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Lake Panorama TIMES

APRIL 2017 | VOLUME 49 | NUMBER 4

Guthrie County reappraisal program planned

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

In 2014, the Guthrie County Conference Board, which oversees the county assessor's office, approved a reappraisal project of all residential properties at Lake Panorama. As part of that project, door-to-door inspections of all residential properties at Lake Panorama will begin around June 1 this year, and are expected to continue through August.

Nikki Carrick, Guthrie County Assessor, says the purpose of the reappraisal program is to equalize property assessments so taxpayers are responsible for paying only their fair share of the property tax burden.

"Periodic inspections and reappraisal of properties is necessary as all types of properties do not increase or decrease in value at the same rate," Carrick says. "Some properties physically deteriorate faster than others, plus similar dwellings located in different areas of the county will differ greatly in value due to economic factors."

PROGRAM, PAGE 4A

Lake Panorama RIZ 20-year renewal approved

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

At its regular meeting April 11, the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors approved a formal resolution to extend the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) for 20 years, through June 30, 2039. This means approximately \$50 million will be available for erosion control and water quality efforts at Lake Panorama over the next two decades.

The resolution passed on a four-to-one vote. Supervisors Clifford Carney, Everett Grasty, Jack Lloyd and Tom Rutledge voted in favor of the resolution. Mike Dickson cast the lone "no" vote.

The Lake Panorama RIZ has existed since 1997. The RIZ funding source is a portion of property taxes resulting from growth of the Lake Panorama development, with the remainder going to Guthrie County. RIZ also has the ability to levy a stand-by tax for bond repayment.

RENEWAL, PAGE 4A

WSO Home Tour in its 43rd Year

Five Lake Panorama homes will be featured June 1 for the 43rd annual Women's Service Organization (WSO) home tour. Tickets are \$20, and include both the home tour and lunch at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center.

WSO was established in the fall of 1972 when women who had worked together to help pass a school bond issue decided they enjoyed working together, and could further benefit the community as a formal organization.

This is the WSO's major fundraiser. The group awards scholarships for Panorama Community

TOUR, PAGE 4A

COMMUNITY

NEW WOMEN'S GROUP RAISES \$10,900



CAITLIN WARE | LAKE TIMES

Members of 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County wave their checks after selecting a local cause to support at their first meeting on March 16.

By **CAITLIN WARE** | *Lake Times staff*

A new charitable organization, called 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County, held its first meeting at the Lake Panorama National Resort and Conference Center on March 16, and raised \$10,900 for the Guthrie County Helping Hands branch of the Heart of Iowa Habitat for Humanity.

The group, jokingly self-titled "the laziest type of philanthropy," works by bringing together at least 100 Guthrie County women several times a year to support needs within the community. Unlike traditional fundraisers, the group does

not sell anything or ask for donations. Instead, members nominate Guthrie County causes, vote for the one they like best, then write a check for \$100 to the winning one, raising a large amount of money all at once.

"This group is specifically designed to kind of come together as a collective and make a big impact right here in our county," said Shannon Neff-Muell, one of the group's founders. "The idea is simple. If you get a big group of people together, who can each make a small donation as an individual, (then) the group as a collective can make a really big impact. I think it's important that we take pride in where we live, and that we give back to our communities."

The first three causes nominated for financial support through the new group were the Guthrie County

Arts Council, presented by Ruth Owen, the Coon Rapids-Bayard Education Foundation, presented by Luann Waldo, Paige Huntley and Rachel Knudsen, and the Guthrie County Helping Hands branch of the Heart of Iowa Habitat for Humanity, presented by Karen Benton. The causes were all chosen at random from a pool of nominations submitted by the women in the group. Each presenter had five minutes to explain theirs, and three minutes to answer questions from their fellow members.

WOMEN, PAGE 5A

Cancer Survivor & Caregiver Celebration April 26

The American Cancer Society celebrates cancer survivors and their caregivers throughout our community, state, country and world.

Join the Guthrie County Relay for Life at their annual Survivor and Caregiver Celebration on Wednesday, April 26, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Sneakers Café, located at the Guthrie County Hospital, 712 North 12th Street, Guthrie Center.

"Relay For Life is an amazing way

to show the survivors in Guthrie County that they are not alone and have great support from their community and the American Cancer Society," said Caroline Kness, Relay For Life of Guthrie County Survivor head. "The Survivor and Caregiver celebration is their kickoff and a special time to celebrate them."

A Cancer Survivor is anyone who has heard those words, "You have cancer!" All Cancer Survivors and their caregivers are invited to participate in this inspirational event.

Cancer Survivor, Christina Radke, will share her Above & Beyond Journey. There will also be a special survivor/caregiver ceremony with entertainment by the AC/GC High School All-State Choir.

Luminarias will be available along with information on the 2017 Relay For Life. A light lunch provided by the Guthrie County Hospital will be served.

For more information, please

contact: Caroline Kness, 641-757-0454 or Cindy Slaybaugh, 515-480-6756.

The Relay For Life movement unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. Relay For Life events are community gatherings where teams and

CANCER, PAGE 8A



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Limited Tickets Available for The Beach Ball May 6

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

Ticket sales and table sponsorships have been strong for the 2nd annual Friends of Lake Panorama Beach Ball, which will be held Saturday, May 6. About 40 tickets remain for this fun evening at Lake Panorama National, with all proceeds supporting new sports courts at Boulder Beach.

So far, 29 tables have attracted sponsors, but not all are filled. So there are limited opportuni-

ties for groups of eight, six or four to be seated together at a sponsored table. There also is space for one additional sponsored table.

Tickets are \$40 each. Friends of Lake Panorama is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so the \$100 table sponsorships and \$20 per ticket are tax-deductible contributions. The other half of each ticket purchase goes to the LPN. The value of items donated for the auctions and raffle also could be tax deductible.

Friends is separate from

the Lake Panorama Association, and has a goal of improving recreational amenities at Lake Panorama. The first Beach Ball in May 2016 raised nearly \$24,000, which helped Friends reach its \$80,000 goal for a new playground at Sunset Beach.

Now the Friends goal is to raise at least \$50,000 for the sports courts. So far, more than \$27,000 has been donated for this project. Once Friends raises \$50,000, the LPA has committed \$50,000. An anonymous donor has pledged another \$25,000 for

a dedicated basketball court. Another successful Beach Ball should make installation of new sports courts possible this year.

