

# Panora TIMES

**JANUARY 2024**

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## DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS

**ADVICE ON HOW TO DIP YOUR  
TOES INTO THE WATERS OF  
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

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**PEDAL-IN OFFERS  
'WHEELY' GOOD FOOD**

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DISPLAYS BAKER'S ROOTS**

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**TRY THIS EASY  
ASPARAGUS SCRAMBLE**

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**FROM THE COVER:**

Panora Library Director Kim Finnegan shows the free genealogy resources available for patrons. Photo by Rich Wicks



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# A LIGHT-SKINNED, REDHEADED CHEROKEE INDIAN?

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

A few years ago, I learned about, and became enamored with, a website called findagrave.com. It is essentially a database of tombstones with information gathered by volunteers, including photos and news clippings that I spent countless hours reviewing. I was able to track my family back for generations. I learned

about Aquilla Lane, “a gallant soldier of the Revolution and an early settler on Watauga, where many members of his family moved to make their homes during the War for Independence.” I also learned of Rev. Tidence Lane, who “served as the first pastor of the first congregation of any denomination organized in Tennessee.” And Major Samuel Lane, who was born Oct. 16, 1628, in Kings Bromley Hall, Staffordshire, England.

As for my supposed Native American heritage, I couldn’t find a thing. Nada. Zip. To be fair, this site isn’t promoted



Shane Goodman

as 100% accurate, but it is a fun and interesting journey nonetheless — and it’s free.

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

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

you are knowledgeable and comfortable.

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

Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

*Shane*

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# DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS

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

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

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

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

Dennis Davies, president of the Guthrie County Genealogical Society, warned that inherent challenges exist for both virtual and hard copy types of genealogical record-keeping.

"We're really in a transitional time," he said.

Davies pointed out that hard copies are susceptible to damage from fire, water, age and other physical damage, while electronic storage, such as floppy disks, can become obsolete.

### ONLINE OPTIONS

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

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

Many totally free websites can provide genealogical information. Perhaps the largest free genealogy website is FamilySearch.org. It is owned by the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and some record collections may not be viewable online. However, the site does allow viewing of U.S. Census records.

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

The National Archives ([archives.gov](http://archives.gov)) is a free website that includes military, census, immigration and naturalization records.

The website of Ellis Island ([statueofliberty.org](http://statueofliberty.org)) holds 65 million entries of U.S. immigration records.

For those interested in burial records and/or visiting gravesites of relatives, "Find A Grave" is an excellent resource. This website ([findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)) boasts more than 170 million burial and cemetery records. The site allows users to search for gravesites by location and name. For example, if a user selects "Iowa," then "Guthrie County," then "Panora," then "Smith," within seconds, results show 27 gravesites matching these criteria. The user can then scroll through and click on any that are of interest.

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

The Panora Public Library website offers access to electronic versions of various Guthrie County newspapers from 1860 through 2019. Upon accessing the library's website, click on "Community History Archives."

### OFFLINE OPTIONS

The internet is not the only source for genealogical information. Two great local sources of genealogical information are the Guthrie Center Public Library and the Jamaica Public Library. The public libraries in Guthrie Center and Panora each offer a section with books, binders and records, including newspaper postings of births, marriages and deaths; historical information on various counties and towns; military and immigration records; and even high school yearbooks.

The most in-depth local source for genealogical information is the Guthrie County Genealogical Society. The Society's materials are housed at the Jamaica Public Library, which has many shelves of obituar-



Panora Library Director Kim Finnegan shows the free genealogy resources available for patrons.

ies; cemetery data; military records; and city, county and state records going back generations. The Society also holds monthly meetings at the Jamaica Library on the first Sunday at 1:30 p.m. New members are welcomed, with annual dues of \$15 for an individual or \$17.50 for a family membership.

From time to time, the Panora Public Library also offers classes or workshops related to genealogy. The library's website is the best place to check for such upcoming events.

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

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

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

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

"I found a second cousin that I knew existed but didn't really know her name," she said. "I found where she was buried, and she was within two miles of where we go to a quilting retreat. So, I've gotten to go

visit her grave. It's little things like that that make it fun."

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

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

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

Ron Gruber of Stuart is also a member of the Guthrie County Genealogical Society. He said that it's when older relatives pass that most people begin to realize that family history is worth saving and recording.

