



A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION WWW.LAKEPANORAMATIMES.COM NOVEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 53 | NUMBER 11

# THE HISTORY, AND FUTURE, OF BARGE SERVICE ON LAKE PANORAMA

Lake Panorama Barge, Van Houten Barge, and Deluxe Docks & Lifts offer lake residents a variety of services.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

As soon as Lake Panorama filled in 1970, property owners were looking for ways to perform various tasks on their waterfront lots. The May 1972 edition of Lake Panorama Times featured a photo of an old Army “Duck” boat that plied Lake Panorama waters for several years.

Tom Contner hired the duck boat owner to set his boat lift, which gave him an idea for a business opportunity. At the February 1986 LPA board meeting, Contner told the board he was having a barge built. His Lake Panorama Barge Service would be available to waterfront lot owners for a fee.

The 12-foot-wide and 35-foot-long barge was built in Jefferson and launched in 1986 from a trailer at the marina. Contner’s main use for the barge was setting boat docks and lifts each spring and reversing the process each fall. He also removed large logs after flood events, did riprap work, hauled beach sand, and once was hired to hydro-seed a shoreline lot from the water.

Contner sold the business in April 1994. Following is a look at how barge service businesses have expanded to meet demand as Lake Panorama grows.

## LAKE PANORAMA BARGE SERVICE

Once Contner sold the Lake Panorama Barge Service, business continued as usual with ownership moving through a couple of different entities. For several years, Danny Cunningham was one of the barge operators. In 2003, he and his wife, Gina, purchased the business from Neil and Jolene Wright.

Besides boat lift and dock installation and removal, Lake Panorama Barge Service sells Shore Station lifts, docks and accessories. The business also supplies parts, labor, maintenance and repairs.

“We have been to all of the annual Shore Station service schools to stay current on their product lines,” Cunningham says.

The company still operates the Lake Panorama Barge that was built in Jefferson in 1986. In 2017, Cunningham added floats on each side to widen the barge to 18 feet.

“As lifts got bigger, it became important to have a wider barge to more safely transport lifts,” he says. “I also added thrusters up front to make it easier to move the barge sideways, which helps with maneuverability around docks.”

In the winter of 2020, Cunningham purchased a second barge in Wisconsin, then add-



Danny Cunningham was one of the Lake Panorama Barge Service operators for several years before purchasing the business in 2003. He’s shown at the helm of the original barge first launched in 1986, along with employees Austin McMichael and Jason Alsted.

ed a crane to it in his shop located at 1965 Highway 4, just north of the east entrance to Lake Panorama. He planned to use it that summer, but the COVID pandemic made it difficult for him to find the necessary workers to operate two barges.

That changed this fall when Cunningham launched the second barge and has been operating both on days when he has employees available and there is enough work. For instance, Lake Panorama Barge Service provides lift and dock placement and removal for all the condos along the east edge of Lake Panorama’s main basin. That work was completed more quickly this fall because both barges were in use.

Cunningham says spring is the busiest time for his business, because “everyone is anxious to get on the water. We do offer priority service to 40 customers each year who pay an extra fee to be at the

BARGE, PAGE 4

# MORE SWINGING BENCHES INSTALLED AT BOULDER BEACH

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

In 2019, Friends of Lake Panorama launched a program called Benches at Beaches. It started as a way to help families donate a high-quality metal bench that could include a plaque to memorialize a loved one. Each bench then is installed at the beach of the donor’s choosing.

Benches at Beaches targets individuals, couples and families interested in sponsoring a single bench. Benches can be purchased as a memorial for a loved one or by those who want to leave their mark on Lake Panorama while they are alive. Both stationary and swinging benches are available.

Two new blue swinging benches were installed in mid-October at Boulder Beach. These join two

other swings and one stationary bench at Boulder. A swinging bench was added to Shady Beach in May. Both a stationary and a swinging bench were installed at Sunset Beach in 2021.

The current cost of either stationary or swinging bench on a concrete slab is about \$3,350. Smaller memorial benches have been donated and installed at all three beach playgrounds and are another option donors can consider.

In keeping with the colors used for beach playground equipment, bench colors available are blue and green. Those interested in discussing a bench sponsorship can email [staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org](mailto:staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org) or call Susan Thompson at 515-240-6536. Read on to learn more about the two new swings at Boulder Beach.

**Cindy McCarty**

Cindy McCarty liked the idea of donating a bench while she can personally enjoy it. She grew up in Guthrie Center and graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1971 during the earliest days of Lake Panorama’s development.

“We used to come here after school and during the summer to swim and water ski with friends before there were any homes or other developments at the lake,” McCarty says. “It was beautiful then, and still so beautiful today.”

She lived away from Iowa during her college years, in Missouri for her undergraduate degree and in South Dakota for graduate school. Then she returned home and lived on a farm west



Some of Cindy McCarty’s family joined her in late October for a photo on the swinging bench she donated at Boulder Beach. Pictured left to right are McCarty; twin 10-year-old grandchildren, Presley and Bennett; and her daughter, Emi Swope, holding 6-year-old Beckett. Emi and her husband, Steve Swope, and their three children live in Adel, where the children attend ADM Community School.

BENCHES, PAGE 6

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## ON THE LAKE

# A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

**BY SHANE GOODMAN**  
*Editor and Publisher*

With the Thanksgiving holiday just around the corner, it is a time for us all to give thanks for our families, our friends, our co-workers and all the other wonderful people we have the opportunities to get to know.

**Inspiring others**

Our company, Big Green Umbrella Media, also publishes CITYVIEW magazine, and we hosted an event last week called 22 from 2022, in which we honored people who made a positive difference in the central Iowa business community. We opened it up to nominations from readers, and we then selected the top candidates and honored them at an event at the Sherwood Forest Events Center on Nov. 3. Jolene and I presented awards to each of the honorees, and I briefly shared their accomplishments and examples of how they have selflessly given to the business community. In my opening comments, I shared a quote that says, "Success isn't just about what you accomplish in your life; it's about what you inspire others to do."

In sharing the amazing things that these folks have done, it made me think about what more we all could do. I am a firm believer in supporting local businesses and that we all win when local businesses win. We should all keep that in mind as we shop for the holidays, go out for dinner and make even the simplest of purchases.

**Social media mob culture**

The LPA recently posted comments in its Panorama Prompt email newsletter regarding how to effectively communicate with the staff or the board of directors regarding any concerns with day-to-day operations, suggesting doing so directly via a phone call or an email to the LPA office. In the post, the LPA also acknowledged the "popularity and convenience of social media sites" but stated how they will not engage in debate on those forums. I wholeheartedly agree. My personal experience is that LPA staff and board members welcome the opportunity to work directly with members to resolve issues as best they can.

I am disheartened by the negative posts in recent months on social media platforms — most notably Nextdoor — that condemn the work of volunteers and area merchants and service providers, with some comments going as far as suggesting boycotts of these businesses. We are fortunate to live in a free country, and we have choices on where we choose to spend our money. Thank goodness for that.

I am a big supporter of free speech, but we also need to show some common courtesy and respect for others, especially during times of staffing shortages and supply chain issues. When we do have a problem or concern, we should attempt to resolve it directly with the source and not resort to the mob culture that so many social media sites have become feeding grounds for.

Social media users often forget that their comments and posts are searchable records, attached to their names forever. The issues or concerns they have may eventually be resolved or repaired, but those posts are permanent and, as such, not easily forgotten. During this time of giving thanks, I offer this as a reminder that we can all do better.

**Thanksgiving humor**

I veered off from my lake humor in last month's column and offered Halloween jokes instead. I will keep the holiday trend going and give you a few Thanksgiving funnies to share around the turkey this year.

Why do turkeys love rainy days? They love foul weather.

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day? Quack, quack.

What happened to the turkey that got in a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him.

What sound does a limping turkey make? Wobble, wobble.

And finally, what do you call a turkey the day after Thanksgiving? Lucky. ■

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

A FAMILY MOVIE, A BEAUTIFUL MESS, NO. 13, AND UNHEALED WOUNDS

And “Black Adam” vs. “Tickets to Paradise”

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

It’s another skinny month at the movie theaters, but every week you can feel the momentum (and number of releases) building toward the November and December holiday releases.

“Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile” (in theaters)



Based on a classic children’s book series, “Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile” is one of the better family movies you will see this year. Not quite as fun as the latest “Minions” movie but, in its own way, maybe better. Javier Bardem plays a down-on-his-luck entertainer trying to get a big break. When he happens upon a tiny baby crocodile who can sing, he feels that his dream to be a superstar entertainer might come true after all. Fun, great songs and full of just plain old charm, “Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile” will delight kids and parents. **Grade: B+**

“Amsterdam” (in theaters)



With a cast that includes Robert DeNiro, Chris Rock, Margot Robbie, Mike Meyers, Rami Malek, Christian Bale, John David Washington, Anya Taylor Joy and Taylor Swift, you kind of get excited about this movie. When you see that it was written and directed by David O Russell (“American Hustle,” “Silver Linings Playbook,” “The Fighter” and “Three Kings”) you really become eager to see it. Imagine my shock when I saw a completely incoherent film that, to this day, I’m not sure what the plot was or why anyone would care. This might go down as one of the biggest wastes of talent I’ve ever seen. The best I can say is that it is a beautiful mess. **Grade: C-**

“Halloween Ends” (in theaters)



Jamie Lee Curtis is back for the final chapter in the 13th “Halloween” series of movies. I still think the 1978 original is the scariest movie I’ve seen in theaters. The rest of the series has been up and down with perhaps more downs than ups. This last film is somewhere in the middle. We do get to see Michael Meyers, the original creepy guy, but the movie actually focuses on a young man suffering from being bullied and a chance encounter with Meyers that changes his life... and not in a good way. **Grade: C**

“Tickets to Paradise” (in theaters)



I was eagerly awaiting the box office results to see if George Clooney and Julia Roberts could hold their own against “Black Adam” and Dwayne Johnson. If you pay attention to these types of things, you already know that it wasn’t much of a fight with “Black Adam” winning \$67M to \$16M over George and Julia. While neither are great films, “Ticket to Paradise” is particularly disappointing with a lackluster script that creates little interest in any of the characters. **Grade: C+**

“Black Adam” (in theaters and streaming)

The winner with a \$67M opening weekend gives us a glimpse into a character from the DC Comics universe who many might not know, including me. This character seems to have mythic origins, which leads to his search for a very powerful stone that has been used to make a powerful crown. Much crazy action ensues. A little too much crazy action ensues, in my opinion. **Grade: B-**



“Till” (in theaters)



A powerful and emotional look at the horrific murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy who, in 1955, was beaten so badly he was unrecognizable. At his funeral, his mother insisted on an open coffin. To this day, no one has paid for this crime, even after the two men confessed in LIFE magazine to the murder. It is a sad chapter in our nation’s history, and the film does a great job telling this story. The wounds from this event are still not healed. **Grade: A-**

Well, that’s it for this month. Every day I see a new trailer for an upcoming movie that makes me hopeful for a great holiday season. Always the optimist. See you at the movies. ■

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 Lake Panorama.



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BEFORE

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BEFORE

AFTER



BARGE  
FROM PAGE 1



Lake Panorama Barge Service added a second barge this fall. The company provides lift and dock placement and removal for all the condos along the east edge of Lake Panorama’s main basin. In this photo, the new barge is on the left with the original barge on the right.

top of our installation list. The timing still is weather dependent, but our goal is to get to these customers in the first two weeks after ice goes out of the lake.”

Summers are spent answering service calls, delivering new product, offering sand delivery, even trimming trees and repairing rip rap.

“We also complete repair and maintenance work that we can’t get scheduled during the busy seasons. We spend our winter months maintaining equipment, planning for spring sales and assembling new product to ensure early spring delivery,” Cunningham says.

Jason Alsted is a full-time employee who has been with Cunningham for five years. Austin McMichael, a recent Panorama graduate, is in his third year of seasonal work on the barge.

“A shout out to my current crew and all those who have helped in the past,” Cunningham says. “It’s difficult to find great people who are willing to work in the elements and under the crunch time pressures of the spring and fall seasons of this business.”

Each year, Lake Panorama Barge Service installs and removes about 350 boat and jet ski lifts, plus hundreds of docks.

“I’m grateful to have met so many amazing people through this business,” Cunningham says. “I encourage customers to get in touch before the busy season to get on our schedule. Once we’re on the water, I can’t take phone calls. The motor is too noisy, and we’re usually on a job.”

Text or call Cunningham’s cell at 515-971-0226, email [lpbarge@att.net](mailto:lpbarge@att.net) or call the shop at 641-755-3351.

**VAN HOUTEN BARGE SERVICE**

As the number of waterfront lot owners grew, so did demand for services. At the July 2001 LPA board meeting, Mark Van Houten discussed the possibility of starting a new barge service. He requested the board limit additional competitors from entering the market until he could develop the business. The board approved Van Houten’s business plan and voted to limit barge service to two viable business operations for a period of three years.

Van Houten started his barge service that fall. He did much of the work to build his barge with help from another company. It is 12 feet wide, 30 feet long, and weighs 38,000 pounds.

During the boating season, the barge is docked overnight at the end of one of the marina slips. But most days, if the



Mark Van Houten has been operating this barge since the fall of 2001. He doesn’t sell any products but does all installations for lifts and docks sold at Coulter Marine. Spring and fall are his busiest times, with lift and dock installation in the spring and removal in the fall, plus repair work during the summer months.

weather is good, Van Houten is on the barge somewhere on the lake. He has one full-time employee, Justin Firebaugh, and hires part-time help for spring and fall.

Van Houten doesn’t sell any products, but he does all installations for lifts and docks sold at Coulter Marine. Spring and fall are his busiest times, with lift and dock installation in the spring and removal in the fall, plus repair work during the summer months.

“As waterfront homes were built, many people bought lifts and docks at about the same time,” Van Houten says. “Now those are getting old, and people are replacing them with new. Much of my summer is spent hauling old equipment to the landfill and installing new lifts and docks. Or people move from one place to another and need to have their docks and lifts moved, too.”

Van Houten sends a mailer each spring and fall to current customers asking them what services they want to schedule with him. Once the completed form is mailed or emailed back, he adds those requests to his list.

“This is the best way for customers to be sure I have them on my schedule,” he says. “During the busy times of the year, I’m the guy doing the work, and I can’t stop in the middle of a job to answer phone calls. If someone hasn’t already responded to the mailer I sent, they can text or email me.”

Van Houten knows people are anxious to get their docks and lifts in the water each spring, and sometimes try to find out when he’ll get to them.

“Weather plays a big part in the timing,” he says. “If it is windy at your place, I can’t do it. I’m probably hiding out of the wind, working in coves or

where the wind isn’t as strong.”

Timing also depends on where he can group various jobs.

“My barge moves at what I call a turtle pace; it’s not very fast. It takes me 45 minutes to get from the marina to the north end of the lake. It doesn’t make sense for me to go all the way to the north end for one job, just because that’s the order in which I received a customer’s request,” he says.

As Van Houten works his 21st fall season running a barge service on Lake Panorama, he says he still enjoys the work.

“I like being outside, like being around the water, and I’m not scared of hard work,” he says.

Van Houten can be reached via email at [vhbarge@netins.net](mailto:vhbarge@netins.net) or by calling 515-975-7016.

BARGE, PAGE 5

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BARGE  
FROM PAGE 4

DELUXE DOCKS &  
LIFTS

At the LPA board meeting July 26, 2022, the board voted to allow Tyler and Aubrey Rupp, Deluxe Docks & Lifts, to operate a barge service beginning in 2023. Rupp was provided a length and horsepower variance, equivalent to what is in place for the two existing barges, plus a guarantee the LPA will not approve a fourth competitor for three years. Rupp's barge will be docked north of the debris trap, since there isn't space at the marina for a third company.

Rupp, his wife Aubrey, and their two young children purchased a vacation home at Lake Panorama in the fall of 2018. They live full-time in Johnston. They started their business, Deluxe Docks & Lifts, in January 2021.

"We felt the lake membership wanted more options when it came to dock and lift sales and service," Rupp says. "We evaluated many different product lines and found ShoreMaster has a portfolio of products we thought the community would love. We offer both floating and stationary docks and lifts and can accommodate any size and style of boat. The dock product line includes nine different decking styles and unlimited configuration options."

Selling docks and lifts to Lake Panorama customers led to the idea of adding barge service to their business.

"As we grew, we recognized the need to have our own barge to better serve the lake membership," Rupp says. "With a limited boating season, we understand how critical it is to maximize everyone's time on the water between spring and fall."

Rupp spent the last year evaluating different barge manufacturers, as well as barge styles, and is having a barge custom-built in Minnesota.

"It's a 30 foot, all aluminum, fork style barge," he says. "Imagine a portable fork lift on the water. We partnered with another ShoreMaster dealer in Minne-



This is similar to what the Deluxe Docks & Lifts barge will look like when it is ready to be launched in spring 2023. It will be 30 feet in length, all aluminum, with a fork lift on the front.

sota who has been in the dock and lift business for 20 years, and the hands-on training has been invaluable."