In keeping with The Beach Ball concept, casual attire is encouraged. All tables will be decorated with a different theme. The fundraiser will begin at 5 p.m. with a social hour and time to view decorated tables, purchase raffle tickets, and place bids on silent auction items. There will be a buffet dinner at 6 p.m., featuring roast pork loin with mushroom gravy, cheesy au gratin potatoes, sautéed green beans, dinner salad and bread.

Desserts donated by volunteers will be available on a silent auction table. Bidding for the desserts will end as the buffet begins, so winning bidders can pick up their desserts to share at their table.

Dinner will be followed by a live auction. Some live auction items are a four-ticket package to the Iowa Speedway June 24 NASCAR XFINITY Series American Ethanol E15 250; basketball signed by Steve Prohm, Iowa State men's basketball coach; Iowa and Iowa State bags board games; a custom-made bags game of choice; handmade wooden bench; Iowa and Iowa State cast iron skillet; Lake Panorama National stay-and-play package; and an LPN pool party.

A wide variety of gift baskets and gift certificates will be on



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE TIMES

One item available on the Beach Ball live auction will be this live edge wooden bench, valued at \$550. The soft maple bench, handmade and donated by Kurt Johnson, is six-feet long and sealed with an exterior oil finish so it can be used either inside or out. In addition to the bench, Johnson also has donated three bags board games for the live auction — one each for Iowa and Iowa State fans, and one to be custom-made based on the desire of the winning bidder.

the silent auction and raffle tables. Some other items up for grabs will be a pickleball set and book on pickleball fundamentals; a monthly box of fresh garden produce through the summer; framed prints; two wren houses; potted plants; a two-hour pontoon boat ride; youth skiing lessons; two coin sets; handmade quilt; golf lessons; vintage pottery; and much more.

Another option for donors will be a "Build-A-Court" board where various items needed for the sports courts will be posted, along with the price. Donors will

pluck a card from the board and pay for the items that evening. These will include such things as nets, anchor posts, basketball hoops, benches, fencing, or perhaps half of a bench or net.

Those who donate via the "Build-A-Court" opportunity won't actually be buying the item they choose. This money will simply be additional financial support for the sports courts, and is a good way to show the various components needed to complete this project. It also will give those who aren't winning

BALL, PAGE 8A

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COMMUNITY



ASHLEY SCHABLE | LAKE TIMES

Panora Chamber members (from left) Kristen Crouthamel, Chaille Crandall and Dave Grove help promote the Second Annual Panora Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament, planned for Sunday, May 7 at the Lake Panorama National Golf Course. All proceeds from the tournament help fund Panorama Days, which has a “Picture Perfect” theme for this year’s event on August 4-6. Cost of the tournament is \$60 per player or \$240 per team, and includes green fees, cart, range balls, dinner and prizes. The tournament is a four-person best-shot with a 1:00 p.m. shot-gun start. Registration is 12:30 p.m. If you have interest in signing up or have questions, please contact Dave Grove at 641-755-3213 or Kristen at 641-757-2737.

2nd Annual Panora Chamber Golf Tournament set for May 7

Lake Times staff

The Second Annual Panora Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, May 7 at Lake Panorama National Golf Course in Panora. Proceeds from the event help the Chamber achieve funding goals for Panorama Days held each August. This year’s community event with a “Picture Perfect” theme will be held August 4, 5, 6.

The cost for a team is \$60 per player, or \$240 per team.

This includes green fees, cart, range balls, dinner and prizes. The tournament will be a four person best-shot with a 1:00 p.m. shot-gun start (registration at 12:30). Dinner and prizes will follow. Mulligans will also be available for purchase the day of the event (\$5 for one, \$20 for five).

The cost to sponsor a hole is \$75. Hole sponsorship offers a way to advertise your business or service as the participants pass by your tee box. You will

have sole ownership of that tee box to post signage and hand out promotional material if you would like. Your business and/or name will also be listed as a sponsor for the event as it is promoted, recognizing you for your support. If you need help creating signage for your tee box, the chamber would be happy to assist. Contact Dave Grove at 641-757-9956 or Kristen Crouthamel at 641-757-2737 with any questions or to sign up a team.

COUNTY

Springbrook Conservation Education Center discontinues overnight programming

By CAITLIN WARE
Lake Times staff

In an effort to streamline park operations, the Conservation Education Center (CEC) at Springbrook State Park in Guthrie Center will no longer offer overnight programming, as of March 13.

The CEC has been a part of Springbrook State Park since 1969. Initially, it served as an outdoor education training facility for Iowa teachers, who could attend classes and use the knowledge for their curriculum. But when Iowa county conservation boards began hiring naturalists of their own to work hand-in-hand with schools, the CEC began offering programs with hands-on environmental activities to students across the state, often welcoming them to overnight adventures.

A declining amount of those school trips over the years, in addition to budget issues, led to the recent “difficult” decision to eliminate the CEC’s overnight programming options altogether.

“The reality is that over time, (things) have changed, by virtue of successful county conservation boards, and even society changing,” said Todd Coffelt, bureau chief of state parks for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “Now, individual communities are able to provide more programs. The things that we offer, you don’t have to drive to Springbrook to find. We’ve had a declining participation level. The other part is there’s a true cost for providing an experience like this, and our business model was not supporting that.”

Since no longer being needed for educating teachers in environmental subjects, the CEC’s focus has been offering outdoor programming to students, including fishing, kayaking and hiking. The facility itself, complete with classrooms, a dining



hall, bathrooms and bunk houses allowed students to extend their experiences into overnight trips.

“After night hikes, stargazing, owl calling and a campfire, groups headed to the dorms for all-class sleepovers and a little time to rest and process what they had experienced throughout the day,” said Anne Riordan, who has been a training specialist at the CEC for the last 17 years. “In the morning, after breakfast in the dining hall, it started all over again, and lasted just as long as they could stay.”

Unfortunately, the overnight programming offered at the CEC required substantial funding. Despite also opening up the facility to non-traditional renters, such as quilting clubs and church groups, at \$5 per overnight guest, only a fraction of the CEC’s annual expenditures have been recouped in revenue every year. The best solution was to discontinue overnight programming and no longer use the CEC’s buildings.

“We didn’t have a good business model that could support providing that level of experience,” Coffelt said. “The business model for Springbrook was to make it affordable for teachers to learn about outdoor education. What it became was a cheap location for groups to

come and use.”