"Start writing down the stories you can remember, especially those that you have photos to go along with the story," he said. "Ask your siblings and other relatives, and get it all written down."

Gruber showed sheet music from 1900 that belonged to his grandmother. But he said the original was too large to fit into a standard three-ring binder, so he found someone able to shrink it down to standard letter size, and now he's able to keep that family heirloom safely stored with the rest of his genealogical research.





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

**PAID SERVICES**

A variety of companies offer a DNA service, with one of the most recognizable being Ancestry.com. Most of these companies charge about \$100 for a basic DNA genome analysis. The user receives a packet with instructions on how to collect and mail in a saliva sample. The company then develops a DNA profile from that sample and sends the results to the user. The basic profile includes information such as

the various percentages of the user’s DNA that match to various countries or regions (example: 44% Norway, 40% Great Britain, 16% Sweden). The user then can opt for additional services at additional costs, such as being informed of likely relatives who have used the same service.

Kim Finnegan, director of the Panora Public Library, showed the “library edition” of Ancestry.com that patrons can use in the library.



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

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Ron Gruber saves a piece of family history.

"We have a subscription that's paid for through the library foundation, so anyone can use it here for free," she said.

Patrons are able to do this either on the library's computers or by bringing in a personal laptop or similar device.

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

Some individuals worry they will dis-

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

For anyone who worries about intrusion of personal data, a DNA database could be the "Holy Grail" of information that could be misused in the wrong hands. There is

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

nothing more private than your personal genetic information, and sending away for a personal genome kit means sharing your DNA with the testing companies. This means that hacking could access that data if it's not properly protected. Meanwhile, some fear the government may be able to access the data if/when desired.

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

Another fairly recent development is that consumers can access information on their dog or cat by DNA sample analysis. Various companies offer these services, which generally cost around \$100, similar to the price for humans. The process appears to be similar also, with a saliva sample being collected, mailed in, and then results sent back. Pet DNA analysis helps determine which specific breeds may be represented in your pet, as well as any

related information on how the various breeds impact individual pet health, temperament and/or appearance. Company websites even state that the results can help you track down Fido's or Kitty's long-lost extended family members, if you and your four-legged friend so choose.

**AN INVITATION**

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

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

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## BUSINESS NEWS

# ARGANBRIGHT HONORED FOR SERVICE AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESIDENT

*Special to Panora Times*

The 2023 Panora and Lake Panorama Economic Development President Chris Arganbright was awarded a plaque by John Twillmann on Jan. 3 at the organization's meeting to recognize her service to the organization, which has a mission to encourage and foster sustainable economic development activities through job creation, job retention, increased tax base and an improved quality of life for the citizens in the Panora and Lake Panorama area. ■



SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

## GUTHRIE COUNTY SHERIFF

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

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

Adair County Sheriff's Office, 1 inmate,

7 days, \$420

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

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

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

WONKA. PURPLE. FERRARI. DUCKS.

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

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY  
Panora Times

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

“SALTBURN”  
(in a limited theatrical release and streaming)

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



“Saltburn”

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

“CANDY CANE LANE”  
(streaming on Amazon Prime)

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



“Candy Cane Lane”

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

“EILEEN”  
(coming to streaming soon)

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



“Eileen”

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

“WONKA”  
(in theaters and doing well)

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

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"Wonka"



"The Boys in the Boat"



"Migration"



"Anyone But You"

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

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

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

### "MIGRATION" (in theaters)

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

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

### "ANYONE BUT YOU" (in theaters)

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

### "FERRARI" (in theaters)

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

### "THE COLOR PURPLE" (in theaters)

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

### Grade: B-

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

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



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# RESTORE WELLNESS STUDIO RAISES NEARLY \$250 FOR LOCAL WOMEN TO RECEIVE MAMMOGRAMS



Special to *Panora Times*

Restore Wellness Studio (RWS), a studio that houses multiple independent businesses, was able to give back this year through a “Coin War” with other chamber businesses. The month of October was declared collection month, and a total of \$240.84 was col-

lected and donated to Guthrie County Hospital Foundation for breast cancer advancement and treatment. Participating businesses included Tribe Boutique, Panorama Benefits, Bryton Insurance Agency and Restore Wellness Studio. RWS plans to continue a yearly give-back in October for breast cancer awareness. ■

# OBITUARY

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## WILLIAM ‘BILL’ WEDDINGFELD 1934-2024

William John “Bill” Weddingfeld, 89, son of William and Frances (Brandt) Weddingfeld, was born Jan. 18, 1934, in Pender, Nebraska. He passed away Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at the New Homestead in Guthrie Center, three days short of his 90th birthday.