Rupp says the company will hire employees to operate the barge. He says beginning next spring, Deluxe Docks & Lifts will be a full-service operation including new installs, annual install and removal, dock and lift reconfigurations, repairs, canopy replacements, and on-lake transportation for items like beach sand and building materials.


Recently they launched a customer service portal that can be accessed through the company website at [deluxedocksandlifts.com](http://deluxedocksandlifts.com) and allows for customer scheduling and communication.

"The software allows us to provide customers with real-time information, visibility to scheduling, invoices, notifications via text or email when the job is complete, and other information," Rupp says. "We are excited to offer this new communication model."



In addition to the portal, customers can email [deluxedocks@gmail.com](mailto:deluxedocks@gmail.com) or call 515-612-6467. ■




This photo shows how the new barge being built in Minnesota for Deluxe Docks & Lifts will operate. Company owner Tyler Rupp says to "imagine a portable fork lift on the water."



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BENCHES

FROM PAGE 1

of Guthrie Center until moving to Lake Panorama in 1991. McCarty has been a speech/language pathologist since 1976 working in Guthrie County and the surrounding area; she owns and works at Timber Creek Therapies between Panora and Guthrie Center.

McCarty's three children all graduated from Guthrie Center. Her daughter, Emi, and her husband, Steve Swope, live in Adel, where their children, Bennett and Presley, age 10, and Beckett, age 6, attend school.

Jess, his wife, Kylie, daughter, Aubrey, and granddaughter, Noella, all live and work in Sarasota, Florida. Younger son, Kaleb, his wife, Remember, and their children, Kennedy, age 8, Kendrick, age 7, and Karter, age 3, also live, attend school and work in Sarasota.

"My children grew up at the lake, swimming, water skiing, golfing, fishing and loving and enjoying life here," McCarty says. "When I learned about the new swinging benches at Boulder Beach, I knew I wanted to donate one on behalf of my children, grandchildren and myself. We have enjoyed a lot of time here, and I wanted to foster that for other families as well."

The McCarty swing is located east of the concrete beach wall and provides a great view of the beach and Lake Panorama. For the bench plaque, McCarty chose the words "Carpe Diem" - Cindy McCarty & Family.

"I believe every day is a gift to reflect upon and be grateful for, so 'Carpe Diem' seemed like a good message from my family and me," McCarty says. "Seize the day! May you all relax, reflect, enjoy the bench, the sunrises, sunsets, your families and friends and soak in the beauty all around you."

Laurie Dawes

The other new swinging bench is between the Boulder Beach playground and the lake under the shade of several tall trees. Funds for the swing were donated by 18 different families from the Panora and Adel area in memory of Laurie Dawes, who passed away March 22, 2022, from complications related to ALS. She was diagnosed with the disease five years earlier and left behind her husband, Colby Dawes, and their two sons, Braylon and Bryce.

A love of sports was the common denominator between Laurie and the many friends in the Panora community who wanted to honor her memory by donating to the swing.

Laurie enjoyed participating in sports all her life. She graduated from ADM High School, where she was a four-sport athlete. She began her college education at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska, where she studied nursing and had a successful softball career while on scholarship.

Kylee Boettcher, secondary instructional coach at Panorama Community Schools, led the fundraising effort for the swing. The Boettcher and Dawes families first met when their sons played park and rec baseball against each other. Then in 2019, Trey Boettcher joined the Dawes' Hype USSSA baseball team.

The Dawes family lives on an acreage between Adel and Panora. Braylon and Bryce were attending ADM Community Schools when Laurie became ill. During the COVID pandemic when school was offered virtually, they studied from home. When it came time



Family was very important to Laurie Dawes. Shown sitting on the bench donated through Friends of Lake Panorama in memory of Laurie Dawes are her two sons, Bryce and Braylon. Standing, left to right, are her parents, Ron and Pam Tryon; her brother, Scott Tryon; Peg Dawes, Laurie's mother-in-law; her husband, Colby Dawes; Nick Dawes, Laurie's father-in-law; Kristi and Brad Fuller, Laurie's sister and brother-in-law; and her nephew, Gage Fuller.

for ADM to reopen, the family was concerned about the boys returning to a large school and the possibility of bringing COVID home to Laurie.

Since they had friends in the Panora area, the family decided to open enroll the two boys in 2021 at Panoram Community Schools, a smaller school that continued in-person learning throughout the pandemic.

Both Dawes boys are active in sports, and Laurie was able to follow their activities. During the 2021-2022 season, she became a fan of the girls' basketball team, coached by her friend Kylee Boettcher.

"We used a motto of 'Play for Her' throughout the year. She attended every girls basketball game at Panoram and was determined we would go to state," Boettcher says. "And she was right. She made it to Wells Fargo arena to see them play games March 1 and March 4."

Her parents, Ron and Pam Tryon, owned a lot at Lake Panoram for decades while living in Adel.

"Every Sunday for many, many years, we would come to Lake Panoram and have a picnic with family and friends right where Laurie's swing is now," says Pam Tryon. "She learned to water ski here as a

young girl, and was always so excited when Sunday would roll around and we could be together at Lake Panoram."

In 2021, as Laurie's health declined, the Tryons bought a house near Boulder Beach. This gave the family a place to gather near the beach and where their boat could dock. Laurie could no longer go on the boat, but she enjoyed the view from her wheelchair in the shade. Now her swinging bench is located in the same spot.

The plaque on the bench includes these words — In Loving Memory of Laurie Dawes, 1978-2022, "Play for

Her!", Panther & Hype Family.

Boettcher asked family and friends to gather at Boulder Beach Oct. 25 to see the bench and take photos; 25 people showed up. What was planned as a photo session turned into an impromptu gathering of people eager to share hugs, memories and kind words about Laurie Dawes.

Boettcher summed it up: "This swinging bench is a good way to honor Laurie and will be used by her family and friends to enjoy and remember her for many years to come," she said. ■

Q&A:

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

Dennis Flanery recently was named director of the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation with his first day on the job Sept. 1. Flanery and his wife, Diane, have had a home at Lake Panorama since 1985. He was elected to the Lake Panorama Association board of directors this past May and currently serves as the LPA board treasurer.

Flanery was raised on a farm his family still owns near Guthrie Center. He earned a finance degree at Iowa State University and worked at University Bank & Trust (now U.S. Bank) in Ames for 10 years. The family moved back to Guthrie Center, where Dennis was market president at Peoples Bank for 28 years.

Diane Flanery earned a degree in elementary education at Iowa State and taught 10 years at Nevada Schools. She transitioned to teaching at Guthrie Center Elementary, obtained her master's in school administration from Iowa State, and now is the elementary principal in Guthrie Center for ACGC Schools.

In this month's Q&A,

Dennis Flanery talks about his involvement with the Guthrie County Hospital (GCH) and the GCH Foundation, current programs and future plans.

Q. You have a long history with the Guthrie County Hospital. Give us details.

A. My involvement with Guthrie County Hospital began when I was delivered at the hospital to my parents, Dean and Virginia Flanery. During my life, I have used the hospital for tests, stays as a patient, surgeries and emergency room visits.

I was elected to the GCH Board of Trustees in 1996, served a six-year term, and was a team leader for a capital campaign. After my term as a trustee ended, I knew I wanted to continue being a part of the hospital. The services it provides for healthcare, and the economic impact it provides, are extremely important to the area.

In 2003, I was fortunate to be able to join the GCH Foundation board and have served as president and treasurer. I have always felt good about the work the foundation does for the hospital.

LONG HISTORY WITH GCH LEADS TO NEW POSITION FOR FLANERY

His involvement with Guthrie County Hospital began when he was delivered at the hospital to his parents, Dean and Virginia Flanery.

Q. Tell us more about the GCH Foundation.

A. The foundation began in 1995 to solicit gifts and manage funds for the benefit or support of healthcare of the citizens within Guthrie County. We currently have a 13-member board that meets the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. at the hospital. The board takes an active role with fundraisers, promotion of the hospital and its services, and management of the foundation assets.

Current board officers and members include Steve Smith, chair; Kim Finnegan, secretary; Laura Stetzel, treasurer; Kent Stephenson, past chair; Eloise Wilson; Forrest Schnobrich; Kirby Klinge; Maggie Armstrong; Sherry Eddy; Nancy Armstrong; Susan Bowland; Tom Godwin; and Mary Jane Carothers.

Jodi Sutton was our last foundation director, and she left the position nearly 10 years ago. I had the pleasure of working with Jodi, and she did an outstanding job. She now resides in Dallas, Texas, close to family. I spoke with her a few weeks ago, and she was the same outgoing, positive per-

son I remember. She was happy I had taken the position and wished me and our board the best.

