

### SMOKY GERMAN POTATO, SAUSAGE AND BACON CHILI

*Recipe courtesy of "Dad with a Pan" on behalf of READ*

**Prep time:** 20 minutes

**Cook time:** 40 minutes

**Servings:** 8

- 4 strips thick bacon, cut into cubes
- 1 pound smoked sausage, sliced into 1-inch segments
- 1 small onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 Fresno peppers, diced
- 1 can READ German Potato Salad, drained
- 1 cup beef broth

- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, drained
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

#### Directions

In large saucepan over medium heat, cook bacon until crispy. Remove and set aside, leaving about 2 tablespoons drippings in saucepan.

Add smoked sausage and cook until browned.

Once sausage is cooked, add diced onion and minced garlic, cooking until onion is translucent.

Drain excess fat then stir in chili powder, coriander, cumin, cayenne pepper, oregano and Fresno peppers until well mixed.

Add drained diced tomatoes, German potato salad and cooked bacon to saucepan.

Add beef broth and stir to combine.



Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Bring mixture to simmer and let cook about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until flavors are melded.

**Substitution:** Jalapenos can be used for Fresno peppers. ■

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# GUTHRIE COUNTY BEEF ROYALTY



SPECIAL TO GUTHRIE CENTER TIMES

2023 Beef Queen Hayden Coffman, 2024 Beef Queen Shay Lemke, 2024 Beef Princess Paige Van Meter and 2023 Beef Princess Reagan Carney.

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

On Jan. 27, a packed house estimated in excess of 200 people was on hand at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds for the annual Guthrie County Cattle-men's Banquet. Attendees enjoyed a meal catered by Café on the Hill. Area legislators and other elected officials were thanked for attending.

One of the highlights of the banquet is the annual crowning of Guthrie County's Beef Queen and Beef Princess. 2023 Beef Queen Hayden Coffman and 2023 Beef Princess Reagan Carney told of their appreciation for the opportunity to serve in their roles for the past year. They then passed their crowns on to 2024 Beef Queen Shay Lemke and 2024 Beef Princess Paige Van Meter. ■



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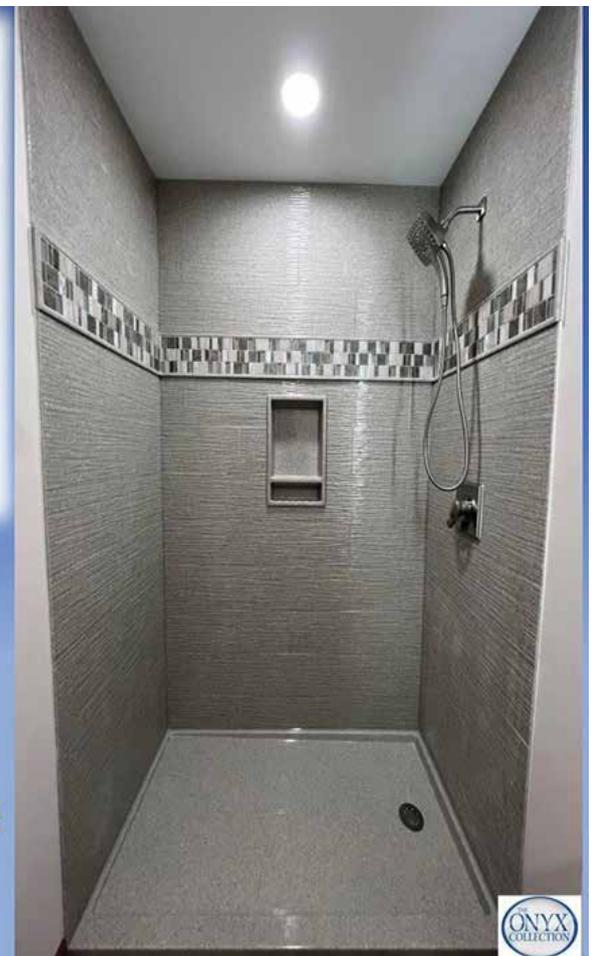


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## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE CENTER CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

During the regular meeting of the Guthrie Center City Council on Jan. 22, discussion was had about using a Guthrie County Community Foundation grant to essentially split the cost of adding new playground equipment at the city park.

