

Lake Panorama

TIMES

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FEATURE

Priestley Construction: More than building houses

Bill Priestley reflects on 40-year career as local contractor, now fighting ALS

By ASHLEY SCHABLE
Lake Times staff

Bill Priestley built his first home at the young age of 19, and just months ago, he built his last.

Both homes — two of more than a hundred he developed under Priestley Construction — were for his wife, Marcia.

“He told (our son) Andy he built his first house for me and his last house for me,” Marcia said as her husband of 45 years nodded and gave her knee a little squeeze while they sat inside their beautiful new custom home on the south edge of Guthrie Center.

Between the homes where he raised his family, including son Andy and daughter Ali, Bill Priestley built a successful business, and a life on the foundation of faith.

“We have been blessed,” said Marcia, who helps Bill communicate now as he battles symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a relentless and fatal disease.

BUILT TO LAST

It all began rather innocuously for Bill Priestley. With a foundation built on integrity, leadership and loyalty, his company, Priestley Construction, has more than 40 years of experience in building 150 homes.

Bill and Marcia (Sorensen) Priestley both were raised in Guthrie Center. Bill, 63, said he always thought he was going to be a farmer, working many mornings on the family farm growing up. He’d clean out feed bunks and hog houses before heading to school. He farmed his grandfather’s land near Audubon as a senior in high school.

After graduating, he attended Des Moines Area Community College and studied building trades.

He married Marcia on Nov. 11, 1972.

Marcia, 65, pursued a career in education at Simpson College in Indianola. She retired in May 2014 after 40 years of teaching, including 20 as a fourth-grade teacher at Guthrie Center Elementary School.



And Bill, with a knack and skill for developing homes, built.

Priestley Construction has built more than 130 homes at Lake Panorama in Panora, and Bill says he’s proud of every one of them.

He doesn’t have a favorite, although he admits some homes and clients were easier to work with than others.

Styles have changed a lot, he said. Today’s homes have more open floor plans, more usable space.

“He told me when he first started, they didn’t have that many things to choose from, but now there is everything,” Marcia said, noting an array of cabinets and hardware, flooring and color options. “They have so many choices, and they go to websites and find these ideas and say, ‘Can you do this and do that?’ The choices are

unlimited.”

The cost of homes and building materials has also changed. “Forty years ago, lake homes were a lot smaller,” Bill said. “Lots now cost as much as houses did when we started.”

Priestley says his success is due to a great crew, lead by Junior Wolfe and Billy Donovan, both longtime employees. Sometimes they would have two or three houses going at the same time.

Bill took pride in the attention to detail and design for which Priestley Construction became known.

Before he could build, he had to be proud of it.

Bill drew most of his house plans. He never learned computer-aided drafting (CAD), a computer system many carpenters use to aid in the creation and modification of a design.

“He would sit at the draw-

ing table,” Marcia said. “He drew by hand.”

Bill and Marcia both say it’s not the homes he built they remember most but all the wonderful people they’ve met.

He’s built homes in Guthrie Center, Casey, Audubon, Adel, and Dallas Center, where he built a home for son Andy and his wife, Julie, in 2004.

“He always felt the most important part was that his client was happy with their house,” Marcia said. “He would bend over backwards to make sure they were happy.”

“HE’S A PEACH OF A GUY”
Billy Donovan started working with Bill Priestley right out of high school and spent nearly 19 years on his crew. A 1995 Guthrie Center high school graduate, Donovan went into

PRIESTLEY, PAGE 4A

FEATURE

‘Float in Paradise’

Mike and Austin Hayden created ParadisePad after discovering the floating foam at Lake Panorama

By ASHLEY SCHABLE
Lake Times staff

A father-son business making a big splash got its start at Lake Panorama.

Mike Hayden and his son, Austin, created ParadisePad, a foam water raft designed for water enthusiasts in 2011. Seven years later, the company is a world-

class operation with thousands of boaters choosing to float in paradise.

“It’s been quite a ride,” said Austin, 25, a West Des Moines Valley high school graduate who earned a scholarship to play soccer at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

PARADISE, PAGE 3A



Some of the first ParadisePad products were sold right from the Hayden family dock at Lake Panorama. Today they are sold in over 40 states across the country.

COUNTY

March 5 deadline for Guthrie County Community Foundation grants

The Guthrie County Community Foundation wants to inform all Guthrie County non-profit organizations of the upcoming deadline for 2018 grant applications. Organizations must be a 501(c)3 or have the same tax exempt qualifying status. They must be located within Guthrie County or provide services

to residents of Guthrie County. Applications must be submitted, via email as one pdf file, no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018. Late applications, incomplete, or applications that do not follow directions will not be considered.

COUNTY, PAGE 8A



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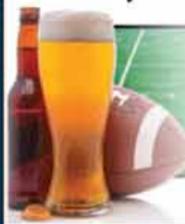
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PARADISE

FROM PAGE 1A

Austin was a college student, spending a summer day on Lake Panorama with family and friends when he spotted a large floating piece of foam.

"We pulled into Party Cove and we all saw this party pad," Austin said of the bright colored raft keeping people afloat behind a boat.

Austin swam over to check it out, wondering how he could get one.

"We climbed on it and thought it was a cool thing," Austin said. "But it didn't seem to hold up my friends all that well."

Intrigued, Austin wondered if there might be a better product out there, so along with his Dad, he began researching.

Mike Hayden, a 30-year manufacturing representative, put a team of engineers together, mostly his friends and family, and began sizing up the competition.

"We got samples of competitors and brought them to the engineers," Mike said, noting professionals at IBM, a technology company, Boeing Commercial Aircraft, and Proctor & Gamble, a consumer goods corporation.

Mike asked them to share their opinions on what they would do different with the foam pads.

What they came up with was an American made, two-ply, thermally bonded water pad that the Haydens have manufactured in the Midwest. A 10-foot tether cord they designed is longer than most of their competitors, they say. It allows safe distance from a boat and can be easily tied to a dock.

The pads come in a variety of sizes and range in weight from 30 to 35 pounds. The pads hold between 900 and 3,000 pounds, depending on the size and range in price from \$300 to \$700 per pad.

ParadisePads have a rip-stop membrane in-between layers of foam that make it one of the best in the industry, Mike said.

"Some of the differences is the Kevlar in there, it's a strong, tear-resistant membrane," Mike said comparing the high-strength material used in their product to others.

He adds, "The stainless steel tether doesn't pull out like the plastic ones frequently do."

The Haydens sold their first ParadisePads right off their dock at Lake Panorama.

"That first summer people would come up and say, 'Are you the guys with the pads?'" Austin said. "We'd tell them we'd be right back, walk up the hill and bring one down."

They started contacting marinas, including local Coulter's Panorama Marine, who agreed to sell their floating pads. The business plan includes wholesale only to marinas and boat dealers.

"We're trying to grow our business like the Internet never happened because if things like Amazon keep happening, what's going to happen to the brick and mortar of the United States?" Mike said.

ParadisePad is now available in 40 states and also distributed in Europe. They were featured in Great Lakes Scuttlebutt Magazine as America's premium foam water pad. They are the official



Austin Hayden (left) and his father Mike Hayden created ParadisePad, a foam water pad designed for people looking for a perfect raft on the water in 2011, and since selling their first pads off their dock at Lake Panorama, have grown the business into a world-class operation with sales in 40 states. The Haydens have been enjoying Lake Panorama for over 20 years.