We started talking about hiring a director several years ago, but with COVID and some other issues, we took our time as a board. I really enjoyed my career at Peoples Bank but started thinking about the new opportunity to benefit the hospital as the foundation director. I am excited to work with my board to promote and expand on the past successes of the foundation.

Q. You've said one of the services the GCH Foundation provides that you're most proud of is the courtesy van program. Tell us how that operates.

A. The foundation owns two vans that provide free rides to the hospital or clinics for appointments and tests. Patients anywhere in Guthrie County can be picked up and returned home with the service, but they must be able to enter and exit the van with little assistance.

It is expensive to purchase the vans and cover maintenance and fuel. However, the board feels the benefits to the hospital and county outweigh

the cost.

Volunteers drive one day a week, Monday through Friday, and substitute drivers fill in as needed. We are extremely grateful to these volunteers who donate their time to provide this valuable service. Our current drivers are Bill Sparks, Jay Merryman, JoAnn Johnson, Reuben Hanson, Ron Eike and Stan Landon. We are always looking for drivers. If interested, please call 641-332-3879.

Q. Fundraising is a big part of the work of the GCH Foundation. What's planned for the coming months?

A. Our next big fundraising push is our annual appeal, which begins in November and runs through January. The Annual Appeal solicits money each year for various projects and needs. This year's project is centered on being heart healthy. Funding will focus on cardiac rehab and new EKG machines for the hospital and for our four clinics located in Adair, Guthrie Center, Panora and Stuart.

The foundation's largest fundraiser each year is our golf tournament held at Lake Panoram



Dennis Flanery

National. It is always held the second Tuesday in July and fills up each year. Next year's event will be Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

In addition to the golf tournament, the foundation plans to add two or three more fundraisers in 2023. One event will be women-only at the LPN Conference Center on April 14. That event will be a lot of fun, and proceeds will benefit the nursing staff at the hospital. More details to come soon on this and all other planned events.

Anyone interested in discussing donations, fundraising assistance or planned gifts can contact me at 641-332-3879 or [dennis.flanery@gcho.org](mailto:dennis.flanery@gcho.org). ■

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# FRIENDS OF LAKE PANORAMA COMPLETES PROJECTS, LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Five projects move from the current list to the completed list.



The Panorama West Nature Trail is 2.25 miles in length for those who choose to include the optional three-quarter-mile loop.



The Panorama West Nature Trail is ready for visitors. This sign at the trailhead on Nicholl Drive includes a map of the trail, and there are directional signs on posts along the trail. There also are two benches along the trail.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

By the time 2022 comes to a close, Friends of Lake Panorama will have moved five projects from the current list to the completed list. At the same time, planning and fundraising is underway for improvements to existing trails on the south shore of Lake Panorama's main basin.

**Lake Panorama Dog Park**

The biggest of the five projects is the Lake Panorama dog park. Friends of Lake Panorama launched a \$50,000 fundraising effort in September 2020. Donations reached \$45,000 by the time the 2021 Beach Ball was held, which provided another \$5,000 to reach the project goal.

Construction began in September 2021, and the park opened June 10, 2022. It is located at the corner of Sage Trail and RV Road, near the east campground. The park includes a 6-foot-high chain link fence 400

feet long and 150 feet wide. There are two sections, one for small dogs and one for large dogs.

This fall, another \$4,500 raised at the 2022 Beach Ball was used to purchase benches and trees for the dog park. Four Autumn Blaze Maples from Isom Tree Farm were planted in early October. Two metal benches on concrete pads will be installed in late November.

**Panorama West Nature Trail**

The final pieces of a project that received 2021 Beach Ball funding came together in late October. A total of \$5,000 was committed to the Panorama West Nature Trail, plus some private donations were received. Portions of an existing trail being used by a limited number of people and the Panorama school's cross-country track teams now is a designated trail and ready for visitors.

Seven posts with directional signage and a trailhead sign have been installed plus two benches. Parking

is in a cul-de-sac at the end of Nicholl Drive, which intersects with Panorama Road just south of the Panorama West clubhouse. The trailhead sign features a drawing of the trail. Users are encouraged to take a photo of the drawing to help guide them on the trail.

At the three-quarter mile mark, there is an optional three-quarter of a mile loop. Those who use the official trail, plus the optional loop, will complete 2.25 miles. The trail winds through grassy open areas and timber and does not cross any portion of the golf course or roadways.

**Sunset Beach Swings**

In 2014, shortly after receiving 501(c)3 nonprofit status, Friends of Lake Panorama started raising funds for a large destination playground at Sunset Beach. The playground opened in summer of 2016, replacing an old slide, merry-go-round and swings.

Some expressed disappointment

swings were no longer available. The Friends board decided to use proceeds from the 2021 Beach Ball to bring swings back to Sunset Beach. Three swings were ordered August 25, 2021, and installed in late August of this year. The swings, which include two belt swings and one toddler swing, are directly west of the existing playground.

**Sunset Beach Sports Court**

The Friends board had discussed a basketball half-court at Sunset Beach for several years, and the LPA board approved this project in June 2021. The idea of expanding the basketball court to include pickleball was raised at an informational meeting at Sunset Beach this summer. Adding an extra 10 feet to the original plan made it possible to accommodate pickleball.

A total of \$17,500 from the 2022 Beach Ball was earmarked for this project. Mark and Karen Einck donated \$25,000 for the court with

another \$5,500 in donations also received.

The concrete pad was poured Oct. 26. Sport Construction Midwest employees installed a Goalsetter MVP hoop, placed sports court tile on the concrete, and painted lines for both basketball and pickleball. An 8-foot high fence and one gate will finish off this project. Once the fence is in place, a portable pickleball net on wheels will be available.

**Shade Sails at LPN**

While the other four projects completed in 2022 have been in the planning stages for a while, the fifth project came together quickly this spring at Lake Panorama National Resort. A total of 304 ash trees were removed from the golf course in February, with eight of those being large shade trees located around the Spikes snack shop and between

FRIENDS, PAGE 9

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FRIENDS  
FROM PAGE 8

the first and 10th tees.

Research on artificial shade options led to Shade Sails of Iowa and a project that would cost \$22,000. Fundraising began in early April, and the goal was reached in early June.

Six metal poles were installed in concrete footings in the grassy “horseshoe” area in front of Spikes. On July 7, two heavy-duty fabric sails were attached to the poles at angles. The main use of this area is for golfers in carts before and after tournaments and league play. To make it more versatile, electrical power and lights were added.

South Shore

At its Aug. 30 meeting, the LPA board approved a proposal from Friends of Lake Panorama that will make improvements to existing trails on the south shore of Lake Panorama’s main basin.

The board also approved Friends and LPA staff working with Panorama Community Schools personnel to move the cross country team trail from Panorama West to the south shore. The cross country trail will begin on school property, continue onto the south shore for much of the course, and loop back to end on school property.

So far, the school has spent about \$5,000 to make a path through an area of cedar trees on LPA property that is near the northwest corner of school property. This new path is about 25 feet wide and about 100 yards long and will connect with existing trail sections on the south shore. Stumps were removed, and the ground has been smoothed and is ready for grass seed that school personnel will spread later this month so it will be ready to germinate in the spring.

School personnel also are committed to ongoing maintenance assistance and have pieces of equipment that can be used to keep the trails smooth and brush cleared.

The south shore has several existing trail sections that will be combined into a single structure offering a variety of lengths and difficulty. Users will be able to choose a combination of loops based on the total distance they want to walk. Final details for the trail system will be



The current priority project for Friends of Lake Panorama is enhancements to existing trails on the south shore of the main basin. A significant section of the trail will be along the shoreline, with loops of varying lengths up the hill through the timber. Some portions of the trail will be used by the Panorama Community Schools cross country teams.

developed in spring 2023.

Earlier this year, Friends of Lake Panorama presented a recreational concept for the south shore to the LPA board, which included disc golf, fishing dock and a small shelter, in addition to the walking trail enhancements. Friends continues to research these additional low-impact recreational amenities and will return to the LPA board in 2023 for further discussion.

All donations to Friends are tax-deductible, and donors receive a confirmation letter for tax purposes. Statistics indicate a high percentage of charitable contributions are made in the last few weeks of the year. Those interested in making a donation to Friends of Lake Panorama in 2022 have several options.

Current donation options are the



The new sports court at Sunset Beach will accommodate both basketball and pickleball. On Oct. 31, Bryan Jansen of Sports Construction Midwest and his crew placed sports tile on the 40-foot by 60-foot concrete slab and installed the anchor for the basketball hoop system. A fence around the court will be finalized in November, then a portable pickleball net added.

