

GROWTH Q&A WITH
CHAMBER PREZ

PAGE 2

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Outside company to dredge Upper Middle Raccoon

By Susan Thompson
Times staff

In 1971, just a year after Lake Panorama was formed, developer Mid-Iowa Lakes hired Betts and Beer Construction of Adair to dredge several coves. Ever since then, dredging has continued as the main line of defense to keep Lake Panorama from silting in.

While periodic dredging is done in some coves, the primary area of focus always has been the Middle Raccoon River channel between the Fansler Bridge and Lake Pan-

orama's upper basin.

Since 1998, the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) has made it possible for Lake Panorama owners to use a portion of their property tax dollars to fund erosion control efforts.

RIZ is program established by Iowa law that allows it to take on debt to pay for future projects, with that debt later paid off by property taxes. Currently RIZ receives about \$2 million annually from property tax collections within the Lake Panorama district.

DREDGE, PAGE 10



BRAD HALTERMAN | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

A company that provides dredging services across the United States has been hired by Lake Panorama RIZ to dredge in the Middle Raccoon River channel between the lake's upper basin and the Fansler Bridge. Dredge America equipment began arriving in late September, including a crane used to assemble the company's dredge, pipe and other items.

A JILL OF ALL TRADES



SUSAN THOMPSON | TIMES STAFF

Creativity
of Lake
Panorama
woman
manifests
in many
ways

By Susan Thompson | *Times Staff*

Donna Beeler was born 84 years ago in Madison County, on the family farm where her father and grandparents lived. A resident of Lake Panorama since 2000, Beeler's life story is filled with adventures, fueled by a competitive spirit and the joy she experiences creating things. The youngest of three girls, Beeler's sisters were five and nine years older. "I learned to hold my own at an early age," she says. "And since I was the last chance for a boy, my dad pretty much adopted me as his son. I had him, my uncle and a hired man to help teach me."

BEELER, PAGE 3

ABOVE
One of Donna Beeler's latest creative endeavors is dream catchers. They are available at Art on State in Guthrie Center and The Art Exchange in Panora.

Third Lake
Panorama
wetland nears
completion

By Susan Thompson
Times staff

The key focus of Lake Panorama's Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) always will be dredging. Yet attention in recent years has turned to reducing the flow of both sediment and nutrients into the lake by installing small wetlands to drainage areas.

In the late 1990s, Iowa State University researchers began studying the use of wetlands to slow water runoff from farm fields. They found these strategically placed wetlands could reduce the amount of nitrates moving into streams and rivers by 40 to 70 percent.

WETLAND, PAGE 4

Lost ring + social
media = personal
connections

By Susan Thompson
Times staff

On Sunday, September 15, Jim and Karen Sievers drove from Lake Panorama to Van Meter to watch one of their grandsons play soccer. While there, Karen dropped her wedding ring in the grass where cars were parking.

"Jim and I knew exactly where and returned twice that afternoon," Karen says. "Each time families from Van Meter joined us on our hands and knees,

RING, PAGE 10

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10 Squared Women present check to Guthrie County Historical Village



Barb Wollner, left, who nominated the Guthrie County Historical Village Foundation (GCHVF), presents an \$11,000 check to Nancy Smith, GCHVF Secretary, and Alex Krueger, GCHVF President.

Special to the Times

10 Squared Women of Guthrie County held their quarterly meeting at the Lake Panorama Conference Center August 15. Once all the checks had been collected from members and company matches, a lump sum of \$11,000 was presented to the Guthrie County Historical Village Foundation (GCHVF). The foundation is a non-profit or-

ganization that consists of five volunteer board members appointed by the Guthrie County Conservation Board. The GCVHF's mission is to save and preserve Guthrie County history, and to promote and enhance the Guthrie County Historical Village and Museum. One of the ways they support this mission is by raising funds for all restoration projects taking place at the Historical Village. The current project

is the 1915 Pullman Observation and Café Car, relocated to the Historical Village in 2013, which is entering Phase IV of the renovation process. Phase IV will focus on removing damaged interior walls, insulation, and electrical wiring, and installing new insulation, electrical wiring, walls, and period-appropriate light fixtures. The estimated

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

CHECK, PAGE 4



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Guthrie Center Chamber president talks about growth

By Susan Thompson
Times staff

Kristen Crouthamel is serving during 2019 as president of the Guthrie Center Chamber. A native of Boone County, she attended college and worked in the Des Moines area for 17 years before moving in 2013 near Monteith, and then to Guthrie Center in 2017.



Kristen Crouthamel

Since 2014, Crouthamel has been the financial advisor at GCSB Investment Center with offices in both Panora and Guthrie Center. She tries to be involved equally in both communities, and in fact, was president of the Panora Chamber in 2018. Here she talks about recent business growth in Guthrie Center. **Q. What are some of the projects and programs conducted by the Guthrie Center Chamber?** A. The Guthrie Center Chamber holds a host of events to help promote its members and shopping local. We have teamed up with Panora Chamber for events such as the community wide garage sales held annually the second weekend of June, and this year the Holiday Kick-off events November 7-9. We hold sidewalk sales in early September and ribbon cutting events for new members. We host events for the AC/GC school district, teaming up with the Adair Chamber, for a welcome back teacher and staff breakfast, and Class Night around graduation time. We team up with the Main Street Guthrie Center organization on some events, such as our annual Fall-O-Ween Festival in October and our Christmas "Reindeer Express" in December. Both of these events are family friendly and have had more than