ParadisePad is the official pad of Rugged Maniac, an annual obstacle course race, otherwise known as a mud run hosted in multiple cities across the United States.

water pad for Aquapalooza, a multi-location boating festival, and also the official pad of Rugged Maniac, an annual obstacle course race, otherwise known as a mud run hosted in multiple cities across the United States.

ParadisePad products are for water buffs of all ages.

"I thought I wanted this for my friends, to get away from parents on the boat," Austin said. "But the adults are the ones who buy them, so they also enjoy their time on the water."

The Haydens say they've witnessed a young child who is scared of the water given a safe and sturdy place to play on a ParadisePad.

"We had a family in Indiana with a cousin in a wheel chair and they were able to get him in the water and lay him on the pad, so that was really cool," Austin said.

A few of the pads have been purchased by fire departments for thin ice rescue.

ParadisePad continues to develop new products, including inflatable rafts and inflatable paddle boards.

"What people are finding out it's amazing how well they hold up," Mike said of the pads that inflate in minutes to a rigid and sturdy floating dock platform and deflate in minutes to easily stow in boat compartments.

A 61-year-old family friend of the Haydens doesn't have a boat, but enjoys her inflatable paddle board at Gray's Lake and the Raccoon River.

"We understand the pads are big and large and not for everybody, so that's opened our eyes to get into some other water toys," said Mike, who over a year ago left his full-time job to focus more on their growing

ParadisePad business.

The father-son pair say they've enjoyed building the business together.

"Every year we have gotten better," said Mike, who believes if you aren't up at 5 a.m. and working until 10 p.m. you aren't working hard enough.

"I was born in '92 and am friends, to get away from parents on the boat," Austin said. "But the adults are the ones who buy them, so they also enjoy their time on the water."

They continue to compliment each other.

They attend a lot of boat shows in January, February and March to promote their products and even attend a few shows in April and May.

"We're trying to get everybody to place their orders now and then let us know when they want to receive product," Mike said. "Every year we've gotten better at preparing inventory levels and having things ready."

The Haydens have entertained some ideas of giving back through raffles and community events. They held a raffle that raised over \$600 for the Lake Panorama Ski Team last August. They provided several pads and inflatables during the Cy-Hawk football rival event at the lake's Boulder Beach in September.

"Every year we give donations and we try to give money back to the area," Mike said.

They have experienced several different lakes, finding every family boats differently, while promoting their business.

Some of their favorites include Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas, Lake Lanier in Georgia and Lake Viking in Missouri.

"It's a beautiful lake that reminds me of Lake Panorama," Mike said of the northern Missouri water.



The ParadisePads were created for water enthusiasts of all ages. They are available in different colors and sizes.



ParadisePad is the official pad of Rugged Maniac, an annual obstacle course race, otherwise known as a mud run hosted in multiple cities across the United States.



The ParadisePads were created for water enthusiasts of all ages. They are available in different colors and sizes.



Some of the first ParadisePads were sold right from a dock at Lake Panorama. The company, owned by Lake Panorama residents Mike and Austin Hayden, are now sold all across the country and also distributed in Europe.



Mike Hayden and his family, including wife Colette, daughter Alison and son Austin, have enjoyed days at Lake Panorama for over 20 years. Mike and Austin Hayden created ParadisePad, a company that sells watersport products, in 2011 and have grown their business into a world-class operation. Lake Panorama has hundreds of ParadisePad owners.



ParadisePad continues to develop new products, including inflatable rafts. They inflate in minutes to a rigid and sturdy floating dock platform and deflate in minutes to easily stow in boat compartments. They also have inflatable paddle boards and inflatable beer pong rafts.

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PRIESTLEY

FROM PAGE 1A

business for himself, now owner of Donovan Construction LLC in Panora, about five years ago. He says he owes a lot to Priestley for his success.

"He is just a class act guy who I really looked up to and had a lot of respect for," Donovan said. "I owe a lot of my success to him — from watching him and learning how he operated and how he worked with customers and homeowners."

Donovan said Priestley always cared about his employees and his subcontractors — a genuine and humble guy who everybody could connect with.

"He was always on the job, there every morning," Donovan said. "He's a humble guy who is always more worried about others."

Tim McDermott and Bill Priestley didn't get off on the right foot in their first meeting years ago.

"He wanted some things sent out to a job site and I went off the quote and sent it out and it turns out I sent some stuff that wasn't supposed to go," said McDermott, who works at Lake Lumber, a hardware store in Panora.

An unhappy Priestley visited the lumber business and had a few words with McDermott. "He gave me hell and I don't take that real good, so I got right in his face and he walked out of here madder than a hornet," McDermott said.

The next day Priestley returned to apologize. McDermott did the same. They've been best friends ever since.

McDermott said Priestley's integrity is unmatched.

"If something was wrong on the job site, whether it got broke or bent or whatever, if he came in and wanted credit for it, you can bet it happened when we unloaded it," McDermott said. "That's a rare quality anymore."

Some of their favorite times together have been spent on fishing trips in Canada.

"I have a picture of Bill from Canada and when I took it he turned around and said, 'I'm going to regret doing that aren't I?'" McDermott said. "I still hold the picture."

McDermott said Priestley has



Members of the Bill and Marcia Priestley family are (front row, from left) Claire Priestley, Katelyn Priestley, Brynn Coppola, Carter Coppola, (second row) Julie Priestley, Andy Priestley, Bill Priestley, Lia Coppola, Marcia Priestly, Ali Coppola, and Cary Coppola.

always been a professional and a caring person.

"He's very humble and generous beyond belief," McDermott said. "If he knows people are in trouble, he's the first one to step up — He's a peach of a guy."

FATHER KNOWS BEST

Bill Priestley — be it as contractor, friend, husband or father — builds great relationships with everyone and always makes those around him feel very comfortable, his family says.

Growing up, Andy Priestley worked for his dad at Priestley Construction during the summer months.

"Dad didn't want me to go into construction, stating it's a difficult, labor-intensive business, so he gave me the least-desirable tasks," Andy said.

Some of the worst included insulating attics in the heat of the summer and carrying countless buckets of cement down steep Lake Panorama lots.

"I couldn't wait to find a different summer job, any other job," Andy said.

When he turned 16, he got a job at Lake Panorama National Golf Course.

Sharing the same entrepreneurial spirit as his father, Andy has founded multiple businesses. Today he is CEO and co-founder of My Online Camp, the 25 em-



ployee sports technology company used by the National Football League and thousands of college athletic programs across the country.

In the early '90s, when Priestley Construction was hitting its stride, Bill bought a computer to manage the accounting aspects of his business. Andy helped him get things set up and then continued to handle general accounting tasks in Quicken and QuickBooks for the company throughout high school and college, also setting up a computerized invoicing system.

"These accounting tasks gave me firsthand experience and understanding of business cash-flows and forecasting — things I still use today," Andy said.

Andy said he knows that times

weren't always easy for his dad.

"In the '80s, there were times when it was a struggle for (Priestley Construction) to find work," he said.

What he remembers most is how hard his dad worked.

"How dedicated he was to serving the customer, never cutting corners, always doing the job right," Andy said. "His career is proof that hard work and integrity equate to sustainable success."