South Shore trail enhancements and the Friends general fund. A coupon to complete and send with a donation is available in an ad on page 16. Donations by check can be mailed to Friends at P.O. Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216.

Direct donations can be sent via Venmo @Panorama-Friends. Donations also can be made by credit card online at [www.friendsoflakepanorama.org](http://www.friendsoflakepanorama.org). Details about other ways to donate, plus all past, present and future Friends projects also are on the Friends website. ■

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ASKLake PanoramaTIMES

If you've got questions, we'll find the answers.

**Q:** What is the best way to keep mice out of a boat in storage?

**A:** Most anyone you talk with seems to have the magic solution, at least until a mouse shows up in his or her boat. Meanwhile, here are a few ideas to try.

First off, you should know that mice are attracted to food, so check all compartments and make sure any and all food items out of your boat.

You should park your trailered boat as far away from crops that may attract rodents and in a place not exposed to heavy winds or rainwater. Keep the boat covered with a tarp and make sure it is sealed tightly.

Many people claim mothballs work well to keep mice away. They do stink, but a good airing in the spring will eliminate the odor.

Some say to place aluminum foil around the perimeter of the boat, or spray peppermint oil onto surfaces inside. Others swear by using cayenne pepper.

If all else fails, and if you don't mind the clean-up, good old mouse traps do the trick, too.

**Q:** I know that I get my Lake Panorama Times subscription for free as a property owner at the lake, and that you have free online access, but can I purchase a print subscription as a Christmas gift for someone else?

**A:** Yes, you can. Subscriptions are \$24 for 12 issues (one year). You can subscribe at [www.lakepanoramatimes.com](http://www.lakepanoramatimes.com) by clicking on the SUBSCRIBE link. Or you can mail a \$24 check to Big Green Umbrella Media, LPT subscriptions, 8101 Birchwood Court, Suite D, Johnston, IA 50131.

**Q:** With winter coming soon, do you have any tips on how to keep the Canada Geese out of our yard?

**A:** This is a tricky one at Lake Panorama, as you likely know. Kind of like the mice in the boat, most everyone has an opinion — until it doesn't work. At Lake Panorama, Canada Geese are a particular annoyance in the winter. Meanwhile, you can give these tips from [farmanddairy.com](http://farmanddairy.com) a try.

First and foremost, don't feed the geese. Ever. They learn where to find food quickly and will return.

Vegetation buffers may work. If the visual line of sight between the water and your yard is broken, geese will be deterred because they are uncomfortable not knowing what is on the other side of the tall shoreline vegetation. Try cattails, sedges, rushes and warm-season grasses. Aim for a vegetation height of at least 2 feet and a zone width of 10 feet.

Some say barrier fencing works,

but only until the geese learn to jump over or around it. Once one figures it out, the others will follow.

Any breed of dog can be effective at chasing geese away, but be sure to let the dog do its work at least four times per day.

Unexpected, loud noises will scare geese enough to vacate an area. This strategy works best in conjunction with other efforts. You don't want the geese to get used to a specific noise, so try to alternate them rather than overusing one.

Balloons, scarecrows, flags and Mylar tape can be used to deter geese from visiting. While one visual deterrent is ineffective, two or three different types can work, especially when used with noise.

Life-like predator decoys can be used to scare geese off. They work best when used with other deterrent strategies and are moved daily. If a decoy sits in the same place for too long, the geese will get used to it.

Good luck. You will need it. ■

Submit your questions at [www.lakepanoramatimes.com](http://www.lakepanoramatimes.com) or email [shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com).

HOLIDAY SHOWCASE

Area merchants including those photographed here participated in the Heart of Guthrie County Holiday Showcase shopping event on Nov. 3, 4 and 5.



Carol Van Kirk and Julie Fulton of Restyle Decor



Erika Matthies of Lakeside Massage & Bodywork



Kristin Rumelhart at Crafty's Coffee & Gifts



Arianne Steenblock of Rise Up and Shine Coaching



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Susan enjoyed fishing, camping, animals, picking wild flowers, repurposing greeting cards and sending them to family and friends. She was a member of Faith Bible Church, Panora. Family and church were very important to her.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at EveryStep Kavanagh House for the exceptional care Bruce received. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity. A celebration of Bruce's life is planned for Saturday, Nov. 26 from 2-6 p.m. at the Proletariat, 1213 Second St. in Perry. ■

Susan enjoyed fishing, camping, animals, picking wild flowers, repurposing greeting cards and sending them to family and friends. She was a member of Faith Bible Church, Panora. Family and church were very important to her.



Funeral services were Oct. 24, 2022, at Faith Bible Church, Panora. Burial was in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery near Van Meter on Nov. 7, 2022. Twigg Funeral Home, Panora, was entrusted with her services. ■

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# BUSINESS

Submit business news at [www.lakepanoramatimes.com](http://www.lakepanoramatimes.com) or email [shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com).

MORE NON-BUSINESS STORIES ALSO INSIDE THIS SECTION.

## LANDUS BRINGS CHANGE, BUT MANY THINGS STAY THE SAME

Harvest is the busiest time of the year for the farm cooperative.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

For many years, the large complex of grain bins, an office building and truck scales on the northeast corner of Panora was part of the Heartland Co-op. In February 2022, Landus and Heartland Co-op reached an agreement for Landus to purchase the Panora and Rippey grain and agronomy assets from Heartland, while Heartland purchased the Woodward and Earlham grain, agronomy and feed assets from Landus.

This brought some changes to the Panora farm cooperative, but many things have stayed the same. One of those is Brenda Wilson, who continues as the Panora location lead, just as she was for 20 years under Heartland Co-op. Wilson graduated from Adair-Casey High School and earned an associate degree at Nebraska College of Business in Omaha.

“If it weren’t for my customers throughout the years who had confidence in me, I may have stayed with Heartland just because it was familiar and safe,” Wilson says. “But I look out for my customers, and I think a lot of each of them.”

Another reason Wilson decided to make the move to Landus was because of its president and CEO, Matt Carstens, a Guthrie County native.

Carstens grew up near Bagley where his family still farms and attended high school in Panora, where he met his wife, Shanda. He earned a degree in agricultural business from Iowa State University. After 25 years of experience in the agriculture industry, he was named Landus Cooperative president and CEO in March 2020.

Aaron Hall, who had worked for Heartland for eight years, also became a Landus employee, along with Wilson.

“We have a wonderful part-time/seasonal crew including Sheila Trent, who’s been here 13 years; Butch Grage, who retired from Landus in Bayard but has helped us part-time for five years; Gavin Pote; and three migrant workers from Mexico who are here for harvest season,” Wilson says.

Carstens says it’s been a privilege getting to work more closely with farmers in the Panora community.

“We also have been thrilled to welcome new employees to the Landus team this past year at Panora,” he says. “The local employees know the community and local farmers better than anyone, so it’s important we support and empower them to do what’s right for their farmers.”

Harvest is the busiest time of the



Bins at the Landus location in Panora can handle 1.7 million bushels of corn and 416,000 bushels of soybean. This year’s soybean harvest has surpassed available storage in Panora, so the excess is shipped to Yale and Ralston.



Matt Carstens

year for the cooperative, as trucks filled with harvested grain cross the scales to be weighed before unloading.

“We have corn storage for more than 1.7 million bushels and soybean storage of over 416,000 bushels here in Panora,” says Wilson. “This harvest season, we’ve received more than 600,000 bushels of beans. Our overage is shipped to Yale or Ralston



Brenda Wilson of Casey is the location lead for Landus in Panora. Shown left to right behind her are employees at the Panora location. They include Robert Casimiro, Javier Casimiro, Aaron Hall of Guthrie Center, Rolland Grage of Perry, Gavin Pote of Panora, and Armando Casimiro. Not pictured is Sheila Trent of Panora. The three Casimiro brothers are from Mexico and are able to work in Panora during the harvest season because of the federal H-2A program that allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs.



This colorful painted mural is featured on the wall inside the front entrance of the Panora Landus location.

during soybean harvest.

“We want our farmers to bring us their grain and we’ll figure out where it goes,” she continues. “We work hard to be open and ready to serve during harvest season, since we know how hard our farmers are working. We’re in the grain business, and we’ll work to serve our customers for all of their corn and soybean needs. We’re also proud to serve the needs of the community with lawn fertilizer, lawn chemicals, packaged chemicals, pet foods and livestock feeds.”