Bill graduated from Pender High School in 1952. He then received his B.A. degree in education from Wayne State College in 1958 and then his M.S. degree in

secondary administration from Northern Colorado University in 1963. Bill also took advanced classes in education at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Bill was a United States Army veteran, serving from 1954 until 1956. He was a member of the Frank Grubb American Legion Post No. 372, Panora. On Aug. 18, 1957, he married Paula Jean Fowler in Omaha, Nebraska. Paula passed away after complications following surgery on Jan. 13, 1967. On Oct. 28, 1967, Bill married Shirley Sue Sundermann.

Bill served as a classroom teacher, coach, high school principal and superintendent for a total of 37 years devoted to education, retiring in 1995. He served on the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union representative councils. He was a member of Iowa School Administrators and the American School Administrators.

Bill was a member of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Panora and served as president of the congregation for several

years.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Shirley Sue Weddingfeld, of Panora; daughters, Lisa Ann Longwell Prendergast (Terry) of Omaha, Nebraska; Susan Marie Jensen (Brent) of Bellevue, Nebraska; and son, Michael John Weddingfeld (Shelley) of Ankeny; five grandchildren, Jeremy Alan (Nicole) Longwell, Riley Marie and Maci Jae Jensen, and Caden John and Ashton Michael Weddingfeld; two great-granddaughters, Vivienne Marie Longwell and Ella Dee Longwell; along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Paula; sisters, Myra, Genene, Betty, Violet and Madeline; and brothers, Merlyn and Wilbur.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Panora. Burial was in the West Cemetery, Panora. Visitation was one hour prior to the services at the church.

Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family.

Services entrusted to Twigg Funeral Home, Panora. ■

# WE ARE HIRING!

Panorama Schools has the following 2024-2025 Elementary positions open:

- ELEMENTARY ART TEACHER
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Email [liz.ratcliff@panorama.k12.ia.us](mailto:liz.ratcliff@panorama.k12.ia.us) with any questions.

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PANORA TIMES

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# Panora ASK TIMES

Submit your questions to  
shane@dmcityview.com.

## Q: WHERE DOES ALL THE SNOW GO IN PANORA?

**A:** According to Panora City Administrator Lisa Grossman, the city piles up the snow at Water Works Park, which is across from Lenon Mill Park.

## Q: WHAT IS PANORA'S POLICY ON STREET PARKING DURING SNOW STORMS?

**A:** Vehicles should not be parked on streets or city parking (the area between curb and sidewalk) when snow is falling or 48 hours after snowfall or until plowed. Grossman says if the snow is deep enough, it may be two-plus days before the alleys can be plowed. "If you need to get out sooner, you may need to hire someone to clear the snow," she said.

## Q: WHAT ABOUT SIDEWALKS?

**A:** The Panora city code says snow needs to be removed within 24 hours after it stops snowing.

## Q: WHAT IS THE PRIORITY ORDER FOR THE CITY OF PANORA FOR SNOW REMOVAL?

**A:** The established priorities are as follows: 1) arterials and business commercial alleys, first priority; 2) all remaining streets including cul-de-sacs, second priority; 3) city sidewalks and public buildings, second

priority; 4) parking lots, third priority; and 5) all other alleys, fourth priority.

Grossman said no overtime for city employees will be used to plow third and fourth priorities.

The City of Panora's winter reminders can be found at [www.cityofpanora.com/docs/snowCode.pdf](http://www.cityofpanora.com/docs/snowCode.pdf).

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

**A:** We pay the United States Post Office to mail a copy of Panora Times to all residents of Panora, Linden, Yale, Jamaica and Bagley. We also pay for all businesses to receive a copy. With that in mind, we expect that you will receive what we are paying to have mailed to you, and that is exactly what happens the vast majority of the time. If you have a mailing address in one of the listed communities and, for some reason, you are not receiving your copy, please contact your local post office and let them know. In Panora, that number is 641-755-2430. In Linden, it is 641-744-2770. In Yale, 641-439-6616. In Jamaica, 641-429-3232. And in Bagley, 641-427-5291. ■



Scan this code for the City of Panora's winter reminders.