Although the classrooms, bunk houses and other facilities in the CEC can no longer be used, most of the programs previously offered there will still be available at Springbrook State Park. School groups will be able to visit for day trips, with the option to either spend the night in tents in the youth camping area, or find other accommodations. Visiting groups will now be responsible for meals instead of the CEC offering them in the dining hall.

“At this point, the majority of the activities that have been available at the CEC will be options for the park,” Riordan said. “Many school and scout groups have already made plans to come to the park in April and May. Summer plans will include increased programming that will be made available to campers and other interested participants. In the fall, busses will begin arriving again, filled with young explorers.”

In response to programming being discontinued at the CEC, a local conservation group has been started with intentions of helping. The Izaak Walton League of America was founded in 1922 to conserve the outdoors for fu-

EDUCATION, PAGE 8A

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RENEWAL

FROM PAGE 1A

RIZ law is governed under IA Code Chapter 357H, which was significantly amended in the 2015 legislative session. The law outlines a process by which RIZ districts can apply for renewal, and requires boards of supervisors to grant renewal if RIZ districts demonstrate a continued need for the next 20 years.

A formal request for renewal was presented to the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors in October 2015. In January 2016, the board asked for an engineering report, an option available to them under Iowa law. That report was submitted to the board February 7, and a public hearing held March 28.

The Lake Panorama RIZ report by Shive-Hattery, the engineering consulting firm that has worked with the Lake Panorama RIZ for many years, provided analysis of Lake Panorama's past, present and future. It covered 13 key points required by RIZ law.

At the public hearing, Luke Monat with Shive-Hattery reviewed the first four points, related to the size and makeup of Lake Panorama and its watershed. Monat said the lake surface area is 1,160 acres, and covers seven square miles from the dam north to the Fansler Bridge. The watershed is mainly in Carroll, Greene and Guthrie counties, is 49 miles long, 10 miles wide, and covers about 425 square miles.

Monat said the main source of water for Lake Panorama is the Middle Raccoon River. Land use within the watershed varies, but nearly 73 percent is used for growing corn or soybeans. The rest is in hay or pasture, forest, and the urban areas of Carroll,

Coon Rapids and several smaller communities.

Chris Bauer, also with Shive-Hattery, summarized the report's information on the next five points required for RIZ renewal. Bauer said data collected from the lake bottom in 2016 was compared with three previous studies, all done in an effort to estimate how much sediment accumulates annually in the lake.

These data and comparisons led to the conclusion sediment has been deposited in Lake Panorama at an average rate of 476,000 cubic yards each year since the lake was built in 1970. Bauer said based on historical information and the current situation, silt accumulation is expected to continue at the same annual rate for the next 20 years.

Additional work revealed there is about 9.3 million cubic yards of sediment accumulated in Lake Panorama, despite dredging that began in 1986. The dredged material has gone into several storage structures over the years, and most now are full.

There are four active basins, and about 8.5 million cubic yards of storage space remains available. Bauer suggested a good goal for RIZ is to remove all the 9.5 cubic yards expected to flow into Lake Panorama over the next 20 years, plus another 25 percent of the 9.3 million cubic yards that has accumulated over the past 20 years. If that happens, another 3.5 million cubic yards of sediment storage capacity will be needed.

Monat returned to cover the final four required points. He said Lake Panorama's water quality is impacted by nitrogen, phosphorus, waterborne pathogens and sediment. Testing has shown no significant changes in the lake's water quality in the past 10 years,

and Monat believes it is similar to other water bodies in Iowa.

Practices that can help reduce nutrient and sediment delivery to the lake have been installed in some coves, but more are needed. Monat said examples are two wetlands on the east side of the lake, one that is complete and helps protect Helen's Cove, the other under construction that will protect Hughes Cove.

The final point required by Iowa law is to estimate the cost of effectively addressing water quality and sedimentation issues in the next 20 years. Monat said the cost to remove sediment would be \$40 million, and another \$10 million should be committed to water quality efforts, for a total of \$50 million.

John Rutledge, Lake Panorama Association general manager, said the two wetlands now underway show it's possible to obtain some state and federal cost share assistance. So if the RIZ board decides to allocate \$10 million to water quality, that money could multiply into \$20-25 million in total water quality funds.

RIZ anticipates receiving \$1.87 million in revenues in the 2017-18 fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Over \$600,000 will be used to retire debt, with the remaining amount funding the dredging operation, silt basin development and water quality efforts.

The Lake Panorama RIZ is managed by a five-member board of trustees. Current trustees are Doug Hemphill, Dale Grotjohn, JoAnn Johnson, Bill Dahl and Corey Welberg.

The 46-page report from Shive-Hattery is available under the "Archives" tab on the Lake Panorama RIZ website: <https://www.lakepanoramariz.org/>

PROGRAM

FROM PAGE 1A

"For several years, Lake Panorama sales have been higher than what we have as assessed values on those properties, and the sales ratios have been very low overall compared to the rest of the county," Carrick says. "The Iowa Department of Revenue calls for assessed value to be within five percent of market value. At Lake Panorama, that ratio has been fluctuating between 77 to 80 percent, with the overall county ratio at 88 to 90 percent."

Carrick says this reappraisal project should help get market values more in line with assessed values. "The lake is unique and without it, Guthrie County would not be what it is. This will help get values where they need to be, and closer to what people are paying for Lake Panorama properties," she says.

Representatives of Vanguard Appraisals, Inc., will be conducting the inspections at Lake Panorama. Carrick says Vanguard has done this type of work across the Midwest for many years. In 1999, the company was involved in a reappraisal project for all residences in the county, except for those at Lake Panorama. In 2013, Vanguard did complete Commercial Class reappraisal project for Guthrie County.

At Lake Panorama, data collectors with photo ID signed by the assessor will make interior and exterior inspections of all

residential properties. They will be compiling information to be used to estimate the fair market value of each property.

Information to be collected includes type of construction, type of interior finish, physical condition of the property, age of structures and exterior measurements. A complete sales analysis, local construction costs and economic conditions also are considered. No estimate of value will be given at the time of inspection.

Lake Panorama property owners are asked to cooperate by allowing a complete inspection of their property and providing accurate information, so a fair market value can be determined.

Carrick says the Vanguard employees generally will work weekdays beginning at 8 a.m. and into the evening hours. If no one is home, additional attempts to gain information will be made. Some visits will be done on Saturdays to catch those who are only at the lake on weekends. Carrick says no notices will be left, workers simply will make repeat visits until they find someone home.

All law enforcement agencies, as well as the Guthrie County Assessor's office, will know the areas where data collectors are working, and have the names and license plate numbers of those involved.