The earliest known roots of Landus developed in 1888 with Farmers Elevator and Livestock Company in Jordan, Iowa. Over the years, dozens of elevators, grain companies, feed millers and suppliers, agronomy facilities and even a hardware store and energy company merged, changed hands and banded together. The transformations culminated in 2016 with the founding of Landus.

Landus is headquartered in Des Moines and serves more than 7,000 farmer-owners in Iowa and Minnesota. Membership is a one-time fee of \$500 and is systemwide, not tied to a specific location. Members enjoy discounts on vehicles and hotel rooms, can attend the cooperative’s virtual annual meeting in December, and earn patronage on their purchases from Landus.

Besides the fairly new Landus location in Panora, other Landus locations in Guthrie County are in Bayard, Casey, Stuart and Yale. Carstens says the purchase of the Panora location was a good move for farmer mem-

bers in the area.

“Through our expansive rail network and optimization partnerships, Landus was able to immediately plug the Panora facility into a powerful hub of grain demand. Panora is key to helping us support our grain asset in Hamlin, where we recently announced a partnership with AMVC to build a state-of-the-art feed mill that will consume more than eight million bushels of corn annually,” Carstens says.

“Panora also is critical to our shuttle loading facility in Bayard, where we shipped out more than 17 million bushels of corn to export markets last year,” he says. “Panora is such a great strategic fit for Landus within this territory, which gives local farmers closer access to more valuable markets and end users of their grain. We’ve been able to shorten the distance local grain has to travel to access rail or processing markets.”

Landus is the seventh largest grain company in North America as measured by grain storage. The cooperative has more than 600 employees across 60 locations in the United States and Mexico and exports 19% of the corn and 16% of the soybean grown in Iowa.

Meanwhile, at the Landus location in Panora, Wilson is busy taking care of her farmer customers and praising her team for their hard work and dedication. She also owns a commercial cleaning business, and she and her husband farm in the Casey area, where they raise corn, beans, hay and have a commercial cow-calf operation. ■



# LAKE LUMBER EXPANDS LINE OF ITEMS FOR FURRY FRIENDS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

In late October, Lake Lumber in Panora introduced a new display of items sure to be of interest to area dog and cat owners. Lake Lumber is owned by Kelvin and Stephanie Hafner, after the business was purchased from Tom and Sharon Neel in 2021. The Neels continue to work at Lake Lumber.

“I attended my first hardware buying market in Rochester, Minnesota, with Sharon in June,” says Stephanie Hafner. “There were several pet line vendors with an array of products for pet lovers. Lake Lumber already had a small selection of pet products, but after talking with Sharon and Kelvin, we decided to expand the pet department. Kelvin and I have a long-standing rule of no pets in our home, so we’re excited to help others spoil their fur babies.”

Hafner reached out to close friends who have pets to get feedback on product offerings.

“We brought in several different companies to provide an assortment of supplies for pet owners,” she says. “For dogs, we now have treats and toys, collars, leads and harnesses, life jackets, apparel, grooming supplies, bowls, and waste cleanup supplies. There also is a small selection of cat toys and treats.”

While Hafner says Lake Lumber always has welcomed service dogs, the business has adopted a more pet-friendly atmosphere so owners can bring their pets with them as they shop.

Lake Lumber also now has a stuffed Black Lab mascot that needs a name.

“We’re inviting anyone interested to stop in and enter a name for our mascot at the new pet display or add their entry in the comments on the Lake Lumber Facebook and Instagram accounts,” Hafner says.

Entry deadline is Nov. 30, 2022. The person who submits the winning name will receive a \$50 Lake Lumber gift card. A drawing of all others who participate will be held, with that person winning a \$20 gift card. ■

## NAME THE MASCOT



Stephanie Hafner holds the new Lake Lumber mascot, who is in need of a name. The business is asking people to submit names for the stuffed Black Lab by Nov. 30, either in person at the store or on the company’s Facebook and Instagram accounts.



Lake Lumber has expanded its pet product line with a new display near the front door. Pet owners Mark Jorgensen, holding Ace, and Amanda Calmer, holding Maverick, are shown next to the display.

## Thank You Lake Panorama Community!

November is a time of Thanksgiving, and a time for all of us to count our blessings and give thanks for all we have:

Family, Friends, Children, our Homes and much more. We are also thankful for each and every one of you.

Thank you for your business!



Psalm 136:1

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.



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# CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR RETURNS FOR 2022

**Raises enough money to award \$500 scholarships each spring to two graduating Panorama Community School students.**

For many years, the area service club Women for Panora's Future (WFPF) sponsored a Christmas tour of homes the first Sunday in December. The tour was canceled the last two years because of COVID concerns but is making a comeback for 2022.

"We are excited to be doing this project again after two years," says Marcia Roenfeld, WFPF president. "In addition to our annual raffle for a monthly plate of cookies or a pie, and our can collection drive the months of May and June, this is our big fundraiser for scholarships."

The home tour normally raises enough money to award \$500 scholarships each spring to two graduating Panorama Community School students.

This year's home tour will be Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ticket holders choose their own route to each location during that time period.

"We are excited to have five homeowners who will have decorated for Christmas and be ready to showcase their homes," Roenfeld says. "Four of the homes are at Lake Panorama, and one is in Panora."

Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased in advance from club members, at the Panora Library, at the Panora Community Center the day of the tour, or by contacting Roenfeld

at mroenfeld2559@msn.com. Door prizes, raffle prizes and holiday refreshments also will be available at the Community Center 1-4:30 p.m.

Tickets must be presented at the door of each home the day of the event. Homes on the tour are owned by David and Deborah Townsend, Ken and Jan Tolton, Andrew and Abby Pudenz, Tim and Susan Schafer, and Galen and Carol Redshaw. Home addresses will be printed on the tickets.

The WFPF club has been in existence for 50 years. The first Christmas home tour was in 1978 with 70 people attending at a ticket price of \$3.

In addition to the home tour, WFPF members help decorate the Panora town square for Christmas and run the candy cane walk and cake walk during community events. They donate cookies for Memorial Day activities and the Haunted Village; clean the roadside ditches on Highway 4 north of Panora twice a year; hold two blood drives a year; and donate money to several local organizations. They also purchase Christmas presents for all residents of Panora Specialty Care.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month and welcomes new members. Contact Roenfeld at mroenfeld2559@msn.com for more information. ■

# CONSIDER LAKE PANORAMA HISTORY BOOK FOR GIFT GIVING

**The full-color, hardcover 112-page book includes both historic and contemporary photos.**

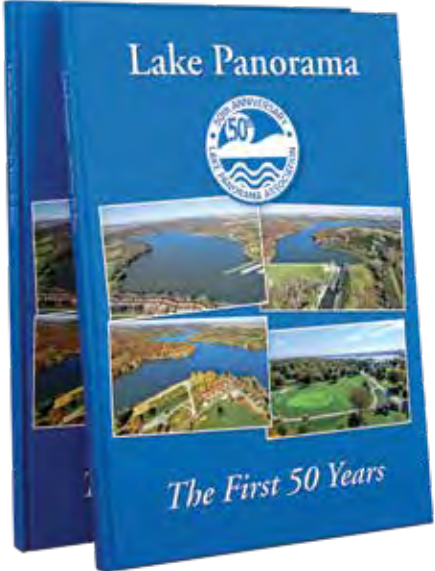
Those looking for a holiday gift for family members or friends might want to consider purchasing one or more copies of "Lake Panorama – The First 50 Years." The book, authored by Susan Thompson, arrived at the Lake Panorama Association office July 19, 2019.

The full-color, hardcover 112-page book includes both historic and contemporary photos. Chapters in the book describe six decades of planning and development. There also are special topic chapters on Lake Panorama's golf courses, infrastructure and water quality efforts. Sidebar stories highlight various groups and activities such as HALO, Lake Panorama ski team, Fin and Feather, Fourth of July fireworks and more.

The LPA financed the book's production. About 1,000 books were printed, with 350 purchased online in advance. About 175 remain in stock. The book's cost is \$25, which includes tax. LPA will ship at an additional cost of \$5 per book. Once ordered online, books will be shipped from Panora in 7-10 business days.

Books are available for direct purchase at the LPA front desk Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The book also is available in the Lake Panorama National Resort pro shop. Purchases can be made at the LPA and LPN via cash, check or credit card. The book also is available at the Panora Library, with purchases cash or check only.

Here is the link to order online and have one or more books shipped: <https://lakepanorama.formstack.com/forms/order> or scan the QR code. ■



**Copies of "Lake Panorama – The First 50 Years" remain available for purchase and cost \$25. The LPA will ship online purchases for an additional \$5 per book.**



# WSO SALAD LUNCHEON SET FOR DEC. 2

This is the 49th year the Panora Women's Service Organization (WSO) annual salad luncheon has been part of the local holiday season. This year's fundraising luncheon is Friday, Dec. 2.