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# Presenting the 2023 Grant Recipients from the

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



**Adair Fire Department**  
New SCBA  
Filling Station



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



**Adair Boys & Girls Club**  
Activities for Adair youth



**Coon Rapids Fire Department**  
Outdated airpicks  
replaced



**City of Panora Police**  
Technology upgrades



**Guthrie County Conservation**  
Lenon Mill Park Tree  
Replacement



**Guthrie County Historical Village**  
Renovations to the 1900  
Youtz Carriage House



**Guthrie County Hospital Foundation**  
New Hospital EKG machines



**Guthrie County Public Health**  
Making AEDs accessible  
across the county



**IA College Access Network**  
Promoting opportunities  
to high school students



**Little Charger Early Learning Center**  
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learning center



**Little Panther Daycare**  
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or contact a board member.

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# Guthrie County Community Foundation



**Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library**  
New outdoor electronic sign



**Panora EMS**  
Upgrading communications equipment



**Panora Fire Department**  
New rescue equipment



**Panora Booster Club**  
New wrestling mat



**Stuart Fire Department**  
Upgrading radio communications



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



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



**Yale Fire Department**  
Upgrades to its fire-fighting equipment



**Casey Library**  
Building repairs & updates



**Menlo Public Library**  
Resources for youth reading program



**Menlo Fire & Rescue**  
Firehouse updates

**City of Coon Rapids**  
Little League equipment

**Coon Rapids-Bayard Education Foundation**  
Teacher Grant Program

**Guthrie County Fair Foundation**  
Fair bathhouse renovation

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

*The deadline to apply is midnight, January 31, 2024.*

Applications and more information about eligibility are available at  
[GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org](http://GuthrieCountyCommunityFoundation.org)

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Guthrie County for 2024**



# THE MONTH IN PANORAMA SPORTS



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Will Knapp works around his opponent to gain control in one of his matches at the PCM Tournament on Jan. 6.



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Joel Cooper works toward an escape during the championship match against his Southeast Polk opponent at the PCM Tournament on Jan. 6.



MALLORY QUICK | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

AJ Draper goes between two Nodaway Valley players to get the points for the Panthers on Jan. 11.



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Jaidyn Sellers looks for an open teammate for a pass during their game against Ogden on Jan. 5.



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MALLORY QUICK | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Mia Waddle fights for possession of the ball in a game against Nodaway Valley on Jan. 11.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Natalie Donovan at the West Central Valley Invitational on Jan. 6



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Gracie Recker at the West Central Valley Invitational on Jan. 6



MALLORY QUICK | SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Trey Boettcher gets the 3-pointer against Ogden Jan. 5. ■

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# 10<sup>2</sup> Women on a Mission

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## BUSINESS NEWS

# PANORA P.E.T.S. CLOSES

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

Panora P.E.T.S. (Protecting Even The Strays) founder and director Kristine Jorgensen announced the closing of the organization, which has been “helping cats” since 2003. The organization has been located at 114 W. Main St. in Panora.

“With the start of the new year, it is a good time to assess where we have been and where we are going,” Jorgensen stated in an announcement. “Over the last few months, we were in the process of realigning the shelter’s mission/focus for 2024 to lighten the load since we are primarily volunteer based. Many of us have been volunteering our time for over 10-plus years. However, some recent developments over the past week have changed our plans altogether.”

Jorgensen stated, effective immediately, Panora P.E.T.S. is closed for intake and will not be able to help any future animals in need. Additionally, she stated they will be closing their rescue completely after the cats in their care have been adopted.

“We have many, many wonderful cats and kittens needing families to love and care for them, so please continue to share our posts, and if you were ever considering adopting a kitty, now just might be the ‘purrfect’ time,” she stated.

Jorgensen offered thanks to the supporters over the years.

“We hope you will continue to support us during this difficult transition, and we are so very sorry to all the wonderful people that have adopted and supported us, but we are especially sorry for all the animals that may not get the assistance they need,” she stated. ■

## CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# PANORA CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES EMS PROPOSAL

## Agrees to obtain a Mobile Solar Battery Trailer at no cost to the city.

BY RICH WICKS

*Panora Times*

During the regular meeting of the Panora City Council on Jan. 8, the council discussed the status of discussions with the EMS Advisory Council.