City Clerk Kris Arrasmith said the total funds of the project come in at about \$44,583.

"With matching funds split between us and the Community Foundation, that puts us at about \$22,292," she said.

Arrasmith explained that the playground equipment to be ordered is called "Jungle Adventure" and is geared toward kids ages 5-12. The council approved the plan.

Snow removal expectations were discussed, and the council asked that all citizens

remember to promptly shovel sidewalks, as required by city ordinance.

The council discussed the first reading of proposed Ordinance 2024-01, regarding temporary storage containers.

"I had a question about the large dumpsters that people roll in when they're remodeling," Councilmember Garold Thomas asked. "Does that fall under this?"

Arrasmith said the proposed storage container ordinance would not address what Thomas referred to. The council unanimously approved the first reading.

The council approved the city's updated fee schedule as submitted.

Brenda Dudley addressed the council on behalf of Midwest Partnership (MWP). She mentioned the MWP 2024 annual dinner, which was held on Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Casey Community building. ■

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# YESTER YEARS

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## 50 YEARS AGO



*From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 18, 1974*

**THE 1973-74 TIGERETTES:** Kneeling from left, Kim Benton, Marty Barker, Cindy Eischeid, Cris Smith, Michele Dickey, Candy McCarty, and Jenni Webb. Standing, from left, assistant coach Bob Oleson, coach Richard Hanson, chaperone Dolores Beck, Nancy Wickland, Vickie Clark, Kim Webb, Shirley Stringham, Julie Jorgensen, Jann Sparling, Terri Artist, and managers, Patricia Buttler, Marlys Ray and Cindy Hansen.

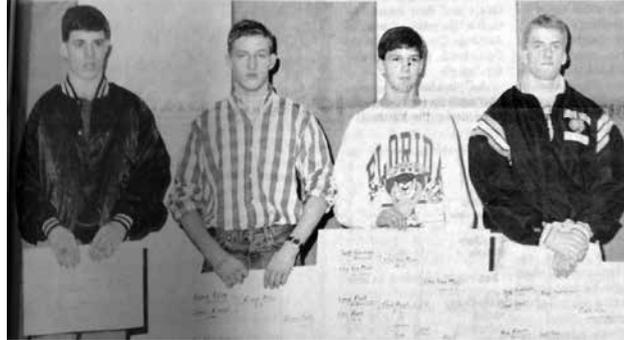
## 40 YEARS AGO



*From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 12, 1984*

**CHARITY STRIPE ACE:** David Michaelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Michaelson of 506 Ashton St., Guthrie Center, qualified for the Knights of Columbus' Free Throw State Championships Sunday in regional competition in Panora. The Guthrie Center Elementary School student will compete for the 12-year-old boy's championship March 26 in Ames.

## 30 YEARS AGO



*From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 23, 1994*

**TIGERS TO STATE:** Guthrie Center Saturday qualified four wrestlers for the state tournament for the first time in 17 years. From left, Wes Love (140), Bryan Coffman (135), Eric VanMeter (125) and Curt Pote (152). Coffman, VanMeter and Pote are seniors and all were district winners.

## 20 YEARS AGO



*From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 4, 2004*

**MANKATO?** No, just Casey. Mac Traver and Tanner Lehman of Casey braved snowboarding on the mountains of snow piled around town Tuesday afternoon.