200 children attend the past few years. We are working on adding more events centered around promoting our retail and dining opportunities in Guthrie Center. **Q. How many members make up the Guthrie Center Chamber?** A. Our membership is approximately 80 businesses and individual community members, and continues to gain new members. Recently we've consistently added about two members per month. We currently are running a fourth quarter special where new members joining in October this year pay about 20% of annual dues. Our membership application is on our Facebook page, or can be found by clicking on Guthrie Center Chamber at www.guthriecenter.com. **Q. Guthrie Center was named a Main Street Community in 2015. Tell us how that program operates.** A. All Main Street programs in Iowa have four different committees, a board of directors and an executive director. Dana Buster, who lives at Lake Panorama, is the Guthrie Center Main Street Executive Director. Each of the four committees is tasked with a different area of focus in the community. Economic Vitality works on recruiting new businesses and supporting current business. Organization works on community outreach, communications and raising funds for projects. Beautification works on downtown decorations and appearance. Promotions works on hosting retail and community events. Being a Main Street Community opens businesses in the district up to grants available through Main Street Iowa, as well as assistance in a number of business-related issues at no cost to the busi-

ness owners. Main Street hosts retail events, outdoor movie nights, a harvest dinner, Small Business Saturday, co-hosts a fall and Christmas event with the Chamber, and several other small events throughout the year. They keep the streets clean and the planters looking great. Main Street also helps facilitate a façade grant. It is not a coincidence we have seen such growth in retail after the city became a Main Street Community. The owners of Carver's Ridge told us at that store's ribbon cutting ceremony a big part of the reason they chose Guthrie Center for their second location was because we are a Main Street community. Corning, where their headquarters is located, also is a Main Street community. Main Street Guthrie Center is made up of a dedicated group of people who are willing to do what it takes to help support small businesses in this community. **Q. Share details on other new businesses that have opened in Guthrie Center in the last couple of years.** A. In the past 12-18 months, Guthrie Center has experienced phenomenal growth and changes to our businesses in town. These include: • Springbrook Family Dentistry, Dr. Daniel Nelson (214 State Street) • The Pink Poppy Apothecary & Co. (300 State Street) • Hospice of the Midwest (103 N 4th Street) • The Rustic Goddess Boutique (300 State Street) • It's YOUR Time LLC (101 State Street) • Pearls & Lace Country Boutique (recently moved to 407 State Street) • Genesis Development (409 State Street) • Central Iowa Family Eye Care, Dr. Kyle Stalder (405 State Street) • Carver's Ridge (310 State Street)

GROWTH, PAGE 5

BEELER
FROM PAGE 1

Beeler says her mother “tried to keep me girlish, but she had a battle. I followed the men around most of the time, especially my uncle who had all the fun stuff. I could use his tools as long as I put them back and didn’t use any electric ones,” she says.

For many years, Beeler’s mother was a 4-H leader and in those days you had to be in the 4-H girls’ club to be eligible for the 4-H boys’ club. “I wanted to show a calf so I endured the cooking and sewing part,” she says. “I did like to sew, which made my mother happy. The old treadle Singer and scraps of fabric I could use made lots of clothes for my cats.”

Beeler says her mother often volunteered her for an event. For instance, each year there was a Rally Day where all the Madison County township 4-H clubs came to Winterset to play games, do skits, and make a clover chain. “When I was about 12, she volunteered me to sing the clover song for Rally Day,” she says. “Before that, I had never sung in public other than church.”

After high school graduation, Beeler spent one year working at EMC in Des Moines, then decided to try college. She spent a year in Maryville, Missouri, at what now is known as Northwest Missouri State. “Then I decided to try marriage, then childbirth, and the story goes on,” she says, with a smile.

She married Billy Beeler, who was born in Winterset but spent most of his youth on a farm near Truro. The couple moved onto the family farm where Donna was born, and worked with her father and uncle.

First came daughter Gerri. She and her husband now live in Ankeny, and are building a retirement home at Lake Panorama. Son Greg and his wife live in Omaha. As the



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Beeler is a staunch Iowa State University supporter. She’s shown with Cy at the WHO-RVTV event at Boulder Beach in 2017.

kids grew up they, too, were in 4-H, and Donna Beeler spent a few years as a 4-H leader.

During this time, Beeler returned to sewing as a creative outlet. “My mother purchased a portable sewing machine I could borrow, and I used it to make all of my and Gerri’s clothes. I entered several things at the Iowa State Fair, doing fairly well,” she says.

“I found a class requiring everything be made of cotton bags, and you had to enter all six or seven classes. The winner of the most blue ribbons won a new sewing machine. That was exactly what I needed, so of course I entered,” Beeler says. “The first year was educational since I had no idea what to expect. The second year was a success—I still have my Necchi sewing machine.”

When Donna’s father and uncle retired, she and Billy filled their shoes on the farm. “We concentrated on raising Angus cattle, which was a good supply for the 4-H projects. Raising and showing cattle continued both in 4-H and open class. The kids had several champions at state, national and international

shows,” she says.

Once their two children were out of school, the couple moved to a smaller farm where they concentrated more on the cattle business. “The 1980s were not good years for farming, so I thought I would try to make a few bucks to help out,” Donna says.

She spent time as a waitress, while also creating and selling scarecrows, and making and selling mints. “My days were full but my piggy bank wasn’t,” she declares. “So I found a class in Des Moines to teach me computer skills.” After graduating, she took a position in an insurance office that had 20 employees. By the time she retired in 2002, the company had grown to 200 employees.

The couple’s move to Lake Panorama took a long time to develop. “Bill and I had toured in the 1980s when we were debating about farm life,” Beeler says. “Later, when I worked in Des Moines, one of the girls in my department had relatives living here so I heard a lot about the lake.”

BEELER, PAGE 7



SUSAN THOMPSON | TIMES STAFF

Beeler poses with Big Bird, who graces her Lake Panorama yard. She gathered the pieces needed for the creation, including half of a propane tank, two rakes, long nails, two cultivator sweeps for the feet, and much more. She hired a welder to put the items together, before she painted the final piece of art.

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WETLAND

FROM PAGE 1

By 2000, state officials were promoting a new incentive program to encourage landowners to install wetlands. The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint effort of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Technical assistance and cost-share funds are available for landowners who establish wetlands for water quality improvement in 37 north-central Iowa counties, including Guthrie.