“Last Thursday, Brian (Dorsett), Blake (Michelsen), Lisa (Grossman) and I met with the county EMS advisory group,” Mayor Curt Thornberry said. “They put together a proposal.”

Michelsen and Dorsett shared their impressions from the meeting.

“Each side is kind of holding their own, and hopefully we can work through that in the next meeting or two and finally get in a direction where we can move forward,” Councilman Dorsett said.

“There’s an argument that it could be more efficient and more cost-effective if there weren’t two services, but rather just

one,” Thornberry said, noting that County Supervisor Mike Dickson was collecting data to try to quantify the potential savings.

“We’ll see what happens,” Thornberry said. “I’m looking forward to seeing what they bring back.”

In other news, the city council approved the 2024 fire department roster and the 2024 EMS volunteer roster as presented.

The council also discussed obtaining a Mobile Solar Battery Trailer at no cost to the city. The trailer is available through funding with 90% of the costs paid through FEMA and the remainder by the state. The trailer would allow the city to have a portable power source for incidents such as power outages or certain events. The council agreed this would be a worthwhile piece of equipment to have.

The council members each signed the City Council Personal Code of Conduct.

The council’s next regular meeting will be Monday, Jan. 22 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is accessible electronically through GoToMeeting as allowed by Section 21.8 of Iowa Code. Web link: <https://meet.goto.com/cityofpanora> or phone call: 1-(312)-757-3121 Access code: 295-099-701 Audio PIN: 220 # ■



# THE PORT CLOSSES TEMPORARILY

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Effective Jan. 1, The Port at Lake Panorama has closed. According to a note on the

restaurant’s door, it will remain closed until spring. Any updates will be posted on the Facebook page of The Port at Lake Panorama. At this time, the restaurant is expected to reopen by Saint Patrick’s Day. ■

CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# LOPEZ AND FEAR JOIN YALE CITY COUNCIL

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

At the Jan. 4 meeting of the Yale City Council, Mindy Fear and Amber Lopez

were appointed to fill two vacancies on the council. Each will fill the remainder of the terms, which run until 2025, unless a special election were to be held prior to November 2025. ■

EDUCATION

# PANORAMA SCHOOL BOARD TO ACCEPT BIDS ON NORTH PARKING LOT PROJECT

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

A regular meeting of the Panorama School Board was held on Jan. 8. The board discussed the North Parking Lot Improvement Project. Final plans were reviewed, and the board approved a resolution to begin seeking bids. The board plans to open bids and select a contractor during the regular meeting of the board on Feb. 12. A public hearing on the project is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 12. The project is expected to begin shortly after the current school year ends in May and is to be completed in August.

In other news, the board noted the following staff resignations for the 2023-2024 school year: Anna Kastner, (football cheer sponsor), Michele Recker (JH softball coach) and Sarah Gilge

(wrestling cheer sponsor). The board noted the following resignations for the 2024-2025 school year: Laurie Behrends (early retirement), Carla Church (early retirement) and Miranda Meinecke (elementary special education teacher).

In the “Good News” portion of the meeting, the board heard that three students were selected by Wartburg College to perform in this year’s Meistersinger Honor Choir Festival on Monday, Jan. 22. They are Mary Fett (10th grade), Emme Hardisty (11th grade), and Taylin Woolheater (10th grade).

Panorama Schools will be closed for Professional Development on Feb. 12 and 26.

The next meetings of the Panorama School Board will be a work session Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m. and a regular meeting on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. ■

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# PEDAL-IN OFFERS 'WHEELY' GOOD FOOD

**Located on Highway 44, right next to the Raccoon River Valley Trail in Panora**

**BY RICH WICKS**  
*Panora Times*

Around Panora, PJ's Restaurant was well-known for decades. Although it's now under different management and sports a new name, the tradition has continued. Owner Nicole Kidney shared the story of how she took over the business and what she has planned for Pedal-In.

Kidney was well aware of the history of PJ's in Panora.

"I had worked at PJ's for several years," she said. "I had left and been gone for two years before it came up for auction. The timing was just right, so I bought it."

Located on Highway 44, right next to the Raccoon River Valley Trail in Panora, PJ's was a longtime Panora landmark. Kidney didn't plan any major changes but simply aimed to make sure the building and equipment were ready to reopen.