Carrick says once the physical inspection phase is complete this fall, all data will be reviewed and property value estimates made.

The target date for completing this phase is December 31, with notices of final value estimates mailed to property owners sometime after January 1, 2018.

Carrick says these notices will be different from what is typically mailed each spring for valuation changes. A cover letter with a brief explanation of the reappraisal and valuation process will be included with the notice. Property owners with concerns or questions will have the opportunity to meet informally with a Vanguard representative, with Carrick present, to discuss their valuation.

The new assessed values for Lake Panorama residences will be effective January 1, 2018, for taxes payable in fiscal year 2019-2020. Property owners will receive their normal assessment notice by April 1, 2018. Details on filing a formal protest will be included on those assessment notices.

For the rest of Guthrie County, Carrick says staff from her office will begin to conduct similar inspections of other rural residential and agricultural dwellings in 2017. The next step in the reappraisal project is to inspect residences located in all towns within Guthrie County. She hopes that work can get underway in 2018, and have those new valuations in place for assessment years 2019 and 2020.

Property owners with questions about the reappraisal project can contact the Guthrie County Assessor's office at 641-747-3319.

TOUR

FROM PAGE 1A

Schools graduates. It also supports several local causes, including After Prom, 3C's, Relay for Life, Feed the Kids Backpack program, Christmas decorations on the Panora square, local food pan-

tries and other worthy projects.

The first tour group will leave the Lake Panorama National conference center at 9 a.m., with three additional groups leaving on the half-hour through 10:30 a.m. Each group tours three homes before returning to the LPN for lunch, followed by tours of the remaining two

homes.

WSO members work for several weeks to organize and sell tickets for this annual home tour. Visits to the homes are made a week in advance to gather details for an information sheet that is given to each ticket holder.

To purchase tickets, contact Sue Merryman at 641-755-2968.

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WOMEN

FROM PAGE 1A

At the end of the night, the votes were tallied, and although only a five vote margin separated each of the causes, the winner was Guthrie County Helping Hands. The program started in 2015, and its mission is helping low-income families obtain adequate, decent and safe housing. Since starting, the program has helped six families in need through repainting houses, building handicap ramps at residences and repairing roofs, among other projects.

Between the 99 local ladies officially registered with 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County, and the portion of them employed by companies with matching gift programs, the first meeting raised \$10,900. All of the proceeds from the meeting will go directly to Guthrie County Helping Hands.

"This monetary gift might allow them to complete more projects than they had originally planned, as well as continue the organization in our county," Benton said. "What an amazing feeling it is to see a project completed, and know that you have made a difference in the life of your neighbor in Christ."

Just one member shy of the goal of having a minimum of 100 women involved, Neff-Muell said she hopes more women will continue to sign up for 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County moving forward. In particular, she would like to see more representatives from towns like Yale, Menlo, Bayard and Bagley, as the group is currently about 70 percent Panora and Guthrie Center residents.

"For those of you that do have ties in those communities, share, share, share (our Facebook page)," said Kristen Crouthamel, another of the group's founders. "We want those communities represented as well. We're all in Guthrie County. We don't want those communities to shy away from this group because it might be heavily populated by Guthrieans and Panoraites."



CAITLYN WARE | LAKE TIMES

Members of the new fundraising organization 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County (from left) Kristen Crouthamel, Shannon Neff-Muell, Laura Smith and Karen Benton, present a check for \$9,900 to Patty Stanton and Jeff Lamoureux from Guthrie County Helping Hands, a local branch of the Heart of Iowa Habitat for Humanity. The organization was chosen as the first cause to be supported by 10 Squared Women during their kick off meeting on March 16. The group's goal is to bring at least 100 women together several times a year to raise money for local needs. Members nominate worthy causes within Guthrie County, then vote for the one they like best. Once a cause is chosen, every member writes a check for \$100 to be donated to it. Since the group's first meeting, its number of members has grown from 99 to 104. The additional members, plus several of them being employed by companies with matching gift programs, brought the total amount of money to be donated from the original total of \$10,900 to \$11,400. The rest of the money will be donated to Guthrie County Helping Hands once it is collected from employers and new members.



Luann Waldo addresses members of 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County during the group's first meeting on March 16. Waldo spoke on behalf of the Coon Rapids-Bayard Education Foundation.



Ruth Owen speaks about her nomination for funding — the Guthrie County Arts Council — during the first meeting for 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County.



Karen Benton talks about Guthrie County Helping Hands at the 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County meeting on March 16. The cause, which is a branch of the Heart of Iowa Habitat for Humanity, received \$10,900 as a result of the meeting.



Paige Huntley speaks about the Coon Rapids-Bayard Education Foundation during the first meeting for 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County.

CRIME

142 warnings and citations issued through STEP patrol

By CAITLYN WARE
Lake Times staff

Speed and equipment violations were the bulk of the 142 warnings and citations issued by the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office during a recent "STEP" patrol.

Several times a year, the sheriff's office conducts traffic waves as part of the state's Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). During holiday weeks and some weekends, extra officers are sent out on patrol to gather data on the number of offenses encountered. Those numbers are then submitted to the state for record purposes. In exchange, the department receives several thousand dollars from the state for equipment each year.

The goal of the program is to remind people not to speed, drink or text while driving, and to adhere to safety regulations.

"We go out and do a special traffic enforcement program to educate people," Guthrie County Sheriff Marty Arganbright said. "To say we're out there, we're looking for drunk drivers, speeders, people not wearing their seatbelts. But we don't only want you to abide by the law when we're out looking. We want people to do these things year round."

This most recent period ran from March 15 to March 18. Over the course of three days, including St. Patrick's Day, the sheriff's office issued 23 citations and wrote 119 warnings for traffic violations. The most citations — 17 — were given for speeding. The highest number of warnings also went to speeding, with 49. Arganbright said speed violations are always high in STEP patrols.

Equipment violations, like broken tail lights and head

PATROL, PAGE 8A

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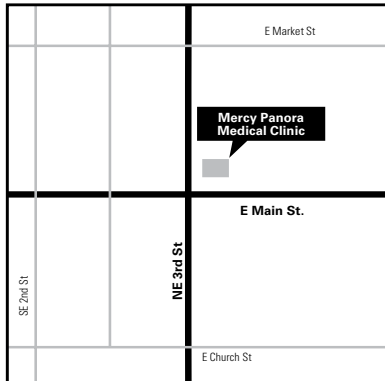
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Q&A: John Rutledge, general manager of Lake Panorama Association

SPRING IS IN THE AIR FOR LPA

By SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Times staff

The 2017 Lake Panorama summer season is fast approaching. In this month's Q&A, John Rutledge, LPA general manager, answers questions about what's ahead for Lake Panorama in the coming months.