Unlike her brother, the Priestleys' daughter Ali never gave construction a try, but she did enjoy walking through the homes with her dad.

"I always loved doing this," she said. "I remember certain things that made each house unique."

The huge beams in the ceilings of one, a movie theater in another, the house with the indoor pool, the one with the outdoor fireplace.

"I always loved seeing the almost-complete homes and felt such a sense of pride that my dad did all of that," she said.

She remembers, too, her dad leaving early in the mornings for the shop before visiting job sites. He'd stop at Casey's for a doughnut and pay in advance for the coffee Marcia would pick up before school.

He'd spend some afternoons at home doing book work, Ali recalled.

"I can still hear the screech of his drawing table as he would hand-draw all of the blueprints," she said. "He took so much time and pride on each one. If someone wanted a change, he had to start the whole thing over."

Ali witnessed her dad's work ethic, too.



PRIESTLEY, PAGE 5A

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PRIESTLEY

FROM PAGE 4A

“He always knew the value of work, and that was just a part of life,” she said.

His friendly and positive personality made him easy for customers to work with.

“Even after he’d completed homes, sometimes the customers would ask him to come back and fix a light fixture or build them a porch swing,” she said.

Ali and her husband, Cary Coppola, live in West Des Moines, where Ali is a guidance counselor at St. Augustin Catholic School.

They have a boat at Lake Panorama.

“It always makes me proud to point out the houses that Dad built,” she said.

Bill said the area has been good to him.

“We need good, young carpenters,” he said.

He’d been going strong for years, but then something changed.

‘YOU’RE JUST GOING TO GET WORSE’

It started with slurred speech. His close friends thought he was drinking too much, Marcia said.

He had excessive saliva, maybe a salivary gland, they thought. They entered the world of ALS on Oct. 31, 2016. Marcia remembers it was Trick-or-Treat night.

The diagnosis is bulbar ALS, with symptoms associated with swallowing, speech and respiration.

“It’s all upper,” Marcia said. “He can still walk, and he still goes to the shop. He rides his bike and is doing the things he could do.”

Only now he chokes some and has to be more careful.

A couple of months ago, he lost his ability to speak.

“Most of what I did was talk,” Bill writes as he shares his thoughts on a tablet.

Marcia says they have good support.

“Iowa has a really good (ALS Association) chapter,” she said.

Bill has doctors in Iowa City. Unlike with some other illnesses, ALS patients visit their doctors only every four months.

“You don’t go to appointments when you have ALS,” Marcia said. “You don’t go see your doctor because they know you’re just going to get worse.”

So, every four months, Bill has an appointment. All afternoon, he meets with physical and occupational therapists, speech and swallowing specialists and a neurologist.

“That’s just the way it works,” Marcia said.

Bill is trying a new drug, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in May. He wears a port on the right side of his

chest.

“We’re so thankful, because you can get infusions in Guthrie Center,” Marcia said of the Guthrie County Hospital. “His is 14 days in a row and 14 days off, so he goes up there whenever. In Iowa City, we waited for two hours, so we’re blessed Guthrie Center has that.”

When Bill was diagnosed, they told him he might lose his voice within six months, but he didn’t lose it for close to a year. Daughter-in-law Julie Priestley researched and helped Bill bank his voice.

“He said all these phrases into the computer, and now they are making an app out of it that he will be able to use that will be his own voice,” Marcia said. “It will be neat for the grandkids. Our youngest is 3 and wants to remember Grandpa, and his voice.”

When the family learned of Bill’s diagnosis, Marcia Priestley said, everyone was in tears.

“We were all crying, and Bill goes, ‘I’ve lived a blessed 62 years. I’ve loved my job, my family, I wouldn’t change a thing,’” Marcia said.

He’s glad it isn’t his kids or his five grandchildren — Katelyn and Claire Priestley, and Carter, Brynn and Lia Coppola.

The tears fall.

He has a strong attitude. Strong faith.

Bill’s parents, Charles and Phyllis Priestley, have both passed. He has his father’s Bible.

“His goal last year was to read through it, and so we did, and he finished, and now he’s starting over again,” Marcia said. “He just feels like God’s blessed him.”

Since Bill’s diagnosis, the family has been overwhelmed by the support.

They have received a tall pile of cards, most of them from people at the lake whose homes Bill built.

“They write about how much they loved Bill,” Marcia said through tears. “It’s very heartwarming. We get cards every day, and they told us how much they loved working with him, that they loved their home, that they were thankful he was able to build for them.”

People sent gifts and boxes of cookies during the holiday. They called to wish the Priestleys Merry Christmas.

“We were going to Christmas Eve service and the phone rang and a client wanted to tell us to have a nice Christmas with our family,” Marcia said. “To have people take time on Christmas to call you ... some of them we see and they just come up and give me a hug around town.”

Ali has run into her dad’s clients in Des Moines.

“They immediately ask about Dad,” she said. “They all say he’s such a great guy and was so good to work with. They all tell me they think about him daily and



pray for him often.”

It’s been hard on Marcia. She’ll tell Bill that they’re supposed to grow old together.

“He said, ‘We already are,’” she smiled. “I meant in our 70s and 80s. I’m losing my right arm, right leg — we’ve done everything together.”

And they still are. Last year, they traveled widely throughout the country. In Washington, D.C., they got to see the presidential motorcade with both President Obama and President Trump. They visited Florida, Seattle and Arizona. This year, they have toured Nashville and Phoenix and plan to return to Anna Maria Island in Florida.

“We’ve been pretty good to let him do just about anything he’s wanted,” Marcia said of their adventures. “He just wanted to travel, see places he hasn’t seen.”

He took a helicopter ride down into the Grand Canyon on a trip last week.

“He had done a helicopter ride over Denali in Alaska and he thought that was really cool, so I wanted him to get to do that,” Marcia said.

He also keeps busy when he’s around home. He visits his shop in Guthrie Center every day. His sisters Julie Christensen and Pam Kunkle, both of Guthrie Center, organize coffee at his shop on Friday mornings.

“It started with 5, and now averages a dozen or more,” Marcia said.

He continues to build treasures in his shop. Last winter, he built his daughter a beautiful built-in white cabinet that stretches the entire width of her basement. Ali drew it out for him, and in a few weeks, he had it finished.

“It totally made our fam-

ily room seem finished, and I love knowing that Dad built the whole thing,” Ali said.

He’s also made some benches and coffee tables, some made from wood from the Guthrie County grandstand at the fairgrounds. Several of Ali’s friends saw a bench she had and asked him to make one for them.

“There are some Bill Priestley coffee tables and benches all around Iowa,” she said.

Both Andy and Ali have porch swings Bill built for them one Christmas. They are extra long, so the entire family can fit.

Bill has been making wooden crosses, too.

“He’s giving them to people, and he’s not taking any money,” Marcia said.

What might be one of his favorite projects of all time is the three crosses that sit on a hilltop just east of Guthrie Center. Bill dreamed them up and built them in 2000. He still climbs the hill and changes the floodlights that shine on them at night.

“He likes scenery really well, and he always thought it would be cool to go across the United States and find the perfect spots for three crosses,” Marcia said. “He talked about Crosses Across America, something when he retired. He wanted to do a lot of volunteer work. He wanted to work on churches.”