During a strategic planning session in 2012, Lake Panorama RIZ decided to see if there were locations where CREP wetlands could be installed to help protect the lake.

In October 2016, the 26-acre Helen's Cove/Donahey CREP wetland was completed. The total project cost \$700,000, with more than \$200,000 in federal reimbursements, so the net cost to RIZ was \$500,000.

The wetland includes a six-acre pool. The water pool hosts microbes that turn nitrogen into gas. The nitrogen removed by the wetland is equivalent to taking about 400 acres of row crops out of production. A special forebay collects sediment,



BRAD HALTERMAN | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

This photo, taken September 5, shows progress being made on the wetland dam and control structure. The stream that will flow through the wetland dam and into a plunge pool, is visible beyond the dam. The area surrounding the wetland pool will be seeded with native plants.

which is cleaned periodically. This isn't something done in all CREP wetlands, but because of the desire to

keep as much sediment as possible from reaching Lake Panorama, special approval was granted to include this feature.

Construction on a similar wetland to protect Hughes Cove began in 2016, and

was finished in spring 2017. Like the Helen's Cove project, the net cost to RIZ was about \$500,000. The 23-acre Hughes Cove/Elmquist CREP wetland includes a control structure above a plunge pool, which routes the wa-

ter back into a creek leading into Hughes Cove.

Planning began in 2018 for a third wetland that is nearing completion this fall on RIZ-owned ground north of the Burchfield Cove bridge. This one has a higher percentage

of deeper water for the wetland basin than the first two. It is partially funded with a State of Iowa grant to study wetlands that fall slightly outside of CREP guidelines. Part-

WETLAND, PAGE 5



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CHECK

FROM PAGE 2

cost of this project is just over \$17,000. This spring, GCHVF received a grant through the Guthrie County Community Foundation for \$8,607. The funds received from 10 Squared Women will help the GCHVF match this grant.

“Thanks to the generosity of the 10 Squared Women and their support for our vision of the Pullman Car, we are one step closer to having it restored,” said Alex Krueger, GCHVF President. “This has been a very big and expensive project, but with the support of the community, we are nearing the completion and couldn't be more excited to share this gem with the public.”

Since 1968, the Guthrie County Historical Village and Museum has been sharing local treasures with the world. The Village, located on a 4-acre complex on the southwest side of Panama,

features 12 buildings, numerous exhibits, and thousands of artifacts that explore the history of Guthrie County from 1850 to the early-20th Century.

The museum closed for the season October 15, and will reopen May 1, 2020. More information is available on the Village's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheGCHV. Or on its website at www.thegchv.com.

The 10 Squared Women group has vowed to only nominate and donate funds to local organizations and groups that also vow to keep those dollars working for Guthrie County projects and residents.

“This group can benefit any Guthrie County organization, not just those located in Guthrie Center and Panama, so we want to invite anyone who has the desire and the means to be a part of this group to come check us out,” said Kristen Crouthamel, co-organizer. “As with all of our meet-

ings, the three organizations chosen at random to present this quarter (Guthrie County Historical Village, Guthrie Center and Panama Fire Departments, CR-B Educational Foundation) were very worthy causes,” said Crouthamel.

All of the organizations the 10 Squared Women have donated to since forming in January in 2017 serve residents across the county in Adair, Stuart, Bagley, Bayard, Yale, Jamaica, Panama, Guthrie Center and others.

The Guthrie County Historical Village was nominated by member Barb Wollner, and each member can have one nomination “in the hat” at any one time. The group currently has over 20 nominations “in the hat” and since inception, has donated nearly \$120,000 to various organizations and projects within Guthrie County.

Meetings are held the third Thursday in February, May, August and November. The next quarterly 10 Squared

Women meeting is Thursday, November 21, at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center at 6 p.m. with an appetizer buffet available at 5:30 p.m.

Members are encouraged to bring an interested friend or family member to the meetings and to share the group within their social circles. The 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County is currently at 104 members. This year's goal is to increase that number to 125 members.

Members are not required to attend meetings, however, in order for their vote to count, must be in attendance at the meeting. All members are expected to write their donation checks whether or not they can attend a quarterly meeting and vote.

For a membership form or more information, visit the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc>, or email 10squaredgc@gmail.com.



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Holiday shopping season kicks off November 7

Times staff

The Panama Chamber and area businesses are gearing up for the holiday season. For the last 20 years, local

retail businesses in Panama have come together to help promote holiday shopping on the second weekend in November, and are doing so again this year. The Holi-

day Premier is organized by Kandi Meinecke, owner of Britches 'n' Bows Country Store, and Karla Kaufman. The Panama Chamber supports this annual tradition.

Opening night will be Thursday, November 7, with the event running through Saturday. “We encourage the community to come join the fun and activity in town,” says Dave Grove, Panama Chamber president. “Several of our non-retail businesses will remain open late that evening to help pass out coupons, as well as serve refreshments. Between our many restaurants and shopping opportunities, it should be a great start to a busy shopping weekend in Panama.”

Panama Chamber members participating in the Holiday Premier November 7-9 include Bella Sorella, Ben's Five and Dime, Britches 'n' Bows, Crafty's Coffee, Fashions on 44, Hometown Foods, Kozy Home, Los Altos, T & K Design, and TRIBE.



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WETLAND

FROM PAGE 4

ners are the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University, Lake Panorama RIZ and Lake Panorama Association.

The Burchfield/Smith wetland, named because land for the project was purchased from Marvin Smith, is located one mile north of Burchfield Cove, and is visible northeast of the corner of 180th and Sage Trail.

“This is a really good project for us,” says John Rutledge, LPA general manager. “RIZ has committed 35 acres to this site, nine of which will comprise the wetland pool. This wetland will help with both nitrate removal, as well as storm surge and the associated silt that comes with high flows.”

The project will buffer over 2,000 acres of watershed that lead into Burchfield Cove, which represents about half of the cove’s total watershed. The deep-water wetland has a control structure above a plunge pool, which will route water back into a creek leading into Burchfield Cove.