"I bought it at the auction in August of 2022," Kidney said. "The plan initially was to buy it and open up right away. But as I got in here, I figured it needed a little bit of work, so I decided maybe it was



Owner Nicole Kidney welcomes all to stop in.

best to close for a month or two and start off on the right foot. We ended up opening on Nov. 22 of 2022. It was kind of a blessing in disguise that we didn't open up right away, because more needed to be done than we initially thought."

Upgrades were made to the building and equipment. Kidney says she is now in the process of adding more storage space and shelving for the restaurant inventory.

As much as possible, Kidney has tried to keep the restaurant's offerings unchanged from before she became the owner.

"I didn't take anything away on the menu," she said. "I just added a few things because I wanted it to be a smooth transition."

Asked about any signature items or best-sellers, Kidney said the breaded tenderloin is a favorite entrée, and the



Even the kids menu has a cycling name.



Pedal-In is located right next to the bike trail in Panora.

PHOTOS BY RICH WICKS | PANORA TIMES





Nicole Kidney enjoys the mural inside Pedal-In.

soft-serve ice cream is popular, too. She also mentioned the smoked pulled pork, which is homemade, taking eight hours to smoke the meat to perfection. Other entrée menu items include sandwiches, burgers, quesadillas, chicken strips, salads and wraps. Dessert items include cones, malts and sundaes with 17 topping choices.

Kidney explained that PJ's had a long-standing tradition of offering a fish fry every Friday night, and she's bringing that back.

"When we opened in November of 2022, we started with a fish fry," she said. "But then, as summer got closer and we got busier, I didn't have enough fryer space to designate one fryer just for fish, so I took it away for the summer and early fall. But now that's back, every Friday night. A lot of people had been asking for it."

Pedal-In also offers a daily weekday special.

"This time of year we do soups, too," she said.

Currently, seven employees help Kidney handle the cooking and serving duties, but she needs more help during the busy summer months.

"Last summer, I had 14 people working here at one point. The summertime

is nice because I've got the nice, covered patio, so there's a lot more outdoor seating," said Kidney.

Regarding how she chose the name Pedal-In, Kidney said, "I definitely named it playing off the bike trail that we're right next to. For sure, the summer is the busy season, not just with the bikes, but with it being a lake town."

Pedal-In has many bicycle-themed decorations, and Kidney even incorporated the theme into the kids menu, which she named "Training Wheels."

Looking to the future, Kidney said she strives to listen to what customers want, and she's eager to make changes as needed. She recognizes that sometimes customers may have kids or pets in the vehicle, and coming into the restaurant for a to-go order isn't convenient.

"We're trying to add some type of drive-through," she said. "That could be something that happens in the next several years."

Kidney appreciates the way that the community has welcomed her and supported her business.

"When we first opened, we were so busy all the time," she said. "The feedback about the food and customer service was so positive. For me, that meant a lot." ■



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# YESTER YEARS

COMPILED BY CHERYL CASTILE

## 50 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 23, 1974

**AT FARM BUREAU CONVENTION:** Above is Guthrie County's delegation to the American Farm Bureau convention at Atlantic City, New Jersey, Jan. 13-17. From left to right are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wood of Panora; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Chaloupka of Yale, county Farm Bureau voting delegate; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Deardorff of Yale; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wood of Panora, president of the county Farm Bureau.

## 40 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 26, 1984

**HAM HAWKS:** The Panora-Linden basketball team fired up for a pair of weekend games with a pep meeting Friday that included the selection of a "Mr. Legs" by the student body. Vying for the title were Bruce Lundberg, Steve Bell, Kip Janvrin, Mike Donahey and Brad Pote. Janvrin was crowned by cheerleaders.

## 30 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 13, 1994

**SEVENTH GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM:** Front row, Allison Hemphill and Tina Smith. Second row, Chaille Reynolds, Annie Millhollin and Natalie Hopkins. Back row, Laura Engle, Sarah Deardorff, Brooke Snyder and Kelly Baker.