And he wanted to build more lighthouses. The lighthouse at Lake Panorama that sits on the point just west of Panorama Marine, Bill built in his shop about 15 years ago. He would like to see a few more out there.

“Always thought Boulder Beach had a nice spot there,” he said.

There’s still a lot he wants to do.



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COUNTY

FROM PAGE 1A

The Guthrie County Community Foundation has \$98,814.37 from the Des Moines Foundation and \$41,803 from Grow Greene County for a total \$140,617.37 of funds available for the current grant cycle.

Applications and instructions are available on the city of Guthrie Center's website at

www.guthriecenter.com. Click on the GCCF tab on the left side of the page to access the instructions and the application. They are also available on the city of Panora's website at www.cityofpanora.com. Click on Iowa Community Foundations on the left-hand side of the home page. Or you may go to <http://www.iowacomunityfoundations.org/guthrie-county-community-foundation.aspx>. Click on Grant

Information in the white box on the left-hand side to access the instructions and application.

Applications must be emailed to GCCFoundation@gmail.com with all of the required documentation attached as one pdf file. You may also submit any questions your organization may have regarding the application process to the same email address.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A FINANCIAL ADVISOR?

If you could accomplish all your financial goals just by putting your paycheck into the bank every couple of weeks, you wouldn't need the services of a financial advisor. But life isn't that simple – and so, at some point, you may realize you need some professional assistance. But when?

Actually, you might benefit from the services of a financial advisor during many life events, including the following:

STARTING YOUR CAREER

When you're starting out in your career, you may encounter several questions related to your benefits package. Should you contribute to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan? If so, how much, and where should you invest your money? Are the life and disability insurance policies offered by your employer sufficient for your needs? A financial advisor can help you answer these and other questions you may have.

GETTING MARRIED

When you get married, you'll have to decide if, and how, you want to combine your finances. Also, you and your spouse may have different attitudes about investing and different tolerances for risk. A financial professional can help you find common ground.

CHANGING JOBS

When you switch jobs, what should you do with your old employer's retirement plan? And how should you invest in the plan offered by your new employer? As was the case when you first began your career, you may find that a financial professional can help you make the right choices.

FACING A LAYOFF OR BUYOUT

You may never go through a layoff, or take a buyout offer from an employer – but if either of these events happen, you will face some financial decisions. And during such a potentially stressful period, you may be tempted to make some financial moves that won't be beneficial. A financial advisor can suggest some strategies that may help you keep your investment situation relatively intact until you land your next job.

Saving for college – If you have children whom you'd like to send to college someday, you'll probably want to start putting money away as early as possible. A financial professional can show you the various college-savings vehicles, and help you choose the ones that are most appropriate for your needs.

GETTING DIVORCED

If you are fortunate, you won't ever experience a di-



Dave Grove

orce, but, if it does happen, you'll want to get the professional assistance necessary to ensure fair outcomes for everyone. You'll obviously need to work with an attorney, but you may find that, in the area of investments, a financial advisor also can be useful.

ENTERING RETIREMENT

As you near retirement, your key questions will switch – but not entirely – from putting money in to taking money out. How much can you withdraw each year from your 401(k) and IRA without running the risk of outliving your resources? When should you start taking Social Security? If you were to work a couple of years longer than you had originally intended, how would it affect your withdrawal strategies? Again, a financial advisor can help you with these issues.

As you can see, most important life events will carry some financial concerns. But you don't have to face these challenges alone – and by getting the help you need, when you need it, you can ease the transition from one stage of life to another.

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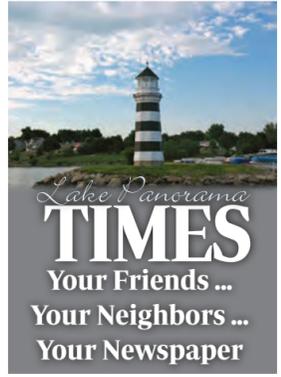
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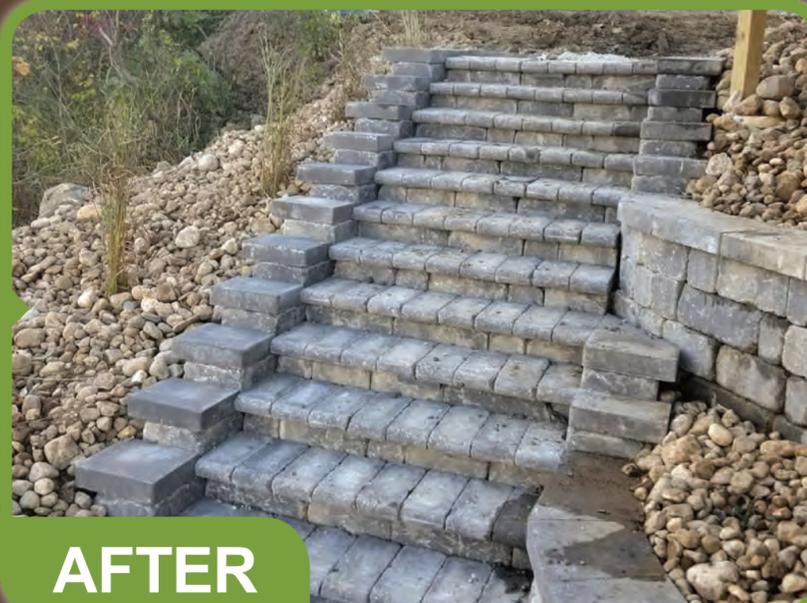
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"FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED BY LAKE RESIDENT RON EIKE FOR 19 YEARS"

Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone prepares for 2018

By SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Times staff

Nearly 60 voters took to the polls on December 12, 2017, to cast ballots in the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) election. Incumbents Doug Hemphill and JoAnn Johnson ran unopposed and were re-elected to three-year terms. Hemphill obtained 55 votes, with Johnson

receiving 53 votes. Three write-in ballots were cast in the election.

Hemphill and Johnson will continue to serve on the five-member RIZ board along with trustees Bill Dahl, Dale Grotjohn and Corey Welberg. At its December 19, 2017, meeting, the RIZ board unanimously voted to retain the current officers for the 2018 calendar year. Hemphill will serve as president, Wel-

berg as clerk, and Grotjohn as treasurer.

The Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone 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

RURAL, PAGE 2B

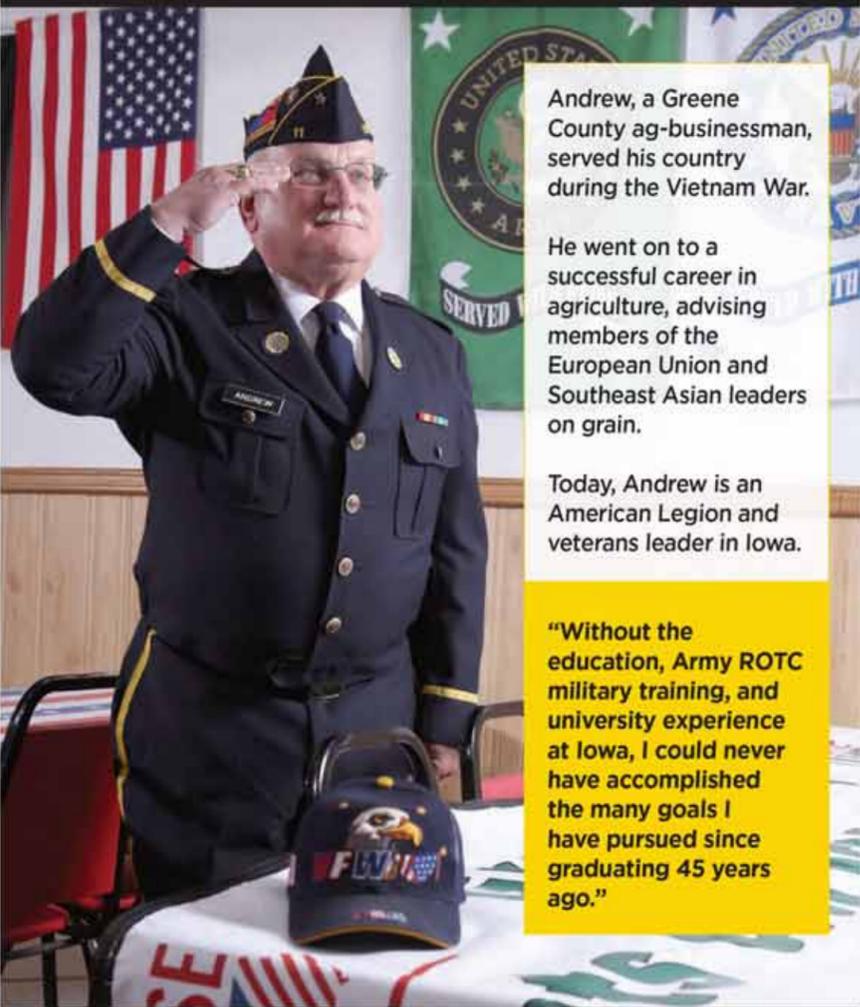


The project consisted of the construction of 23 acres of wetland plus cool season grasses and native grasses. The shallow water wetland includes a control structure above a plunge pool, which routes the water back into a creek leading into Lake Panorama at Hughes Cove. This photo shows the plunge pool.



Construction is complete on the Hughes CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) wetland. Much of the work was done in 2016, with final touches in 2017. This project took advantage of priority federal funding geared to reducing nitrates and siltation in the Mississippi Valley. This considerably reduced the cost of the project and provided a long-term annual payment to the project. The LPA cooperated with the RIZ, which allowed both organizations to do their part protecting the lake. This photo from June 2017 shows the wetland as it began to fill up last spring.

Jim Andrew earned a UI business degree. He also graduated as an officer in the U.S. Army.



Andrew, a Greene County ag-businessman, served his country during the Vietnam War.

He went on to a successful career in agriculture, advising members of the European Union and Southeast Asian leaders on grain.

Today, Andrew is an American Legion and veterans leader in Iowa.

"Without the education, Army ROTC military training, and university experience at Iowa, I could never have accomplished the many goals I have pursued since graduating 45 years ago."

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RURAL

FROM PAGE 1A

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 group will oversee an estimated \$1.9 million in fiscal year 2017-18. A key focus of RIZ continues

to be the dredging of sediment from Lake Panorama. This ensures lake depth remains suitable for safe enjoyment by LPA members and their guests. The ongoing management of sediment accumulation is critical to sustaining favorable property values at Lake Panorama, plus the associated benefit on Guthrie County's economy.

In addition to the dredging of Lake Panorama, RIZ recently com-

pleted two wetland projects in cooperation with the Farm Service Agency and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). RIZ and IDALS are pursuing a third wetland project in 2018. These wetlands will provide substantial nitrogen reduction, and are designed to assist in sediment buffering.

For more information on Lake Panorama RIZ, visit its website at www.lakepanoramarealty.org.



This project is a combination of a dam, sediment filtration area and wildlife habitat. The wetland holds water, trapping nitrogen and other nutrients while also stopping some sediment being carried into the lake. This photo shows the overflow structure at the base of the wetland.



CREP projects strategically restore wetlands in locations that receive significant shallow subsurface drainage. Once full, as the Hughes wetland was in this October 2017 photo, these wetlands provide wildlife habitat, while reducing nitrates transport by 40 to 70 percent.



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LPN board of managers enters third year

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

A board of managers that oversees the Lake Panorama National operation is entering its third year. While the Lake Panorama Association has owned the golf course since 1977, it has only owned the LPN conference center since 2005.

At the time the conference center was purchased, LPA established the legal corporate entity known as "LPN, LLC" to manage this wholly owned subsidiary. As a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, LPA is required to pay taxes only on gains from land sales. Revenues from dues and assessments are not taxable. Keeping the LPA and LPN, LLC operations separate protects the nonprofit status of the LPA.

John Dinnebier was hired as the LPN head pro in 1999, when the operation was managed by the Guthrie County REC. He moved to the general manager slot in 2002. When the LPA took over the operation in 2005, the LPA Board of Directors hired Dinnebier to continue as LPN, LLC general manager.

Keeping the two business entities separate meant the LPA board of directors' involvement in the LPN, LLC management should be limited to broad overviews.

Yet that arms-length relationship left Dinnebier without the

full resources provided by a board of directors.

After several years of discussion and legal advice, the LPA Board of Directors created and appointed the LPN Board of Managers, which held its first meeting October 6, 2015. The board works with Dinnebier to oversee LPN policy and direction.

Current board members are Katelyn Brelsford, Dave Butterwick, Dave Greiner, Mark Juhl, Brice Oakley, Sue Merryman and Julie Wykoff. Merryman is the newest member, having been appointed by the LPA board at its December meeting. She replaces Kane Powell who served on the board for two years, the first as vice president, then as president in 2017.

Officers for 2018 were elected at the LPN board's December meeting. Wykoff is president, Greiner is vice president, and Butterwick is secretary-treasurer.

In 2017, the board created a Greens and Grounds committee. This committee is responsible for generating and reviewing recommendations to the LPN board for both Lake Panorama National and Panorama West golf courses. The Board of Managers must approve a committee recommendation prior to implementation.

Dave Greiner chaired the committee in 2017 and is passing that role to Brice Oakley in 2018. Last fall, members of the

Board of Managers and Greens and Grounds committee served on the task force that developed recommendations for the James and Joyce McLuen estate gift to Panorama West.

Looking ahead to 2018, Wykoff says two keys to success for the LPN, LLC are innovation and promotion. "A number of new promotions were tried in late 2017. Most worked well, but a few didn't, and that is okay," she says. "The important thing is we try and learn, and I'm excited about what John and his team have begun planning for 2018."

Wykoff says in addition to innovation and promotion, a key focus for 2018 is to improve profitability in all revenue centers. "We need to continue to manage expenses responsibly. We need to grow revenue through targeted marketing and promotion in our non-peak season, and use these same methods to ensure our peak season event calendar is full," she says. "Plus, we need to deliver a consistent, positive member and guest experience in all of our operations."

The Panorama West golf course and clubhouse has been under the LPN, LLC management umbrella since 2013. "Panorama West is an important part of our success," says Wykoff. "I am thrilled to see strong Early Bird memberships coming in, and I believe excitement is heightened because of the improvements

and investments the course will see in 2018 and beyond from the McLuen estate gift."