Q. Spring has arrived at Lake Panorama. What are good reminders for members as they begin this busy season?

A. I definitely look forward to spring. We're al-

ways busy working on something at LPA, but spring is the time of year when we interact with members the most. The best advice I can offer members is to sign up and read the Panorama Prompt, which is our weekly email bulletin.

The Prompt is our primary means of alerting members to current issues. We have over 1,100 members subscribed, but that means we have another 600 or so who are missing out on this news opportunity. If you are subscribed but haven't seen it lately, please

make sure it isn't being directed to your junk mail folder. Reading this weekly newsletter will keep you informed of important issues and events at Lake Panorama and the LPA.

Q What are some upcoming events?

A. There are several key events to help members kick-off the 2017 season. First, I invite LPA members to attend the LPA annual meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 13. This meeting lasts roughly one hour and is the official annual



meeting of the association. It's a great opportunity to learn about the past year in review and the year to come. And the question and answer session at the end of the meeting always makes for interesting discussion.

Two social fundraisers also are on the calendar for May. The Friends of Lake Panorama's Beach Ball will be held the evening of Saturday, May 6. This is the second year for the event and it promises to be a good time. Funds raised will go towards a multi-sports courts project at Boulder Beach.

The Fin and Feather annual banquet will be the evening of Saturday, May 13—the same date as the LPA annual meeting. This event has become a mainstay of spring and funds fish stocking at Lake Panorama. In addition, Fin and Feather funds the Panorama Days kids' fishing derby and recently purchased a fishing dock for the Panorama West golf course pond.

All three events are at the LPN conference center. I hope you can join us!

Q. What's new with LPA operations?

A. LPA took delivery of a small-scale Reverse Os-

mosis (R/O) plant in early April and will be running that system for the next 90 days. The purpose of this plant is to test the feasibility of a full-scale R/O plant for the LPA. This test will yield data on construction costs, operating costs and finished water quality. This project represents an effort to look ahead and understand what long-term options we have for advancing our water treatment process to the next level. If pursued, the plant would build upon improvements LPA made to the plant over the past decade.

Dredging is underway in the upper basin. LPA and RIZ have evaluated the silt accumulation in the upper basin and determined the upper basin will remain closed to boating through late-June. The upper basin is normally open for boating by Memorial Day, but we will be delaying that for a few extra weeks this year to maximize dredging progress in this area. We will have the upper basin open for boating by the Independence Day weekend.

Q. When will the Independence Day fireworks show be this year?

A. Rita Scheiring continues to organize the Independence Day fireworks show from Shady Beach. This event will be held on Saturday, July 1, 2017. Thanks to Rita and her late husband Joe for establishing and continuing this wonderful tradition.

Q. How will potential state law changes regarding fireworks impact LPA members?

A. At this time, LPA relies upon Iowa law for fireworks governance. However, a bill is currently under consid-

eration by the Iowa Legislature that would expand the sale and use of fireworks by private individuals. As a rural area, Lake Panorama would fall under any guidelines subsequently implemented by the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, as well as any new rules implemented by LPA.

It is difficult to predict how this will play out. It is possible LPA members will have more fireworks opportunities, but it also is possible county and LPA rules will seek to pare back fireworks usage. Ultimately, I would remind our members they are responsible to avoid any activity that could be declared a nuisance to their neighbors. We want everyone to have fun at Lake Panorama ... but there is a fine line when fireworks are involved. Enjoy yourselves this summer but remember you remain liable for any damage or injury you or your guests cause to neighbors and their property. Boats, fuel and fireworks are a dangerous combination.

Q. Any final words as we look ahead to the summer season?

A. When I first joined the association, I took a few calls from members who were going to hold a large party. They wanted to know the rules so they didn't get in trouble with the LPA. Denny Merritt, our former security supervisor, told me the best answer to that question is this: "Have everyone park on one side of the street and be sure to invite your neighbors." Denny hit the nail on the head. Invite your neighbors and you'll find the relationship you build will help to weather any disagreements that might come up in the future.

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As a proud member of the Lake Panorama Association, I believe it is important we continue efforts to improve our lake water quality, our drinking water quality, our roads and our recreational amenities. And I believe that's done most effectively through prudent management of our financial and capital resources, and planning strategically for our future. I ask for your vote in the 2017 LPA Board of Directors election.

~Mary Jane Carothers

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YOURVIEWS

Letters to the editor

Letter to the Editor

Since 2008 Iowans have provided one percent of state sales, services and use taxes to support local school building safety and repair needs through the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) fund. That law will sunset unless the legislature and the governor take action to extend this dependable alternative to property taxes.

School districts are required to address safety concerns such as replacing aging building wiring to eliminate fire hazards, removing and abating asbestos, monitoring radon and installing secure building and classroom entryways. Just like homes require continuous care and maintenance, school buildings require this same attention. Roofs must be maintained and replaced, lighting upgrades bring increased energy efficiencies and new classroom technologies require changes to electrical infrastructure.

Local schools serve as critical student learning hubs and community centers. As interested citizens, community members and school officials, we're proud of our schools and see the need to invest in this valuable resource. We are asking all Iowa legislators and Governor Branstad to support an extension of the SAVE fund. Help assure that all students have the facilities needed for safe and challenging learning environments and all communities have adequate funds to meet ongoing school safety, repair and replacement needs.