RIZ owns an additional



BRAD HALTERMAN | SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

This photo, taken August 27, shows metal pieces being driven into the ground to create the wetland dam and water control structure.

quarter-mile of streambank downstream from the wetland, which is being reviewed for a streambank stabilization project. There is another half-mile of privately owned streambank between 180th Trail and the Burchfield bridge.

“The channel between the wetland and the Burchfield bridge is a prime candidate for streambank stabilization,”

Rutledge says. “We have had initial conversations with the landowner and hope to address the full three-quarter mile stretch of streambank in a consolidated project. But additional study is needed before we can confirm this project is feasible.”

A unique feature of wetlands is the ability to quantify the wetland’s ability to improve water quality. At

the two completed wetlands, Iowa State University researchers installed automated water sampling systems at both inflow and outflow points. Brad Halterman, LPA project manager, collects and packages these samples weekly for pickup by Iowa State personnel.

Halterman also gathers data on the rate of water flow out of the wetland, rainfall,

wind speed and barometric pressure, which he emails weekly to ISU researchers. “This data provides a wealth of information that helps improve our understanding of how wetland systems function,” he says.

Once completed, the Burchfield/Smith wetland also will be fitted with data collection equipment. “As test results on the water coming

into and leaving these wetlands are tracked over the next few years, ISU researchers will attempt to determine if this deeper wetland works as well as, or perhaps better than, the shallower wetlands,” says Halterman. “If that’s true, more funding opportunities for wetlands better suited for the west side of the Lake Panorama could be available.”

GROWTH

FROM PAGE 2

Also, Precision Components is opening its 14th Midwest location at the former Bob & Jo’s RV properties at 2102 State Street.

Q. Are there specific plans to promote shopping locally for the upcoming holiday season?

A. Details are in the works for us to join with Panora in the Holiday Kick-off events November 7-9. Check the Guthrie Center Chamber on Facebook for more information, and watch for flyers about the specials around both communities. Nearly all Guthrie Center retailers and restaurants will be participating in our “Holiday Spectacular” weekend with specials, giveaways, and even treats and beverages at some. Main Street Guthrie Center and the Guthrie Center and Panora Chambers also promote Shop Small/Small Business Saturday the Saturday after Thanksgiving,

so retailers likely will have promotions during that weekend as well.

Q. Give us your sales pitch for why Guthrie County residents should shop locally.

A. We guarantee you will be surprised at what you find while shopping in Guthrie Center—and the affordability. The Pink Poppy Apothecary & Co, for example, is a bright, airy, and trendy little shop. She offers a carefully curated mix from natural candles to therapeutic-grade essential oils and herbs, one of a kind journals, crystals, natural tea and accessories, metaphysical must haves, jewelry and home goods. You will find antiques and one-of-a-kind treasures at Nine Livez, and art in all forms from local artists at Art on State. There are four shops for women’s, and some men’s, clothing and jewelry—The Vault at Cut Loose Salon & Spa, Pearls & Lace Country Boutique, Rustic Goddess Boutique, and Strawberry

Patch. Home decor, jewelry and gifts can be found in just about every shop in town, such as Dowd Drug, Carver’s Ridge, It’s YOUR Time LLC (where you also can get massages, facials and tanning), Art on State, The Vault, Pink Poppy, Nine Livez and Strawberry Patch. Appliances and hardware are available at Guthrie Center Appliance, and today’s newest electronics can be purchased at Guthrie Center Communications, a sister company to Panora Telco/Solutions. While you’re shopping, you can eat at Barnyard Breakfast LLC (breakfast only until 11am), Incredibowl (now open for lunch!), Subway, LaVilla Mexican, Hometown Foods deli,

Cabbage Rose (Sunday dining), or Primetime Bar & Grill. For family entertainment, we have the only bowling alley in the immediate area. There are plenty more services and members in addition to retail and dining—keep an eye on our Facebook page for a list of all our members. A business directory also can be found on www.guthrie-center.com. Shopping locally in Guthrie County, not just Guthrie Center, benefits residents and business owners in Guthrie County. By shopping and spending your dollars locally, not only are you getting out of the house and maybe spending time with friends or loved ones, rather than clicking “buy” in front of

a tiny screen, but you are supporting local entrepreneurs, maintaining job security for their employees, potentially helping bring new jobs and residents to the area, and helping grow our sales tax base. I recently read about 10% of local government revenues come from sales taxes—so wouldn’t increasing that base benefit our taxpayers and improve services provided by our local city and county governments?

With so many new and trendy shops in Guthrie Center, it’s worth the short

drive to check it out. One Lake Panorama resident posted on her Facebook page during our sidewalk sales in September: “We went, we shopped and we bought... Definitely go check it out if you have a few minutes. There’s a couple of new stores I didn’t even know were there. Got some great bargains!”

In the November Lake Panorama Times Q&A, Dave Grove, Panora Chamber President, will answer questions about new businesses and promotions in that community

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Lake Panorama Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 27, 2019
Lake Panorama Association Office

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met August 27, 2019, at 5 p.m., at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members present were Mary Jane Carothers, Emily Donovan, Gary Evans, Tom Jeschke, Rich Schumacher, and Jim Spradling.

LPA Staff present: Brad Halterman, Danna Krambeer, and John Rutledge.

Visitors present: Shawn Foy, LPA Member; Everett Grasty, Guthrie County Supervisor

President Carothers called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Approval of the Agenda – Spradling moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Open Forum - Shawn Foy addressed the board regarding purchasing a large area of land bordering Leo Drive. There are several LPA-owned lots in a triangle bordering Leo Drive and Panorama Drive, which total roughly 17 to 18 acres. Foy asked if the Board would consider selling all the lots in this section for a price that is less than the \$12,500 per lot minimum. Foy indicated his intention for use of this property would be to use as an area for trails, with long term plans to build a home on the property. The board will take the request under consideration and ask the Land Sales Committee to review the request.