Efforts to improve coordination between both golf course locations in 2018 are underway. "We look forward to more events that bring together members from both courses to celebrate their joint passion for golf," Wykoff says. "Also, we know the golf industry is changing. Many new golfers are interested in a shorter, enjoyable round. Panorama West can fit that bill, and also offers stunning scenery."

Wykoff says the business relationship between LPA and LPN is complex, which makes an effective LPN Board of Managers all the more important. "Because the LPN board is focused on profitability, we try to ensure the guidance and support we give John is backed by data and a sound business case," she says. "We still have a lot of opportunity to improve, but I believe we are moving in the right direction."

Dinnebier agrees. "Everyone wants the organization to move forward both financially and in regards to member services," he says. "We did a nice job getting our arms around and controlling our operating expenses in 2017, thanks to the help of the LPN board. Now we will continue to work together to grow, and get more people to see what we see everyday — a special place."

Early Bird rates continue through January

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

There still is time to purchase 2018 golf memberships at Lake Panorama National and Panorama West at discounted rates. "Early Bird" rates are available to both Lake Panorama Association property owners and those who are not LPA members. Memberships must be paid in full by January 31 to receive the discounted rates.

January 31 also is the deadline to take advantage of two new 2018 membership options that offer a combination of golf and extra amenities. The "Resort All Inclusive Membership" includes golf at both Lake Panorama National and Panorama West, driving range, pool and fitness center memberships. The second option is the "All Inclusive Golf Membership." This includes Lake Panorama National and Panorama West golf and an LPN driving range membership.

Membership pricing and ap-

plication forms are available online at www.lakepanoramana.com. Call the LPN pro shop at 641-755-2024 with questions.

By the end of December, there were 87 families and individuals who had joined Lake Panorama National and 43 who had joined Panorama West. These 2018 members were included in a drawing for a chance to win a set of Ping irons, golf bag and four-some of golf.

Because of the strong number of members who joined early, a random winner was chosen to receive a new set of Ping irons from both the LPN membership and the Panorama West membership. The LPN member winner was John McDermott, and the Panorama West member winner was Courtney Allen. Other drawing winners were Dave Deardorff, who won a new golf bag, and Ralph Hejlik, who won four rounds of golf with cart at the LPN.

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2018 Lake Panorama Golf League options

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

At our house, a good way to keep the winter blahs at bay is to look ahead to the next golf season. Fortunately for those who live at Lake Panorama, we have two great golf courses and several golf league options to consider.

The Lake Panorama Association owns two courses — the 18-hole Lake Panorama National on the east side of the lake, and the 9-hole Panorama West on the west side. Both courses are operated by the LPN, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the LPA.

At Panorama West, there is a Tuesday morning women's league, a Tuesday evening men's league, and a Thursday morning men's league. League members must either purchase an annual Panorama West membership, or pay the \$16 daily green fee.

The women's league is individual play, with weekly prizes and special events. Dues for the year are \$30. There will be a kickoff luncheon Tuesday, April 24, at the LPN conference center. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. The cost is \$15. Make reservations with Paula Hansen at hansen@iowatelecom.net or 712-249-0780.

League play begins May 1 with a two-gal best shot at 9 a.m., immediately preceded by a golf clinic presented by John Dinnebier, LPN director of operations. The first day of regular play will be May 8, with August 28 the last day of regular play. A four-gal best-shot and awards luncheon will be September 4. For more information, contact

Emily Spradling, 515-669-9326 or espradling@msn.com.

The Tuesday evening men's league will begin April 24 and run through August 28. Dues are \$20 to cover weekly prizes, plus individual scores are turned in for prizes at the end of the year. Play begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jay Merryman at 641-751-5957 or jaymerryman1@gmail.com; or Bill Eby at 515-240-7652 or wheby@stineseed.com.

The Thursday morning men's league will begin April 26 and wrap up August 30 with a tournament and awards banquet. Members can tee off beginning at 7 a.m. with play continuing until noon. Dues of \$20 covers regular play with weekly cash prizes and individual awards at the end of the season. For more information, contact Virgil Hoehne at 641-757-0962 or 2grandkids@live.com.

At the 18-hole Lake Panorama National, all league players must have an LPN annual membership and an established USGA handicap. The cost of the handicap is \$30 plus tax per person per year. With questions about LPN memberships or the USGA handicap, call the LPN pro shop at 641-755-2024.

Men's leagues are on Wednesdays. For the 18-hole noon league, members can choose to play from either the white or red tees. At 3 p.m., there is a nine-hole league also available from both the red and white tees. A 6 p.m. nine-hole league has everyone playing from the white tees. Cost of all men's leagues is \$75.

The Men's Stag on May 2 will kickoff the men's league season. Members or potential members

are invited to attend compliments of the LPN. Cocktails and munchies begin at 5:30 p.m. with a brief program and raffle drawing at 7 p.m. League play begins May 9.

The LPN women's league is on Thursdays. Players compete in two-person teams beginning at 5:30 p.m. The LPN women's league fee is \$55, which covers league dues, the kickoff dinner and a post-season party. The kickoff dinner is May 4, beginning at 5:30 p.m. League competition gets underway May 11.

Women interested in LPN league play who do not yet have a partner will be matched with another player, or can play as a sub. The league is in need of subs, so women who don't want to commit to playing with a partner on a regular basis are encouraged to sign up as a sub. Subs pay the regular league fee, must be LPN golf members, and must have a USGA handicap. They are eligible for all weekly prizes and can attend both the kickoff and the post-season party. For more information, contact the women's league board president Becky Rolfes at beckyrolfes@gmail.com.

There is a junior golf league for LPN members at 5 p.m. every Monday beginning June 4 and running through Aug. 6. There is no cost for this league, and all skill levels are welcome. For more information about the junior golf league, contact Gary Babcock at 641-755-2024 or gbabcock@lakepanorama.org.

Annual membership forms for both LPN and Panorama West, plus LPN golf league forms, are available at lakepanoramana.com.

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Q&A: John Rutledge, general manager of Lake Panorama Association

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT

By SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Times staff

In this month's Q&A, John Rutledge, LPA general manager, reviews several topics expected to get additional attention by the LPA board, staff and membership in 2018.

Q: LPA recently conducted a member survey. Tell us a little about the response and the preliminary results.

A: LPA's last major survey was conducted in the summer/fall of 2012, at which time we received 478 responses. We were somewhat concerned the winter survey might generate a lower turnout, but are pleased to have ended the 2017 winter survey with 503 responses.

We are preparing an executive summary of the survey, which will be shared with the LPA board of directors and membership in the coming months. Regression analysis of the results is essential to making the most of this information. This analysis is ongoing.

Q: Are there any "takeaways" you can offer from your preliminary analysis of the survey?

A: I'm comfortable offering four quick observations, on which we will expand more at a later date.

1. Moving ahead with the water infrastructure project and associated costs is supported by more than two-thirds of the LPA membership. However, comments indicate strong interest in more information and education on this topic. Increased education will be

a priority in early 2018, with GM coffees and informational meetings available.

2. The topic of boat length increases remains a closely divided issue. The membership was opposed to an increase in ski boat length. However, the membership was split on whether to increase pontoon boat length. I expect the water safety committee and LPA board of directors will choose to study this further in the spring and summer of 2018.