The WSO luncheon begins serving at noon and is held in the St. Cecelia Catholic Church basement. As guests arrive, they can purchase raffle tickets and sign up for door prizes.

Tickets are \$20 with only 125 available. The meal includes ham balls, rolls and a large variety of salads made by WSO members. Tickets can be purchased from any WSO member, at the Panora Library, or by contacting the WSO president, Toni Wright, 641-757-0886 or btwright44@gmail.com.

Proceeds from the WSO holiday luncheon help fund local projects and make it possible to provide a \$500 scholarship to one Pan-

orama High School graduating senior each year, which can be renewed annually for up to three years. In most years, WSO is providing \$2,000 in scholarship money to four Panorama graduates.

Another big fundraising event for WSO is an annual home tour each June, which this year will be Friday, June 2. This will be the 47th WSO home tour. Tickets for this event also will be limited so those interested will want to contact their usual ticket seller in early May.

The salad luncheon and home tour will secure this year's scholarships plus make it possible to donate to other local causes. Some of those include Tori's Angels, Panora Library, Heritage Park, Guthrie County Historical Village, Guthrie County Food Pantry, and the Panora Garden Club Main Street petunia trees and flower pots. ■

# RETIREMENT PLANNING

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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You've seen the reports and likely felt the impact of soaring inflation, rising interest rates, and a stock market slump. It's a recipe for a recession, and some experts predict that this economic storm could last well into next year.



Loren Merkle

Many people have asked me if our phones have been ringing off the hook with people worried about their retirement. The answer is no. The families and individuals we work with have a retirement plan built with times like this in mind. Their customized retirement plans are built to withstand recessions and include action steps they can take in times like these. The goal is to help people live out their retirement vision, no matter what is going on with the economy.

If you don't have a customized retirement plan, you might be worried about the impact a recession will have on your retirement. If you've logged on to your 401(k) and seen your account balances drop, it may feel like a recession could ruin your retirement plans. You can't control these economic conditions, but there are some things you can do to take control of your retirement. You may realize you can still retire during a recession or come through it in a better position to retire.

If you don't like what's happening with your retirement accounts, consider reevaluating your risk. As you near retirement, it's important to understand how your portfolio will react to stock market swings and to make sure your investments reflect your risk appetite. Another action step to consider during a recession is a Roth conversion. A Roth conversion involves transferring funds from a traditional IRA or 401(k) into a Roth account. The year you make the conversion, you pay income tax on the amount transferred over, but you never pay taxes on the money again. Not the growth or the qualified distributions. If your IRA or 401(k) account balance is down, you'll pay taxes on less money and enjoy tax-free growth on the market upside. For some with cash on the sidelines, a recession is the right time to get into the market, taking advantage of when stocks are on sale. Another strategy to consider is Dollar Cost Averaging. This is a systematic long-term approach to investing a portion of your portfolio into the stock market.

These are just a few ways to take control of your retirement during a recession. If you want to talk more about these strategies or any other questions you have about retirement, schedule a visit with your financial advisor.

Information provided by Loren Mekle, Merkle Retirement Planning, 1860 S.E. Princeton Drive, Grimes, 515-278-1006. Source: Medicare.gov.

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# Friends of Lake Panorama

A public nonprofit charity supporting recreational amenities at Lake Panorama

2022 was a great year filled with good news for Friends of Lake Panorama and the many donors who support the efforts of this non-profit charity!

DOG PARK OPENS

Friends of Lake Panorama launched a \$50,000 fundraising effort in September 2020. Donations reached \$45,000 by the time the 2021 Beach Ball was held, which provided another \$5,000 to reach the project goal. Construction began in September 2021, and the park opened June 10, 2022. It is located at the corner of Sage Trail and RV Road, near the east campground. There are two sections, one for small dogs and one for large dogs. This fall, another \$4,500 raised at the 2022 Beach Ball was used to purchase benches and trees for the park. Four Autumn Blaze Maples from Isom Tree Farm were planted in early October. Two metal benches on concrete pads will be installed in late November.



LPN SHADE SAILS

A desire for artificial shade to replace eight large ash trees on the Lake Panorama National golf course led to a new project for Friends. Fundraising began in early April and the \$22,000 goal was reached in early June. Six metal poles were installed in concrete footings in the grassy “horseshoe” area in front of Spikes, then two heavy-duty fabric sails were attached to the poles at angles. The main use of this area is for golfers in carts before and after tournaments and league play.



PANORAMA WEST NATURE TRAIL

The Panorama West Nature Trail is open and ready for visitors. It was financed by funds raised at the 2021 Beach Ball, plus additional private donations. Parking is in a cul-de-sac at the end of Nicholl Drive, which intersects with Panorama Road just south of the Panorama West clubhouse. A sign at the trailhead includes a map of the trail, and there are directional signs on posts along the trail. There also are two benches along the trail. The trail is 2.25 miles in length for those who choose to include the optional three-quarters-mile loop.



SUNSET BEACH SPORTS COURT

For several years, the Friends board discussed a basketball half-court at Sunset Beach. Adding an extra 10-feet to the original plan made it possible to accommodate pickleball. A total of \$17,500 from the 2022 Beach Ball was earmarked for this project. Mark and Karen Einck donated \$25,000, with another \$5,500 in donations also received. The concrete pad was poured Oct. 26. Sport Construction Midwest employees installed a Goalsetter MVP hoop, placed sports court tile on the concrete, and painted lines for both basketball and pickleball. An eight-feet-high fence, one gate, and a portable pickleball net on wheels will finish this project.



SUNSET BEACH SWINGS

In 2014, Friends started raising funds for a large, destination playground at Sunset Beach. The playground opened in summer of 2016, replacing an old slide, merry-go-round and swings. The Friends board decided to use proceeds from the 2021 Beach Ball to bring swings back to Sunset Beach. Three swings, which include two bench swings and one toddler swing, were installed in August directly west of the existing playground.



SOUTH SHORE TRAILS

The current priority project for Friends of Lake Panorama is enhancements to existing trails on the south shore of the main basin. A significant section of the trail will be along the shoreline, with loops of varying lengths up the hill through the timber. Some portions of the trail will be used by the Panorama Community Schools cross country teams. The south shore has several existing trail sections that will be combined into a single structure offering a variety of lengths and difficulty. The trail system design, plus estimated costs for development, won’t be complete until spring 2023. Panorama Community Schools will assist with development and maintenance of the portion of the trail used for cross country. Friends of Lake Panorama is seeking donations to help with the cost of developing the full trail system. These costs are expected to include a trailhead sign, directional signs on posts, benches, removal of dead trees and brush, turf establishment and more. Watch for additional details in early 2023, and consider a 2022 tax-deductible donation now.



BENCHES AT BEACHES

In 2019, Friends of Lake Panorama launched a program called Benches at Beaches, which targets individuals, couples and families interested in sponsoring a single bench. Benches can be purchased as a memorial for a loved one, or by those who want to leave their mark on Lake Panorama while they are alive. Both stationary and swinging benches are available, and can be installed at any of the three beaches. Interested? Email [staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org](mailto:staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org) or call Susan Thompson, 515-240-6536.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 2023 Beach Ball — FRIDAY, JUNE 16

More information about all past, present and future projects is available at [www.friendsoflakepanorama.org](http://www.friendsoflakepanorama.org).

Please consider a 2022 tax-deductible donation to Friends of Lake Panorama!

Donor Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in Memory of or Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ For Friends updates, please provide email: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct your charitable donation by marking one or more of the funds below. To split your donation, indicate percentages or dollar amounts for each fund chosen.

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# SOUTH SHORE RIP RAP REPAIR UNDERWAY

Final cost is estimated to be \$780,000.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

A water quality project that has been discussed for many years has begun. JNC Construction, of Clearfield, Iowa, began work Oct. 31 to repair the rip rap along the south shore of Lake Panorama's main basin. The company was awarded the project with a bid of \$693,897.

This project is being funded by the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ). It's estimated the final cost will be about \$780,000, including engineering costs, permit fees and unit quantity adjustments.

JNC expects the project to take six to seven weeks. Work began near the ski team dock and will move west. The crew will do 1,000-foot sections of shoreline at a time. First, they will pull all the existing rock out of the bank and lake. Next, they will regrade the bank, lay fabric, and place dolomite rip rap below the lake level up to the water elevation line. Once the dolomite is in place, the salvaged field stone will be put back on top of the dolomite above the water elevation line.