~ Signed below by 52 Iowa superintendents, Heartland AEA and two Des Moines Public School Board Members:

Steve Smith, Superintendent, Adair-Casey and Guthrie Center School Districts; Greg Dufoe, Superintendent, Adel DeSoto Minburn Community School District; Bruce Kimpston, Superintendent, Ankeny Community School District; Brett Gibbs, Superintendent, Audubon Community Schools; Ottie Maxey, Superintendent,

Ballard Community School District; Todd Martin, Superintendent, Baxter Community School District; Rich Powers, Superintendent, Bondurant-Farrar Community School District; Brad Manard, Superintendent, Boone Community School District; Bryce Amos, Superintendent, Carlisle Community Schools; Rob Cordes, Superintendent, Carroll Community School District; Tracy Hook, Superintendent, Colfax-Mingo Community School District; Ottie Maxey, Superintendent, Collins-Maxwell Community School District; Steve Gray, Superintendent, Colo-NESCO Community School District; Brett Gibbs, Superintendent, Coon Rapids - Bayard Community School District; Scott Grimes, Superintendent; Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District; Thomas Ahart, Superintendent, Tere Caldwell-Johnson, Chair, DMPS Board; and Cindy Elsbernd, Vice-Chair, DMPS Board Des Moines Public Schools; Michael Wright, Superintendent, Earlham Community School District; Trevor Miller Superintendent, Exira-EHK Community School District; Lindsey Beecher Superintendent; Gilbert Community School District; Kreg Lensch, Superintendent, Glidden-Ralston Community School District; Paula Vincent, Chief Administrator, Heartland AEA; Kevin Fiene, Superintendent, I-35 Community School District; Art Sathoff, Superintendent, Indianola Community School District; Corey Lunn, Superintendent, Johnston Community School District; Cassi Pearson, Superintendent, Knoxville Community School District; Shane Ehresman, Superintendent, Lynnville-Sully Community School District; Brian Horn, Superintendent, Madrid Community School District; Tom Wood, Superintendent, Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District; Randy Alger Superintendent; Melcher-Dallas Community School District; Steve Gray, Superintendent; Nevada Community School

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wall Lake speaker: Look rural, young people

By DOUGLAS BURNS

Lake Times staff

WALL LAKE

The keynote speaker at a regional development meeting in Wall Lake said the future of the nation is much more in the hands of rural Americans than urban centers.

"The reality is you are sitting on a goldmine here," said Charles W. Fluharty, a University of Iowa professor who is the CEO and president of Rural Policy Research Institute.

Fluharty addressed the annual meeting of Western Iowa Advantage (WIAD) at Schroeder Hall in Wall Lake. The organization represents about 90,000 people with efforts for business growth and other economic improvements in Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida and Sac counties.

Fluharty said the collective approach of WIAD best positions this vast sweep of rural Iowa to compete in the global economy. Potential employers consider labor pools in terms of regions, not county lines or based on Friday night rivalries between towns on high school football fields, the U of I professor said.

And then there is the reality of competition.

"We live in a world now where the cities are in control," Fluharty said.

That's changing, he said. Rural areas will be called on to provide energy and more food, and represent the history of the American experience, Fluharty said.

Specifically, he said rural Iowa needs to focus on being inclusive and creating environments with the amenities young people seek. One key there: affordable and quality child-care services, Fluharty said.

"You future is the kids under



DOUGLAS BURNS | LAKE TIMES

Charles W. Fluharty, a University of Iowa professor who is the CEO and president of the Rural Policy Research Institute, addresses the annual meeting of Western Iowa Advantage (WIAD) at Schroeder Hall in Wall Lake. The organization represents about 90,000 people with efforts for business growth and other economic improvements in Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida and Sac counties.

40 that graduated from your high schools," Fluharty said.

Fluharty, who referenced conservative and liberal friends and influences in his speech, said he expects rural development to be more important in the Trump administration, even if it may not seem like that now.

"We have a new president because of the rural vote," said Fluharty.

Immigration is big component of the future of rural Iowa, he said, adding that the Hawkeye State's small towns

need to be more "inclusive" and "dynamic places" that allow for expressive activities from young people.

"A lot of white, rural cultures resist those things," Fluharty said. "We've got to change that."

Fluharty said the immigrants from Mexico now living in Iowa have some of the best values of any people here.

"They're all in church on Sunday," he said.

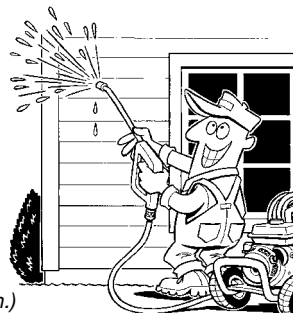
Fluharty added, "Most of our foreign cultures will simply be an asset."

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EDUCATION
FROM PAGE 3A

ture generations. The Panora Conservation chapter of the organization was founded in February, and has turned its attention to coming up with a way to keep the CEC in use. While nothing is concrete yet, members have been gathering information and talking to legislators, philanthropists and local universities to try and come up with a solution.

“The building enables the education,” said Steve Roe, the Panora Conservation chapter president. “The education’s what’s important to us. The experience is enhanced by the setting that they’re in. It’s a wonderful natural setting. There’s fire rings and gathering places, there’s a shooting range for archery, some good places to fish. Opportunities for kids who don’t

get a chance to be outdoors. We think it’s important to fund it.

Coffelt said he is open to the idea of keeping the CEC open, should the option become available through funding. But as of yet, nothing is definite and overnight programming will remain discontinued.

“I think from a pragmatic standpoint, we need to take a look at the business model,” Coffelt said. “If the public says they want to help us do overnight programming, then we can evaluate the costs. I would say those conversations are in the preliminary stage. At this point in time we don’t have enough details. I appreciate that there is concern being brought forth. I understand what (they) want to do and appreciate what (they) want to do, but we need to sit down and see what the options are.”

BALL
FROM PAGE 2A

bidders the opportunity to help. All donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a permanent sign near the sports courts.

A new system for tracking sales and donations will be implemented at this year’s Beach Ball. Ticket holders will receive a number specific to them at registration, and can use that number throughout the evening to purchase raffle tickets, place auction bids, buy Beach Ball bottomless beer cups, and purchase items from the “Build-A-Court” board. This will allow patrons to pay for everything with one transaction at the end of the evening. Only cash and checks can be accepted, no credit cards.

Donations still are needed for the dessert table, raffle and auctions. Anyone interested in sponsoring the final table, purchasing tickets, or donating an item can email staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org. Or call Susan Thompson at 641-755-4382 or 515-240-6536.

The main sports court structure will be a concrete slab fea-

turing two regulation-sized tennis courts with both tennis and pickleball lines. These courts will be surrounded by a 10’ tall chain link, black vinyl fence. The basketball court will be slightly smaller than regulation size. The concrete will be marked for two half courts, with two basketball hoop systems installed.

Those who can’t participate in the Beach Ball still can help make the sports courts a reality. Donations can be made in someone’s memory or in honor of someone. Checks can be mailed to PO Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216. Donations also can be made electronically on the website.

Donations of securities (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) are welcome, and will be sold once transferred, with the proceeds deposited into the Friends bank account. A securities account has been established with GCSB Investment Center in Panora.

More details about Friends of Lake Panorama, current donors, the sports courts project, and ways to donate are available online at friendsoflakepanorama.org.