3. On the question of whether those answering the survey would recommend a move to Lake Panorama, 98% of members stated they were "Very Likely" or "Somewhat Likely" to recommend Lake Panorama to a friend or relative. Only 2% said they were "Not Likely" to recommend Lake Panorama. This indicates a high level of satisfaction with member investment in our community.

4. Less than two percent of respondents indicated a preference for paper surveys. More than 98 percent of respondents indicated either a preference for electronic surveys, or no preference either way.

Q: What is the status of the LPA water infrastructure project?

A: LPA has applied to the Iowa State Revolving Fund (SRF) to determine if we will be eligible for a low-interest loan on this project. If accepted, LPA could access funding at 2.0% interest for up to 20 years. The results of this application will be announced March 20, 2018. This will provide important information to the LPA board as

they discuss moving forward with this project.

Q: What is the primary motivation for this project?

A: LPA's water production infrastructure is a combination of new and old components. The Jordan Aquifer well and water plant were upgraded in 2009 and 2010. All of those new assets are functioning effectively and as designed. However, the Dakota Aquifer wells and associated transmission line are substantially older. They were constructed in the 1990s and are NOT performing at a reliable and consistent standard. Eliminating our dependence on these temperamental wells is LPA's primary motivation for the project.

Unfortunately, replacing these current Dakota Aquifer wells with two new Dakota Aquifer wells is impractical because we are located on the fringe of the Dakota Aquifer. Candidly, I can't believe we found viable Dakota wells in the 1990s - mapping suggests these wells shouldn't be viable for a municipal water supply in our region. The decreasing reliability of these wells makes it essential for us to plan for their replacement. Engineering studies over the past eight or nine years have led us to the conclusion a second Jordan well and accompanying reverse osmosis treatment is the best fit for our community.

Q: Anything you'd like to add pertinent to this time of year?

A: This winter's weather has been rather erratic. We've ex-



10 Squared Women of Guthrie County held their quarterly meeting at the Lake Panorama Conference Center in December and once all the checks had been collected from members, a lump sum of \$10,700 was presented to Panora P.E.T.S. Pictured presenting the check on behalf of 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County to Panora P.E.T.S. co-founder Kristine Jorgensen (center) are Kristen Crouthamel (left) and Laura Stetzel (right).

COMMUNITY

10 Squared Women of Guthrie County presents check to Panora P.E.T.S.

The 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County organization held their quarterly meeting at the Lake Panorama Conference Center in December and once all the checks had been collected from members, a lump sum of \$10,700 was presented to Panora P.E.T.S.

PE.T.S. stands for "Protecting Even The Strays" and the mission of this group is to help control the overpopulation of cats and kittens through a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, trap-neuter-return program for feral (not friendly) cats, and a barn cat program to relocate unwanted feral cats to a safe place to live out their life.

PE.T.S. started in 2003 but became its own 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2008. Every year, they help hundreds of injured, lost, and unwanted cats and dogs in and around Guthrie County.

Through contributions from individuals and organizations, PE.T.S. is able to maintain its dedication to the animals. Without the generous support of the community and beyond, PE.T.S. would not be able to assist the hundreds of cats and dogs that come into their care ever year. Through hard work and dedication, the rescue has helped over 400 animals in 2017, including two hoarding situations involving over 125 cats and kittens. For more information about the rescue or to find out how you can help, please visit their website at panorapets.com or find them on Facebook at facebook.com/PanoraPETS.

PE.T.S. will use the funds to purchase a small transport van. The shelter has been without a good, transport vehicle for several years now. Volunteers have been using their own vehicles to transport not only animals, but shelter supplies, like donated food, equipment, and buckets upon buckets of cat litter. A newer, safer, more-economical transport vehicle will be helpful not only to the many volunteers who will use it to transport animals and supplies, but PE.T.S. will be better equipped to help stray animals in Guthrie County.

"Panora P.E.T.S. would like to thank the 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County for supporting our efforts to continue to assist the many stray, feral, and homeless cats and dogs in and around our county," said Kristine Jorgensen, president and founder of the rescue. "The 2013 van that we have been able to purchase will not only give us reliable transportation for the animals and our volunteers but also allow us to assist with more rescue transports to get more animals to safety."

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

"We want to reach all corners of Guthrie County, not just the communities along Highway 44" said Shannon-Neff Muell, co-organizer. "As with all of our meetings, the three organizations nominated this quarter (Panora P.E.T.S., Giving Inc., and Guthrie County Fair) were very worthy causes and the votes for this quarter's meeting came in with just two votes between the three organizations" said Kristen Crouthamel, co-organizer.

All four of the organizations the 10 Squared Women have donated to this year alone serve residents across the county in Adair, Stuart, Bagley, Bayard, Yale, Jamaica, Panora, Guthrie Center and others.

The organizations who previously received funding from the 10 Squared Women Group in 2017 were the school Backpack programs (at Coon-Rapids Bayard, AC/GC, Panora and West Central Valley), Guthrie County Helping Hands (a sub-organization of Habitat for Humanity) and New Opportunities.

For 2018 the group voted to move their meetings up by one month, so meetings will be held the third Thursday in February, May, August and November. The next quarterly 10 Squared Women meeting will be Thursday, February 15, at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center at 6 p.m. with a light dinner served at 5:30. Members are encouraged to bring an interested friend or family member to the meetings and to share the group within their social circles.

The group is still accepting new members and for more information, you can visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc>, or email them at 10squaredgc@gmail.com. Membership Forms and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on their Facebook page or by contacting them through Facebook or email.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors Meeting November 28, 2017 Lake Panorama Association Office

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met November 28, 2017, at 5 p.m., at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members present were Larry Babcock, Mary Jane Carothers, Gary Evans, Tom Jeschke, Mindy Larsen Poldberg, Charles Schnack, and Jim Spradling.

LPA Staff present: Danna Krambeer and John Rutledge.
LPN Staff present: John Dinnebir, Maureen Lubeck, Brandon Waddle

Visitors present: Jan Reinicke, Susan Thompson, Friends of Lake Panorama. Dave Greiner, LPN Board of Managers. Richard Schumacher and Bob White, LPA Members. Everett Grasty.

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

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

carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Open Forum. No one to speak at open forum.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda. Babcock 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 10.24.2017 LPA Board Meeting
c) Acceptance of the 10.31.2017 LPA LPN Consolidated Financial Statements

Agenda Item 4a – Friends of Lake Panorama Recommended Improvements to Panorama West (McLuen estate)

Jan Reinicke, Friends of Lake Panorama Board president, presented their recommendations for the use of the McLuen estate. Reinicke reviewed the process the Friends board used to determine their recommendation, which included public input from various means, including suggestion boxes and a public meeting. A task force was appointed, comprised of Friends Board members and LPN Staff. The group

met with three Iowa State University turf grass specialists for input, as well as touring the course and evaluating the various recommendations.

Irrigation was the highest recommended item. Additional recommendations were for cart paths, signage, clubhouse landscaping, improvement of the turf fairways and tees, bunker improvements, and trees.

Spradling asked if the irrigation project is for the tee boxes, greens, and fairways or just certain areas.

Dave Greiner explained irrigation was the number one recommendation by the public, and the goal is irrigation of the entire course. Costs will be finalized for the irrigation project and the remaining funds will be used as available to accomplish the other items.