The crew will have a debris curtain about 300 feet long in the water to contain any loose grass or debris that may fall into the lake while they are working. Also, there are several drainages that go toward the lake from the south shore. JNC will place drainage culverts in these areas to allow water to safely run back toward the lake.

In 2021, JNC Construction completed three projects at Lake Panorama, adding rip rap on the west side of the Burchfield Cove river channel; creating a "bench" and sediment basin for long-reach excavator use in that area; and adding rip rap at the County basin to address some shoreline erosion.

RIZ and the Lake Panorama Association signed a formal agreement in exchange for RIZ funding of the project. The agreement states the South Shore must remain a greenspace for at least the next 15 years. Projects such as walking trails, docks or picnic areas are not considered development and may be included as part of the greenspace definition. ■



Work began near the ski team dock and will move west. The crew is doing 1,000-foot sections of shoreline at a time. A debris curtain about 300 feet long in the water is being used to contain any loose grass or debris that may fall into the lake as the shoreline rip rap is repaired.



Dolomite rocks are shown piled on Lake Panorama's south shore as a project to repair rip rap along the shoreline began the end of October. JNC Construction of Clearfield is doing the work, which is expected to last six to seven weeks.

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RECIPE

# THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS AND MEMORY-MAKING MEALS

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

*(Family Features)* Thanksgiving traditions build, change and establish through the years. Our family’s are ever changing, but some things have become tradition. One is that we are open to changing up meals, gatherings, locations, etc. We now have two daughters living out of state — way out of state, in California and Arizona. Geography will be challenging for us now, but I am happy to share that for the upcoming holiday we will all be together at a Colorado destination. In recent years, we have changed up the holiday “meat” from turkey or ham to ham balls. Ham balls along with those classic sides have been our tradition. These are agreed favorites of everyone. But, as I flip through current recipe ideas, I am going to add a baked turkey breast to the menu this year. Time to change it up a bit. I don’t even care if anyone eats it. I love leftover turkey to make casseroles, tacos, soups, etc. And, I have missed it. Following is a recipe I am going to try this year that I think you will like. If you try and like it, send me a note. Thanks for reading! ■



Jolene Goodman

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

## TURKEY CRANBERRY DINNER ROLLS

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 package of Wonder Dinner Rolls
- 2 cups diced turkey, cooked
- 1 cup cranberry sauce or relish
- 6 slices Swiss cheese
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon dried minced onion
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon parsley
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese



- Preheat oven to 325 F. Cover 9-by-13-inch baking pan with foil and spray with nonstick cooking spray.
- Remove rolls from package in one piece, cutting entire slab in half lengthwise to create one half of “tops” and one half of “bottoms.”
- Place bottom half in foil-covered pan and layer with turkey, cranberry sauce and Swiss cheese. Add top half of rolls.
- In microwave, melt butter and whisk in mustard, Worcestershire sauce, onion and salt and pepper, to taste. Pour evenly over rolls.
- Cover with foil and let sit 5-10 minutes then bake, covered, 20 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 minutes.
- Sprinkle with parsley and Parmesan cheese. Slice into individual rolls.

## TRISH HART’S NATURE PHOTO OF THE MONTH



## COLORFUL FALL LEAVES

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times


One of the great things about living in Iowa is experiencing four seasons. Every autumn, we can look forward to the beauty of fall colors on the many varieties of hardwood trees at Lake Panorama. Yellow, red and orange leaves are the result of chemical processes that take place in trees as the seasons change from summer to winter.

Since April 2017, Trish Hart has worked 20-25 hours a week at the Lake Panorama National Resort front desk. The trees surrounding the

LPN conference center and on the golf course often provide her with beautiful views begging to be captured on camera.


Such was the case with these maple trees that line the grassy area between the Clover Ridge condos and the LPN driving range net. Maple trees offer some of the most brilliant fall colors. The leaves of soft silver maples turn yellow, while the leaves of hard maples turn flame red.

Hart offers custom prints of her photos on canvas, paper, metal and glass. Learn more by visiting Nature’s Canvas Photography on Facebook. ■



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# LAKE PANORAMA RIZ ELECTION DEC. 13

Trustees Bill Dahl and Corey Welberg are running for re-election to three-year terms.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Voting for two positions on the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) board will take place Tuesday, Dec. 13. The polls will be open from noon until 8 p.m. in the lower level of the LPA office, 5006 Panorama Drive.

Or voters can request absentee ballots from the Guthrie County Auditor for the “Special Election” and fill in Lake Panorama RIZ. The last date to request an absentee ballot via U.S. Postal Service is Nov. 28. Voters also can vote absentee at the auditor’s office in the Guthrie County courthouse from Nov. 23 through Dec. 12.

Trustees Bill Dahl and Corey Welberg are running for re-election to three-year terms. Other trustees on the RIZ board are Doug Hemphill, JoAnn Johnson and Larry Petersen.

Voting is limited to individuals whose voter registration address is located within the Lake Panorama subdivision. LPA members who do not consider Lake Panorama their primary residence for voting purposes are not eligible to cast a ballot.

This is a government election, not an LPA election. Every eligible voter can cast a ballot. This differs from LPA elections, where each membership is allowed just one vote.

The trustees are responsible for administering the RIZ, which includes the platted portions of the Lake Panorama development. The Lake Panorama RIZ is a local government entity designed to manage erosion control and water quality at Lake Panorama and within its watershed.

The RIZ was formed in 1997 by the initiative of the LPA through legislation in Des Moines. The tax increment financing district allows tax growth dollars to stay within the Lake Panorama development for water quality purposes.

The board of trustees oversees the annual budget and associated expenditures. Estimated revenue for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is nearly \$3 million. These funds are used exclusively to fund improvements allowed under IA Code 357.H, which includes dredging operations, erosion control practices and water quality improvements.

A key focus of RIZ is the dredging of sediment from Lake Panorama. This ensures lake depth remains suitable for safe enjoyment by LPA members and their guests.

One current multi-year project is the expansion of the 180th Trail Basin, formerly known as the CIPCO Basin. This project represents an investment of about \$4 million of RIZ funds. This expanded sediment basin is where dredging spoils will go once the current basin is full. Two additional wetlands are in the planning stages and would bring the total number of wetlands protecting Lake Panorama to five.

Another project that began in late October is repairing the rip rap along the south shore, which is estimated at about \$780,000 and expected to be complete before the end of this year. LPA signed an agreement with RIZ that in return for this investment, the south shore will not be used for anything beyond recreational purposes for the next 15 years.

For more information on Lake Panorama RIZ, visit [www.lakepanoramariz.org](http://www.lakepanoramariz.org). ■

# LAKE DOGS & COVE CAT

By CHERYL TEMPLE  
*Lake Panorama Times*



## LAKE DOGS

**Name:** Nova  
**Age:** 4  
**Breed:** Mal-Shi  
**Owners:** Kent and Kim Kaplan

**Names:** Harlee Jo and Diesel  
**Age:** 11  
**Breed:** Yorkies  
**Owners:** Kent and Kim Kaplan

Nova, Harlee and Diesel enjoy boat rides, golf cart rides and the various smells in the yard. They love playing on the dock and shoreline and kissing those they meet. The Kaplan family, Kent and Kim, have enjoyed living part time at the lake for 13 years. Their granddaughters, Alaina and Chesney (pictured), like to play with the dogs when visiting at the lake.

## COVE CAT

**Name:** Bio  
**Age:** 1-plus  
**Available for adoption at Panora Pets**

Bio came to the shelter shy, so he spent a good amount of time in a foster home. There, he realized he does like humans. Bio is a kitty with a distinct purrsonality. He loves to run, play and wrestle, as well as nap on your lap. He gets along well with other kitties. He and his foster home’s small dog became best friends. They were quite the team. Bio would knock things off the counter, and the dog would carry them off to a hiding place. Bio’s adoption fee is \$25. ■



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The 2023 COLA increase will not be that high, but the Senior Citizens League anticipated it to be as much as 8.7%. As it turns out, they were right on the nose. This tops last year’s 5.9% increase.

What this increase means for those collecting Social Security benefits is additional help battling inflation. The average Social

Security retiree benefit will increase \$146 per month, to \$1,827 in 2023, from \$1,681 in 2022.

Why is it happening now? Congress has COLA increases pegged to rising inflation. While there has been a great deal of talk about inflation this year, the increase depends on the much-anticipated official numbers: the third quarter’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) is measured against the CPI of the previous year, and the COLA is calculated from that.


While this increase has been widely anticipated, you may still have questions about this and other economic factors. I am happy to discuss how this might affect your financial strategy. Contact our office today!






**Kristen Crouthamel, AIF®, Financial Advisor**

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