CANCER
FROM PAGE 1A

individuals come together at a school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Teams raise funds in the months leading up to the event. The Relay For Life movement is the world’s largest fundraising event to fight every cancer in every community, with more than four million participants in 6,000 events worldwide in 2016.

Guthrie County will celebrate survivors and their caregivers at the annual Relay For

Life of Guthrie County on Friday, June 16, from 4–10 p.m. at the AC/GC High School Track in Guthrie Center.

For survivors and caregivers who are interested in learning more and possibly interested in having a team and signing up for the Relay For Life event please go to www.relayforlife.org/guthriecountyia.

Last year, more than 200 people participated in the Relay For Life of Guthrie County and raised over \$65,000.

Visit relayforlife.org or www.relayforlife.org/guthriecountyia to learn more about the event.

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2017 LPA ANNUAL MEETING MAY 13

Lake Times staff

The 48th annual meeting of the Lake Panorama Association will be Saturday, May 13, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Lake Panorama National conference center. Each year, the LPA annual meeting provides a formal statement of the association's financial position, plus reports on activities during the past year and plans for the coming year.

Reports will be given by Tom Jeschke, LPA board president; Jim Spradling, LPA board treasurer; John Dinnebie, LPN director of operations; and John Rutledge, LPA general manager.

The results of the annual election for the LPA board of directors will be announced at the end of the meeting, and there will be time for audience questions and comments.

An official announcement of the meeting will be sent to all LPA members in mid-April. Included in this mailing will be a ballot, plus a numbered envelope in which to return the ballot. Ballots must be returned in the numbered envelopes to ensure ballot authenticity. If an envelope is lost, contact the LPA office for a replacement.

There are no issues this year that require a special vote. The 2016 ballot is simply for electing two members to the LPA



Mary Jane Carothers

board of directors.

If possible, members are asked to deliver or mail their completed ballot in the numbered envelope to the LPA office before Friday, May 12. This allows the majority of the ballots to be counted in advance of the annual meeting. Ballots also can be brought to the annual meeting.

Four people are running for two seats on the LPA seven-member board. Bob Batschelet is completing a three-year term on the board and isn't seeking reelection. Tom Jeschke also is completing a three-year term, and is seeking a second term. The other three candidates are Mary Jane Carothers, Jason Grossman and Les Marks.

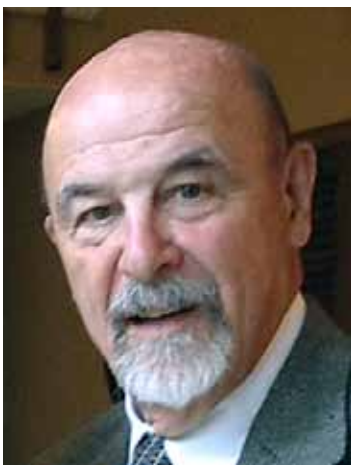


Jason Grossman

LPA bylaws require each board candidate to provide a 100-word statement. This year's candidate statements are printed here in alphabetical order.

MARY JANE CAROTHERS

A lifelong Guthrie County resident, I have resided at Lake Panorama since 2003. I am a licensed nursing home administrator, currently serving as Vice President, Quality Improvement and Clinical Affairs for Iowa Health Care Association, a trade organization representing over 700 long term and post acute care organizations. My professional skills include strategic planning, capital improvement project oversight, budget construction and hu-



Tom Jeschke

man resource management. My community service experience includes serving on the Panorama and Guthrie Center School Boards, the Guthrie Center Area Development Board, the Guthrie County Board of Health, Guthrie County Compensation Board and St. Mary's Parish Council.

JASON GROSSMAN

I live at 6505 Oak Tree Cove with my wife Lisa and our 1 year old son, Benjamin. I am an Electrical Engineer for Toyne Inc, a fire truck manufacturing company located in Breda, Iowa. I find the commute well worth it to live at Lake Panorama and enjoy spending time with family/friends. As a full time 10-year



Les Marks

resident, I am running with the hope to deliver guidance and a constructive voice to shape our community. I think I can bring a diverse viewpoint and represent an important demographic on the board. I would appreciate your support.

TOM JESCHKE

Conni and I have lived at Lake Panorama for the past 14 years and are passionate about the community. Prior to retirement in 2004, I served as the Executive Director of Student and Family Services for the Des Moines Public Schools. I have been on a wide variety of local, state and national boards and understand the role a board plays in setting policy and providing guidance

to administration. I have served on the LPA Board of Directors for nine years, four of which were as president. I look forward to offering my experience and expertise to the LPA.

LES MARKS

My wife Nancy and I have been members since 1995. We built our home in 2002 and moved here full time in 2004. We utilize all there is to offer at Lake Panorama. We boat, fish, and I am a member at LPN. We are very active in the community, with Nancy still working at Lakeside Village. I have an extensive background working with company budgets and providing my expertise helping them leverage technology. Recently retired, I would like to serve the LPA community as a member of your board of directors. I would appreciate your support!



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-Mark and Alice Sheeder



"We recently hired Sparks Renovations for our master bath remodel - a large project starting from the studs. The entire Sparks team was professional, hard-working, and very detail oriented. The project was kept on a tight budget and the communication throughout the process was superb. We highly recommend using Sparks Renovation, who take pride in their work and it shows!"

-Josh and Valerie Strehle



"My wife and I have done several remodeling projects with Sparks Renovations and are always pleased with their work. Randy is great to work with and his team does quality work while accomplishing projects in a timely manner. If you need any construction work done on your home I recommend calling Sparks Renovations."

-Eric Barp



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**Alexis Clouse of Winterset
is a student at Iowa.
She hopes to be a rural pharmacist.**

"The University of Iowa has taught me that success is earned through a lot of hard work and has challenged me to think more critically."

"I plan to go on to pharmacy school. I see myself working in a small-town pharmacy after graduation."

"I enjoy chemistry because it challenges me and prepares me for my future career. Outside of the classroom I am involved in Dance Marathon and Best Buddies, which are very special organizations."



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FIRST FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE A SUCCESS

Community event brings together dads and their girls

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES



Dads and Daughters dance together during an event held at the conference center in Panora on Sunday, April 9.