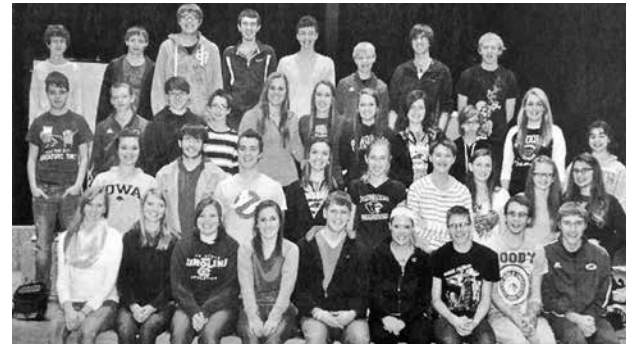
## 20 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 8, 2004

Over Christmas break, the Panora library held a book discussion group for third, fourth and fifth graders. The group of nine readers met two times during the week of Dec. 29. At the first meeting, the group discussed "The Kid in the Red Jacket" by Barbara Park. All present agreed that it deserved a "thumbs up" rating and that it was very funny. At the second meeting, each participant talked about one of his or her favorite books. The discussion group finished up with a pizza lunch. Pictured, left to right, are Ethan Sparks, India Sparks, Carleigh Martin, Lucas Lazenby, Sarah Lazenby, Kelsey Wood, Tiffany Hemphill, Samantha Irving and Sadie Baker.

## 10 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Vedette, Jan. 30, 2014

**PHS LARGE GROUP SPEECH TEAM:** Front, from left, Connor Wood, Brinnae Behrends, Alli Meinecke, Emma Thornberry, Kody Gafjken, Jenna Bump, Boe Druivenga, Joe James, Nathan Block. Second row, Emilie Prince, Zac Stetzel, Micah Haworth, Veronica Maere, Macey Wilke, Logan Gremler, Katlyn Wasson, KC Gafjken, Skye Demonbreun. Third row, Trevor Babcock, Will Babcock, Jake Meinecke, Ben Marwedel, Emily Houston, Grace Arganbright, Michelle Mleynek, Kylee Muyskens, Paige Johnston, Jenna Holwegner, Jenna Bauch. Fourth row, Mark Arganbright, Blake Hoffman, Kevin McClatchey, Sam Bassett, Ethan Laughery, Chance Webster, Jesse Haworth, Eddy Mortensen.

## 5 YEARS AGO



From the Guthrie County Times Vedette, Jan. 24, 2019

**PANORAMA SCHOOLS GIVE BACK DURING 'SNOWCOMING' WEEK:** A few members of the Panoramia Middle School Student Council take a photo during "hat day," which raised money for the 3 Cs clothing drive. Pictured are: Back row: Arilyan Steenblock 6th, Kelsey Laabs 6th, Lindy Nelson 7th, Jazmyn Sellers 8th. Front row: Eli Hammerstrom 6th, Jadyn Sellers 7th, Zander Hammerstrom 6th. Not pictured: Willow Buttler 8th, Evie Greenlee 8th, Cloe Nance 8th, Mackenna Wehmeyer 8th, Donovin Delp 7th, Maddox Nunn 7th. ■







SPECIAL TO PANORA TIMES

Landon and Lindsey Loftsgard, with their children Brooks and Annie.

# LOFTSGARDS LOOK TO KEEP PANORAMA GARDENS GROWING

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Landon and Lindsey Loftsgard are the new owners of Panorama Gardens in Panora. Their initial goal, according to Landon, is to keep things running the way that customers have expected during the 70 years that the business was run by the Olson family. Not only are there no immediate plans for drastic change, but there is a process in place to assure continuity. “Panorama Gardens was in the Olson family, started by Dave’s father, since the

early 1950s, and they’re staying on for the next couple weeks to do some training and ensure a smooth transition,” Landon said. A grand opening event for the new owners is tentatively planned for the spring with the date and details to be announced later. As the new owners settle in, some expansions are likely. “Further down the road, we’re looking at bringing in some expanded garden products, like patio furniture and trees,” Landon said. “We’re definitely open to ideas.” ■

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PANORA TIMES 

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## COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

# GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISORS DENY APPEAL OF MINOR SUBDIVISION DECISION

## JD Kuster appointed chair with Maggie Armstrong as vice chair.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

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

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

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

## PAY INCREASE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF 7.25% APPROVED

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

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

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

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

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


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

## NEED ANOTHER SEMI OR TRAILER


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 de-




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partment's main budget assumptions and answered questions from the supervisors. No formal action was taken at this time. The supervisors are continuing to hold budgetary preview meetings each Thursday at 9 a.m.

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
REVIEWS FOR  
COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

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 review 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.