Foy also asked what the LPA is doing to work with the Guthrie County Supervisors in regard to Sage Trail and other items that affect the lake. Rutledge responded LPA staff is in contact with the Guthrie County Roads Department and there is a good communication with their schedule regarding Lake Panorama related items. Rutledge noted the Sage Trail improvements are anticipated for early-2020.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda
Jeschke moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.
Consent agenda to include:
a) LPA General Manager’s Report
b) Approval of minutes from 07.23.2019 LPA Board Meeting
c) Acceptance of 07.31.2019 consolidated financial report – LPA & LPN, LLC
d) Set date for next board meeting as 09.24.2019
e) Accept minutes from July 2019 LPN, LLC Board of Managers Meeting
f) Accept 08.12.2019 building codes committee minutes

Agenda Item 4a – Consider offer to purchase LPA Lot 2346
The land sales committee reviewed an offer to purchase Lot 2346 from Janice Bahr. Offer is for \$12,500, land sales committee collectively agreed to accept this offer. LPA staff has reviewed the lot and has no objection to the sale of this lot. The land sales committee recommends accepting the offer of \$12,500.

The buyer has made an additional offer on Lot 2345, contingent on Lot 2346 perc test results being unacceptable. Offer is for \$12,500 and is also contingent on Lot 2345 perc test being acceptable, the two lots would be combined. LPA staff has reviewed the lot and has no objection to the sale of this lot. Land sales committee recommends accepting the offer of \$12,500 based on the contingencies explained above.

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Spradling moved to accept offer of \$12,500 to sell Lot 2346 to Janice Bahr. If perc test result unacceptable for Lot 2346, board authorizes additional sale of Lot 2345 for an additional \$12,500, contingent upon buyer’s successful perc test and combination of the two lots at closing. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4b – Consider offer to purchase LPA Lots 897, 898 and 899
The land sales committee (LSC) reviewed offer to purchase LPA Lots 897, 898, and 899 for \$130,000. LSC had previously discussed these lots in April and had set a listing price of \$160,000 for all three lots. LSC reviewed the offer received and countered back with \$145,000. The buyer agreed to make the offer for the price of \$145,000, contingent on an acceptable perc test and land appraisal on other property the buyers currently own. LPA staff has no objections to the sale of this property.

LSC is recommending the acceptance of the \$145,000 offer for lots 897, 898 and 899, lots to be combined at closing.

Spradling moved to accept offer of \$145,000 to sell Lots 897, 898, & 899 to Tony and Shelly Rubel, contingent upon buyer’s successful perc test, appraisal of buyers’ other property and agreement to combine the three lots into one. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4c – Variance request by Ron and Linda Wells, Lot 615, regarding maximum allowable glass in storage shed.

Excerpt from the building codes committee minutes:
Ron and Linda Wells are building a home on 4493 Panorama Drive that the Building Codes Committee (BCC) has given a roof pitch variance this spring so they could build a contemporary home. They would like to build a storage shed to match the home’s style and are asking for a variance to allow for a total of 33 square feet of glass, which exceeds LPA’s rules that limit glass to 24 square feet on storage shed of this nature.

*All members of the BCC voted in favor of the following motion:
Motion to award a variance to Lot #615, which will allow for 33 square feet of glass in the storage shed.*

Jeschke moved to grant a variance which allows for up to 33 square feet of glass for the storage shed on Lot 615, 4493 Panorama Drive, owned by Ron and Linda Wells. The variance is based on the drawing plan submitted with roof pitch matching the house of 3/12. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4d – Request for water service extension to Scott Calmer.
Scott and Joyce Calmer have requested to be hooked up to the Lake Panorama water system for their property at 2025 Hwy 4. Calmers are in the City of Panora’s territory but have been released by them due to the City’s inability to serve their property.

LPA has provided service to non-association property in the past. The current precedent has been to charge a \$1,250 tap fee, plus require that the recipient of the extension pay for all installation and maintenance costs. Ongoing water rates will apply from that point forward.

Jeschke moved to allow Scott and Joyce Calmer, 2025 HWY 4, Lake Panorama water line extension for a tap fee of \$1,250 plus the cost of all expenses to install and maintain the line contingent upon written agreement that details terms of usage and cost and provides protection to LPA against any commercial, livestock or other endeavors which LPA would judge to be detrimental to Lake Panorama. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4e – Confirm LPA can disconnect water service for repeated refusal to allow upgrade of meter.

LPA has been upgrading water meters for a number of years. A couple of members have refused to allow LPA access to change out their meters. They have been offered alternatives, such as hiring their own plumber (at their own expense) to change the meter. Rutledge relayed LPA has exhausted all reasonable efforts with these members.

Spradling moved to adopt a “required water meter upgrades policy” to grant LPA management the authority to disconnect water service to any LPA member or LPA water customer who refuses to comply with a 30-day written notice for required meter inspection or meter replacement; and to further authorize LPA’s reconnection fee shall apply for reconnection. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4f – Prohibit bow fishing in the marina area.
Rutledge advised the board he has been contacted about concerns regarding bow fishing within the marina. Rutledge suggested bow fishing in the marina is a bad idea for several reasons:

- Protection of members’ boats in our rental slips.
- Large numbers of people come and go from the marina and we can’t delineate a “downrange” area.
- Fuel is dispensed at this location and would bear the consequence of any fuel discharge.

Jeschke moved to ban bow fishing in the marina area as defined as the area east of the jetty and within the marina “no wake” buoys. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Old Business – None

Agenda Item 6 Other Business –
Rutledge updated the board on the Guthrie County Supervisor meeting of August 27, 2019. The county jail project is scheduled for a vote in March 2020. LPA management is supportive of this project.

Dan York, representing the ski team, has made a request to have a firm “No Wake” policy in the main basin during the ski show. York requested a large sign and buoy be placed in the main basin to notify all members of the no wake period. The Board thanked the Yorks for their longtime volunteer work in the organization and operation of the ski team. The board will ask the Water Safety Committee to review this topic at their next meeting.