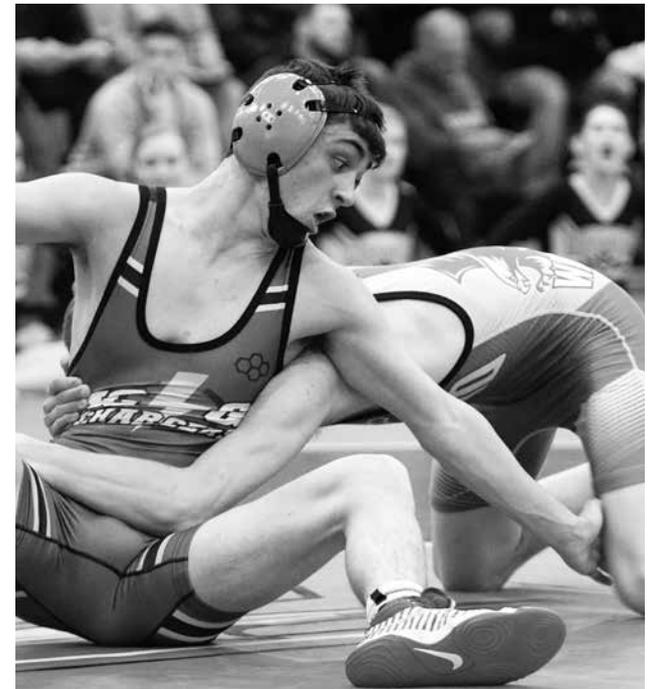
## 10 YEARS AGO



*From the Guthrie Center Times, Feb. 12, 2014*

**HARD WORK PAYS OFF:** Thursday at the state capitol, Mayor Denny Kunkle, flanked by Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, received a plaque designating Guthrie Center as a new Main Street Iowa community. Instrumental in earning the recognition were, back row, left to right: Nancy Van Meter, Laura Imerman, Ken Laughery, Dale Menning, Becky Carrico, Marian McQuaid, Debbie Menning and Pat Sleister.

## 5 YEARS AGO



*From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, Feb. 14, 2019*

**HEADED TO STATE:** ACGC's Blaine Beeler (left) secured a spot at the state tournament by winning his semifinal match by major decision over Southeast Warren's Randy Jimenez (10-2) before falling to I-35's Casey Baker in the title match. ■

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## GUTHRIE COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD

# GCH TRUSTEES APPROVE WAGE MARKET ADJUSTMENT FOR EMPLOYEES

BY RICH WICKS  
*Guthrie Center Times*

The Guthrie County Hospital Board of Trustees held a monthly meeting on Jan. 25, and the trustees discussed possible wage market pay increases for employees.

“We budgeted for raises for employees for their merit raises, which we did in September,” CEO Chris Stipe said. “This is a market raise, and for whatever reason, I wasn’t here during the budget process so I don’t know why, but we did not budget for market raises. Every year, the Iowa Health Association publishes pay rates, and we try to stay with the median rates for our jobs that match up to those.”

Stipe explained that the impact for the remainder of this fiscal year (through June 30) would be just over \$69,000. He added that the finance department proposes approval of the increases. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the plan as proposed.

The hospital’s Employee of the Quarter was Danielle Lauzon, clinical safety and quality coordinator. Lauzon also provided a quarterly report of the hospital’s quality and patient satisfaction data.

The trustees approved the purchase of several pieces of ENT equipment at a total cost of \$82,232. It is expected that the hospital’s foundation will cover \$50,000 of that amount.

Foundation Director Dennis Flanery shared information on a variety of upcoming foundation fundraising events. A cornhole tournament will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, with proceeds going toward scholarships. Handbags and Bingo will be held on Friday, April 5, with proceeds to the Nursing Endowment. The annual golf tournament will be Tuesday, July 9, with proceeds earmarked for the courtesy van and general expenses.

The GCH Foundation and Auxiliary will hold bingo every Thursday in February with a freewill donation meal from 4:45-6 p.m. followed by bingo from 6-8 p.m. The Thursday meals and bingo will be held at the Guthrie Center Activity Center, 209 State St.

The board’s next regular meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 22 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 ■



**Chris Stipe**

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# WHERE IS IT?



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



The answer for the location of last month's photo is a mural painted on the Veterans Memorial Wall in Casey. 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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