The supervisors hold a regular meeting 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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HOBBIES

HERITAGE QUILT DISPLAYS BAKER’S ROOTS

Project took more than 80 hours to complete.

BY RICH WICKS  
*Panora Times*

Connie Baker of Panora found a unique way to preserve family history, through a mix of technologies old and new.

“My mom passed away in November of 2017, and she had seven siblings,” she said. “They were all of Danish heritage, and my grandparents came from Denmark on ships with their families when they were young. I got started going through my mom’s old pictures. I actually found my grandparents’ wedding picture from 1912.”

That’s when Baker came up with the idea of creating a heritage quilt. She has been quilting for 35 years and found a way to incorporate many of the photos into a quilt. Beginning in the spring of 2018, she started working on her project.

“I just started getting some of the pictures rounded up, and then I had them enlarged to 8 by 10 size,” Baker said. “Then I ran them through my printer with this special cotton fabric that my husband found on the internet. It prints on the cotton, and you peel the back off of it, and you can sew it right onto your quilt.”

The product she used is called “ink-jet printing cotton sheets,” which Baker said comes in 8.5 by 11 inch sheets. She added that, if the care instructions are followed, the photo quilt can be laundered just as with any other quilt. Baker was pleased with the crispness of the photos on her completed quilt.

“Even though I had to enlarge some of the photos, it was amazing how well they turned out. They weren’t grainy or anything,” Baker said.


According to Baker, the entire project took more than 80 hours to complete.

“It turned out really nice. I was really happy with it,” she said. “Every summer, we have a reunion with all of my cousins. I had taken it to one of the reunions




Connie Baker preserves family history in her quilts.

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Connie Baker shows her heritage quilt.

right after I had made it, and everybody loved it.”

Because of the overwhelming positive reaction to her heritage quilt, Baker decided to tackle an even larger project.

“This February, I decided to surprise my 12 cousins and make some more of those for the reunion,” Baker said.

Recalling the scale of the project, Baker said, “I worked on the additional 12 from February until I finished them in the third week of May, and I was working on them pretty steady almost every day.”

As a result of all that hard work, Baker was able to surprise her cousins at the family reunion in early June.

“I was very busy, but it was worth it,” she said. “I made them all cry when I pulled them out.” ■



The completed quilt shows the personal touches.

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



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Goodman**

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- 2 tablespoons olive oil
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- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- 1.5 tablespoons chopped chives (optional)
- freshly ground black pepper

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



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# HISE HONORED AMONG IOWA'S 100 GREAT NURSES OF 2024

Special to Panora Times

An LPN at Guthrie County Hospital and Clinics has been named an honoree on the 2024 list of 100 Great Iowa Nurses. Each year, the 100 Great Iowa Nurses program asks for patients, coworkers, friends and family members to nominate an outstanding nurse for recognition. After a review process, 100 Great Iowa Nurses are honored each year at a ceremony created for the state of Iowa. This year, Jentry Hise, GCH Clinics LPN, was included in the list. She was nominated by a community member and will be recognized at a virtual award ceremony in the spring. Below are excerpts from her nomination letter.

"Jentry is the nurse at the small-town clinic in our town. Known and loved by all as a nurse. She's worked at the clinic in our town longer than anyone else that's come and gone from there. If that doesn't speak for itself, then I don't know what does. She serves her small town as the only nurse in town, on boards, and volunteers for organizations and fundraisers. Her hard work and dedication to the community speaks for itself as she always demonstrates compassion for the community and the nursing field."



Jentry Hise

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## LINDEN

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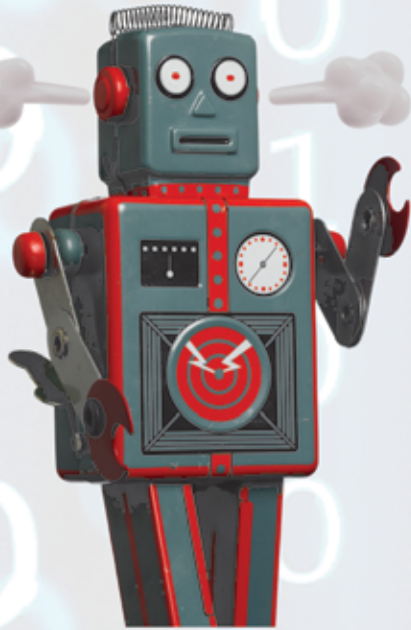
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