Adjourn - With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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BEELER

FROM PAGE 3

Donna and daughter Gerri started to explore Lake Panorama. “We drove around several times, always getting lost. We loved it here,” Donna says. “There were two sales incentives. One was how the people waved as we met them on the roads, and the other was our excitement seeing deer. Little did we know about those deer!”

The couple purchased a steep, wooded, waterfront lot tucked into a cove, where they built a cedar house. They moved into the house from Madison County in 2000 and Donna retired in 2002.

She soon turned her attention to writing. “I always liked to write, and spent time in bad weather writing stories or poems, drawing pictures or coloring,” Beeler says. “When I was about 10 years old, I entered an essay in a national conservation contest, and won \$10 for first place.”

In retirement, Beeler published three books, one each in 2004, 2005 and 2006. “The books were sort of an accident,” she says. “My parents never talked much about their life before I was born, so I thought it would be a good idea to jot things down that I did remember them telling us. I had a good friend read as I wrote, and one day he told me I should put it all in a book.”

Beeler decided to frame her short stories as coming from a woman with memory loss, adding some fiction along the way. This woman was placed in a home where she relived her life by looking out the bedroom window, which was the inspiration for the book’s title—Passed Through the Window on my way to life.

“That was so much fun I decided to write one that was all fiction about spousal abuse, identity theft and more,” Beeler says. That book’s title was Jan Ellen Johnson,



SUSAN THOMPSON | TIMES STAFF

Old farm equipment and memorabilia create a display in Beeler’s yard, which is surrounded by timber.

my life, my spirit, my survival. The books were available in bookstores, and she enjoyed book signings locally, and in Des Moines and Ames. Both are out of print, although a recent Google search turned up one available in Europe for more than \$100.

One more book was published. “When my daughter lost her much loved dog to cancer, I wanted to do a tribute to him so the book was written by him, Murffy,” she says. “I sent the manuscript to a printer with me as the publisher, put a bar code on it, and ordered a box. It was cheaper than having a publisher, as I could do as I pleased with the books.”

Just Call me Murff is geared to children. “I didn’t intend to sell any. I just ordered a box to give away to kids or anyone wanting one,” she says.

Beeler tells a funny story about her picture used on the back of all three books. “Since I used D Rae as the author to be incognito, I really didn’t want my picture on the book. But my first publisher was persistent,” she says. “As usual my hair was a fright. I put that big hat on, could only find one earring, found a neck scarf of my mother’s,

and worked my disguise.”

Beeler placed a camera on the bathroom vanity, hit its 10-second timer, then ran into place and squatted in front, trying to be centered before the timer went off. “After about a dozen tries, it seemed close so I forwarded it to the publisher,” she says. “The next day my legs were so sore from squatting I could hardly walk.”

In 2014, Donna had a heart attack. As Bill’s health declined, she was his primary caregiver. Now her health issues led to his entering a care facility, and he passed away in 2017.

“I decided to move to a place that was more level with easy access to town,” Donna says. She sold the cedar house and purchased three wooded lots north of the Panorama West golf course.

Beeler turned her creative juices to planning her new home. “The first time I took my design in for a blueprint it came back completely different,” she says. “So I took it to somebody else, and told him not to mess around with it. Right or wrong, it was what I wanted.”

The ranch home with an attached three-car garage and

finished basement is tucked into a clearing in the woods. During the year the house was being built, Beeler lived in a duplex in Panora, creating home furnishings out of old and discarded pieces, using the construction knowledge she gained as a child.

A bathroom vanity once was a console television. Lamps were created from a variety of materials. A drawer turned into a shelf near her coffee station. The roof of an old hog house became a bathroom mirror frame.

Many of the old pieces came from a barn on the family farm. Many more still are stored in her “she shed” and garage, which also is her shop. “It is hard to say what might come out of that shed full of junk waiting to find a home, but as the ideas and spirit hit me, that is when I find out. It keeps an old lady busy and out of other trouble,” she says.

Yard displays feature some of the pieces salvaged from the farm—horse-drawn corn planter, old wooden wheel wagon, toy tractor, and the sign the family received for owning an Iowa Century Farm.

A recent addition is Big Bird. “A few years ago I was intrigued at the Iowa State

Fair by the metal figures made by 4-H and FFA members. So when my friend said he had seen one I should have in my yard, I decided to create it,” Beeler says.

“Much of the junk needed I already had, and I was able to pick up what I didn’t have. A welder was kind enough to put up with me to weld it all together so I could paint it,” she says. “Big Bird took a lot of time, but I think he is cute.”

When it’s not nice enough to work outside or in her garage, Beeler creates dream catchers at her kitchen table. Originally created by American Indians, dream catchers usually consist of a wooden hoop covered in a net or web of natural fibers, with feathers and beads hanging down from the bottom of the hoop.

“I have this thing about doing anything I haven’t tried before, which is when I started making dream catchers,” Beeler says. “They are so much fun to make and I love seeing them. With some of the short pieces of leather I also have made some necklaces.”

Beeler’s creations are available at Art on State in Guthrie Center, and The Art Exchange in Panora. She also makes custom ones on request.

Beeler is a staunch supporter of Iowa State University athletics, since her children attended there, as did other members of the Beeler family. Her family’s long association with 4-H programs offered through ISU Extension also helped build that loyalty.

Beeler stays physically active. She enjoys playing golf at the nearby Panorama West course. Each weekday morning, she drives to the fitness center at the Guthrie County Hospital, a practice she began five years ago after her heart attack. There she spends 30 minutes on an elliptical trainer, followed by some strength training. She often stays for lunch and a few games of cribbage with friends in the nearby cafeteria.

Remember that 4-H Clover song Beeler sang at the Madison County Rally more than 70 years ago? It details the four traits that make up the four leaves of the 4-H clover symbol—hope, faith, love, kindness.