Jeschke asked about the purchase of yardage markers and tee box markers, suggesting that some of these items could be done by volunteers.

Bob White asked about the irrigation plan and what the increased cost of maintaining the course would be, in regards to added mowing, etc.

Brandon Waddle spoke to mowing the course, stating the course will continue to be mowed twice a week with the irrigation. If it becomes necessary, an additional mowing will be added, this will incur additional operational expense and will be addressed in the LPN operational budget.

White also commented on the removal of the bunkers. He feels the bunkers should remain as sand bunkers. Discussion continued on the bunkers, with three options reviewed. The complete renovation of sand bunkers was listed as the most expensive option. Converting the bunkers into a grass bunker/hazard area was reviewed as the middle option. Filling the bunkers with dirt and removing them was reviewed as the least expensive option. The need for sand bunker grooming equipment was also incorporated into this conversation.

The LPA board thanked the Friends committee for their hard work and the information presented and for doing a great job representing the interests of the membership.

Jeschke moved to approve the Friends recommendation for completion of course irrigation, cart path improvements, new signage and tee box amenities, clubhouse landscaping improvements and investment in turf and trees. The motion included the tabling of any changes to the existing sand bunkers. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5a – Report from Subsidiary, LPN, LLC – Accept minutes from October 17, 2017 Board of Managers meeting.

Carothers moved to accept the October 17, 2017 LPN, LLC Board of Managers' minutes. Motion seconded, motion carried unanimously.

In the future, the acceptance of the LPN, LLC minutes will be moved to the consent agenda, moving it out of consent agenda if a board member wishes more discussion any month.

Agenda Item 5b – 2018 Board of Managers appointment

Possible candidates were discussed for filling the open appointment for the LPN, Board of Managers.

Schnack moved to approve the appointment of Sue Merryman to the LPN Board of Managers for the term of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – New Business Holiday Social event with the LPN Board of Managers will be held after the December meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business - None

Agenda Item 8 – Other Business - None

Agenda Item 9 – Closed Session. The Board entered closed session at 5:50 p.m. to discuss legal matters and exited closed session at 6:51 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Danna Krambeer,
Recording Secretary

Mindy Larsen Poldberg
Board Secretary

OUTDOORS

Spend a winter day ice fishing

Iowa DNR

Ice fishing has a passionate following across Iowa. Get a group of friends and/or family together, bundle up and go ice fishing this winter.

Check the weekly DNR fishing report (www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Reports) for ice conditions across the state before going out. Smaller bodies of water usually freeze faster and thicker than larger lakes or river backwaters, which often have a warmer current moving through.

At a minimum, four inches of clear blue ice is recommended

for fishing. Be especially careful on ice around submerged trees and emergent vegetation, this ice tends to be weaker. If the ice does not look right, find a different spot.

"Most Iowa lakes are full of bluegills, which are the easiest and most often caught during the winter," said Joe Larscheid, chief of fisheries for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "Start with a number 8 hook or a tear drop and tip it with a waxworm. Drop the baited hook to the bottom of the lake, then lift it back up about a foot.

Lakes in northern Iowa will have yellow perch and walleye

in addition to bluegills. In the south, crappies join bluegills. "You catch an occasional catfish, northern pike, largemouth bass, and other species, but not as consistently," Larscheid said.

Use the DNR's online maps of the lake you are going to fish to find edges of creek channels, fish mounds, brush piles and rock piles that likely hold fish. Printable maps and the online Fishing Atlas are available on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Maps.

"You can position yourself right over the habitat, place your bait and lure it front of the fish and can catch a lot of

fish per trip," said Larscheid.

Ice conditions change constantly and its thickness can vary across the lake. Drill test holes near shore and periodically as you move to measure the thickness and quality of the ice. Don't go out alone and always let someone else know where you will be and when you expect to return home.

New to ice fishing and need a little help to get started? Learn the basics at a free clinic scheduled across Iowa this winter. Check the DNR fishing calendar at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing to find an ice fishing clinic near you.

BUSINESS

Panora State Bank sold, wider range of services expected

Lake Times staff

The sale of the Panora State Bank to a family-owned Emmetsburg bank has been announced.

Once regulatory approval is granted, the acquisition of the local bank by Iowa Trust & Savings Bank will take place.

No staff changes are expected at Panora State and the name will remain the same. It's expected a wider range of services will be offered.

Iowa Trust & Savings Bank (IT&SB) has assets of \$225 million with offices in Emmetsburg and Clive. Founded in 1929, it has remained under ownership by the same family for 88 years.

Panora State Bank (PSB) opened in 1959 and has \$71 million in assets. Julie Zajicek is the CEO.

Sale of the Panora bank was jointly announced by Kris Ausborn, vice president of Emmetsburg Bank Shares, Inc. and president & CEO of IT&SB, and Robert J. Dental, president of Dental Bancorporation and director of the PSB.

"We're pleased to be expanding into Panora," said Ausborn. "Both Panora State Bank and Iowa Trust & Savings Bank have a long tradition of providing excellent service to our customers and serving the local communities."

Dental commented, "This sale provides an opportunity for the buyer to expand into a strong local market with loyal customers and experienced employees. We have appreciated our association with Panora State Bank."

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COUNTY

Veterans Memorial Wall planned near monument at courthouse

Members of the Guthrie County Veterans Memorial are planning to erect a new Veterans Memorial Wall to be placed on the Courthouse lawn in Guthrie Center to honor area veterans of all ages and branches of service. The wall will be placed next to the recently installed veterans memorial. Plans are to erect eight black granite walls which will contain the names of veterans who served the country during peace time or at times of wars or conflicts. Members of the National Guard and Reserves will also be listed. Those eligible to be placed on

the Memorial Wall are current or past residents or those who have any affiliation of Guthrie County. Friends or family members may request the veterans names be placed on the wall. If the veteran is missing in action or killed in action, that will be noted. Otherwise, the wall will contain names only. Johnson Family Funeral Home is assisting with this project. Applications are available on the Johnson website: www.johnsonfamilyfuneralhome.com, near the bottom of the home page where it says "Memorial Wall". The application must be filled

out along with a copy of the veterans DD214. County recorders have copies of this form. The only required information off that form is: name, years of service and honorable discharge. All other information including social security and service numbers or other information may be deleted. Please indicate if you want the full name or just the middle initial. Send the information to: 2692 Wagon Road, Stuart, IA 50250. Applications will be taken through August 1. There is a \$30 charge per name. After that date, the price increases to \$60.

Some older veteran families may need to contact the NARA website: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html. Libraries may provide additional help as needed. Service completed before WWI, National Archives Trust Fund (NATF) forms must be used to request the records. Obtain the forms by email at inquire@nara.gov. Committee members are Trudi Tam, Mike Johnson and Ron Gruber of Stuart, and Ila Buker of Panora. They can be contacted for additional information.

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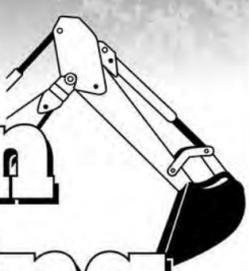
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14 APPLIANCE Drawing	15 TOWN 20% OFF	16 50+ Day Club Freedom Thank You Veterans!	17 ELKS Thank You Remember	18 FREE	19 TAG TEAM SLOT TOURNAMENT \$1,000 Prizes	20
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