Recently she was walking along the road near her home, looking for poison ivy to spray. “I have a habit of humming and singing whatever song comes to my mind, and for some reason, probably because of all of the clover along the road, I found myself singing the 4-H Clover Song. I looked down and there, right in front of me, was a four-leaf clover,” she says. “I had not seen one for probably 40 years. I thought right away God had heard me singing. I was so shocked, but I thanked God, and took it inside to put in my Bible.”

Perhaps we should ask Donna Beeler to teach the Clover Song to the rest of the world.

Oh I know a place where the sun is like gold and the cherry blooms burst with snow.

One leaf is for hope, and you must have faith.

You must love and be kind and so,

If you watch, if you wait, you will find the place,

Where the four leaf clovers grow.

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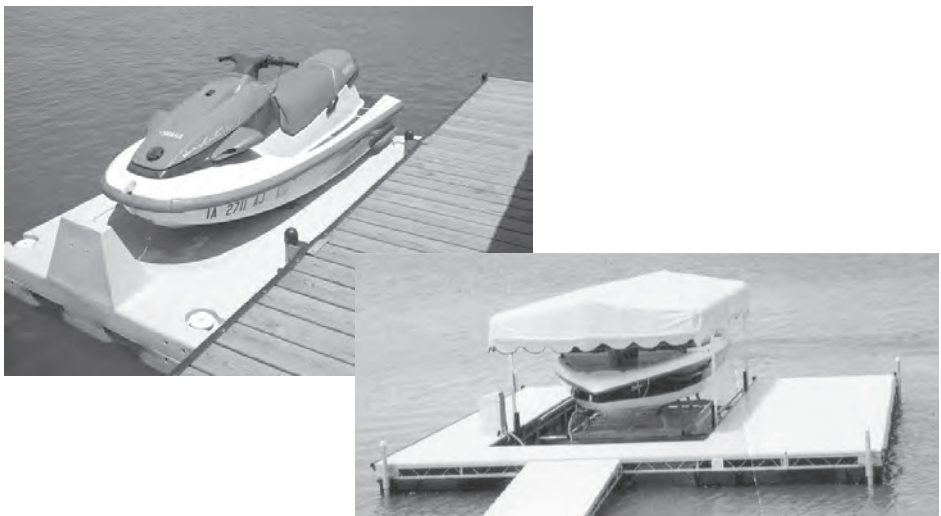
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Breaking news should not dissuade you from pursuing your long-term objectives.

Episodes of volatility come and go. Wise investors acknowledge that downturns are expected and have patience when they do. Decisions made during market turbulence can backfire.

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Kristen Crouthamel, AIF®, Financial Advisor

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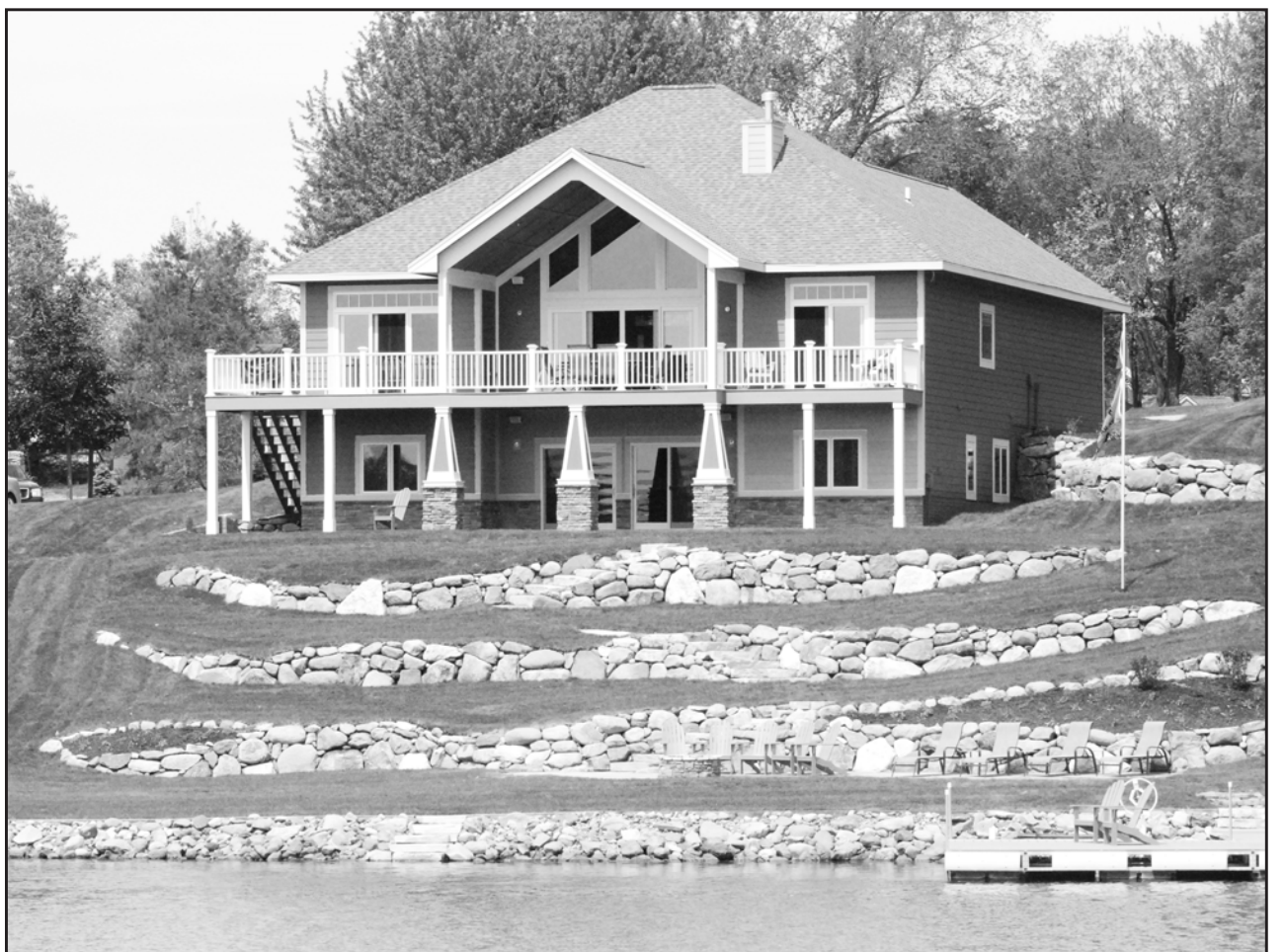


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STANLEY EXCAVATION



A Dredge America employee is shown working on the dredge's cutter head on land north of Lake Panorama's upper basin.

BRAD HALTERMAN | TIMES STAFF

DREDGE

FROM PAGE 1

Following RIZ's 20-year renewal in 2017, the RIZ Board of Trustees began an extensive effort to schedule expenditures for the next two decades. Early in that process, "catch-up" dredging in the river channel was identified as essential. Besides removing sedi-

ment from a key buffer area for Lake Panorama, the RIZ board recognized increased dredging in the river channel would use up available storage in the County Silt Basin before some land leases there expire. Planning for that basin near the north end of the lake began in 2004. The land was obtained from seven different owners. Construction began in 2005, and was

completed and the basin first used in 2006. It was named the County Basin, despite the fact it's not owned by Guthrie County. Last fall, the RIZ board finalized \$11 million worth of debt certificates, which are similar to bonds, to finance hiring an outside company to dredge the river channel, plus other future projects. This will allow RIZ to ensure the County Basin is filled

before current easements expire, plus begin planning for future sediment storage. With the guidance of Shive-Hattery Engineers, RIZ solicited bids and selected Dredge America to complete a \$4.1 million dollar project in the river channel by December of 2020. Once dredging begins, the company will have a crew of four to five workers onsite at all times, and

will operate 24 hours a day. Dredge America is mobilizing north of the upper basin, and will begin dredging this fall, with the bulk of their work in the spring, summer and fall of 2020. The company has submitted to a strict invasive species policy as part of its contract, and was inspected by Lake Panorama staff prior to launching their dredge September 30. Ongoing

inspections will be conducted for any additional craft that is launched, as well as associated equipment or pipe. This work will supplement LPA's annual dredging contract with RIZ, as LPA crews continue working in areas not impacted by the Dredge America contract. Both Dredge America and LPA will pump into the County Basin in 2020.

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RING

FROM PAGE 1

combing through the grass. I know a ring is a thing, but the symbol of 44 years is tough to part with." But the search was in vain. As the couple left, they told those helping they would return another day to search again. They left contact information with a woman who mentioned her husband cared for the fields. The couple has had a home in the Panora area since 1997, and now own a condo at Boulder Cove.

Scott Schoenleber, who lives near Van Meter with his wife and three children, noticed the search party. "We had just finished up my oldest son's soccer game, and I saw people digging through the grass on the other side of the parking lot," he says. "I sent my son and a couple other team members to help search, but they didn't have any luck." Once the Schoenleber family got home, Scott created a Facebook post asking if someone in the area had a metal detector he could use to help find the ring. He got several responses from people either offering a metal detector or simply offering to help with the search. A couple days later, one of the responders met Schoenleber at the site with a metal detector. "We spent 15 minutes searching before we found it," he says. "Someone had either run over it with a tire, or stepped on it so it was buried in the mud. It would have been impossible to find without a metal detector." Schoenleber returned to Facebook with this post. "There was a lady in Van Meter last Sunday at her grandson's soccer game who lost her wedding ring in the parking lot. We found it with a metal detector, but she never left any contact information. Don't know her



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Shown returning the lost wedding ring to Karen Sievers are Scott and Jamie Schoenleber, and their children, Tyson, Brody, and Kenna.

name, but she said she was from Panora. Would like to try to get it back to her." Kevin McClatchey, a Pan-orama High School grad, saw the Facebook message, then shared it on the Lake Panorama Swap-Buy-Sell site, along with this message — "Hey Pan-orama people, do your thing!" Marc Clausen, who moderates the Nextdoor Lake Pan-orama online site, saw McClatchey's post and wanted to give it a wider audience. So he shared it on the Nextdoor Lake Panorama. Within minutes, Peg Carr posted she thought it belonged to Karen Sievers, but she didn't have Karen's number, and asked if someone who did would call her. Soon Mary Beidelman saw the post and called the Sievers. Clausen wrapped up the back-and-forth exchanges online with "well done team!" A couple days later, the Sievers met the Schoenleber family in Van Meter. Scott says their kids were excited about having been involved in finding the ring. They used a toothbrush to clean mud off the ring and get it ready to give back to Karen. With the ring back in her

possession, Karen herself made a Facebook post. She told the story of losing the ring, the fruitless search, and the final result. "One of the searching families didn't give up. By using a metal detector, they located it. We met them today and the children had it cleaned and ready to hand off. Feels so good to have met such a wonderful family and to end the week all smiles." What made Scott Schoenleber take so many steps to help a stranger? "They were in need of help, and they didn't live here. Karen strikes you as everyone's mom and grandma," Scott said. "There was no question we were going to help. It also was a way to show our kids you need to do the right thing, and help other people when you're able." "Perhaps it's time for Jim and I to revisit our home insurance policy," Karen joked. She was happy to share her story of how she lost the ring, but especially the many people who got involved in helping find and return it to her. "This is a feel-good story about small town nice, and the power of networking through social media that can lead to personal connections," she says.



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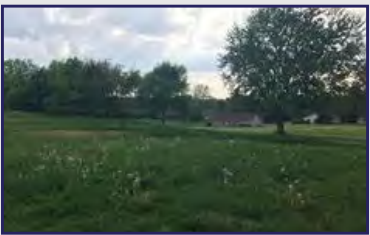
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