Lake Times staff

It was a little girl's dream come true -- a father-daughter dance with music, games and refreshments. The girls dressed up in their finery and danced, played games, took selfies and enjoyed refreshments at the Lake Panorama Conference Center in Panora on Sunday, April 9. Over 135 guests attended with fathers, grandfathers, uncles and adult father figures escorting excited little girls

The dance mission was to create a special and fun memory for local daughters and fathers. It was organized by Rachel Knudsen, Rachee Lombard, Arianne Steenblock, Gayla Wasson and Emily Wells. The event was a community-wide non-profit event that had a family friendly environment. Trevor Nunn, Pastor at Faith Bible Church in Panora, was the MC. "We are all overwhelmed with joy on the amazing support we had for our first Father-Daughter dance," said Arianne Steenblock. "We saw a lot of smiles, laughter, and fun being enjoyed by everyone. God gets all the glory for so many people volunteering and supporting our mission." Bubbly little girls and their fathers had their photos taken by Tia Hilgenberg, owner of Natural Expressions Photography. "We have photographed a lot of daddy-daughter dances and this was one of our favorites," Hilgenberg said. "It was so well put together. I want to give kudos to all the dads on their participation -- I loved seeing the dads dancing, playing games and following their beautiful daughters around."

The dance was held at the conference center in Panora, which was host to Panorama's Prom the night before, and the decorations stayed. DJ Jared Calvert provided an excellent mix of fast and slow songs that appealed to both dads and daughters. Songs like "Can't stop this feeling", "Stealing Cinderella", "Shake it off", "Cotton Eye Joe", and so many more added excitement to the crowd. "It was a blast, we really created a lot of memories that are just for my daughter and me, very special," said Chris Piper, who attended with his daughter, Mya. Scott Stanley and his daughter, Alyssa, also had a great time. "Thanks to all who put in the time and effort to organize this event," Stanley said. "Excellent job." Peyton Walker and her dad, Jesse, said the experience was "amazing." "We have wanted a daddy-daughter dance for a long time," Jesse Walker said. "We had a blast." A Facebook public page has been created titled Father Daughter Dance. Join it to view more photos/videos from this year's dance. Upcoming events and news will be posted on this page in the future.



Fathers and Daughters enjoyed time dancing, playing games and having refreshments during the Father-Daughter dance at the National Resort and Conference Center in Panora on Sunday, April 9.



Fathers and Daughters take the dance floor during an event just for them in Panora on Sunday, April 9.



Jim and Joyce McLuen

Burial service for former Lake Panorama residents May 16

By SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Times staff

Final burial arrangements have been set for a Lake Panorama couple whose will provides estate gifts to six Panora nonprofit groups. Jim and Joyce McLuen both died in 2016. Joyce passed away April 19, 2016 in Sarasota, Florida. Following her death, Jim returned to Indianola and passed away November 21, 2016. Inurnment of their cremains will be Tuesday, May 16, 11 a.m., at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery near Van Meter. Joyce attended Drake University in the early 1950s, then worked for the Department of Natural Resources in the state fish hatchery. Jim was a graduate of Drake University College of Pharmacy. He served in the United States Army and in 1958 went to work for Burkey Drug in Indianola. He purchased the business in 1966 and named it McLuen Drug. He retired when he sold the business to his brother Ed. The couple wintered in Florida and spent their summers at Lake Panorama. They were one of the first homesteaders at the lake, having purchased a lot before there was water. They enjoyed boating, fishing and golfing.

MCLUEN, PAGE 6B

Golf league options plentiful at Lake Panorama

By SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Times staff

Both golf courses owned by the Lake Panorama Association are open for the season, and in great condition for the 2017 season. Again this year, there are plenty of golf league options available at the two courses. 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 25 at the LPN conference center. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at 12:30. The cost is \$15. Make reservations with Judy Schnack at 641-755-2531 or clsdvm@netins.net. League play begins May 2 with a two-gal best shot at 9:30 a.m., preceded by a 9 a.m. golf clinic presented by John Dinnebie, LPN director of operations. The first day of regular play will be May 9, with August 29 the last day of regular play. A four-gal best-shot and

GOLF, PAGE 6B

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GOLF PREVIEW

Panthers poised to make run at three-peat

By **ASHLEY SCHABLE**
Lake Times staff

Hal Rossow is faced with a question that any high school golf coach would love to have to answer.

The Panorama high school boys golf team returns two of the state's top golfers from a team that won the last two Class 2-A state championships. So what else will it take for the Panthers to be able to contend for a rare

three-peat in 2017? "We need to find three other players for our varsity team," said Rossow, who carries a 1631-55 (75 percent) record into his 38th year of coaching."

Panorama successfully defended their Class 2-A boys state golf championship at Lakeside Golf Course in Fort Dodge last spring. The Panthers, who returned five of six golfers from the 2015 state championship squad, overcame a slim two-

stroke deficit from the opening round and finished with a 604 total, with four of the team's golfers going below 80 on the second day.

Junior George Appleseth was the team's top individual with a 145 (71-74). The first day, Appleseth birdied 16, 17 and 18 in an outstanding opening round in Fort Dodge.

Junior Will Babcock, who won Panorama's first-ever individual state golf title a year earlier, fin-

ished tied 11th with a 153.

Both Babcock and Appleseth, who have already etched their names in the school record books, return this year, and are expected to use their state experience and veteran leadership to guide the Panthers this spring.

Sophomore Trey Cobb returns as a letterman after golfing No. 8 for the Panthers as a freshman.

Panorama will get an early boost from freshman Kolby Shackelford, who has been one of the top golfers on the junior summer tour for the past several years. Schackelford won top player of the year honors in the state for his age group in both 2013 and 2015.

Rossow, who is assisted by Dave Van Ahn, said he expects Dylan Douglass, Mitch Wagler and Gracen Welberg to battle for varsity spots.

Looking at the conference race, Rossow said Des Moines Christian and Van Meter look to be his team's top challengers.

Panorama opened the season on Monday, April 3 when they hosted Madrid and Ogden at Lake Panorama National in Panora. They will host the Panorama Invitational on Saturday, April 22, the conference tournament Wednesday, May 3, and the district tournament on Friday,



ASHLEY SCHABLE | LAKE TIMES

Panorama seniors George Appleseth and Will Babcock would like nothing more than winning a third straight state championship with the Panthers this year. Panorama is off to a record start on the course this spring.

May 19. The state meet is May 26-27 in Fort Dodge.

PANTHER ROSTER

Seniors - George Appleseth, Will Babcock, Austin Behrends, Mitch Wagler
Juniors - Chris Allison, Jesse

Gardner, Tanner Godfrey, Gunnar Grunsted, Elijah Keith, Ondrej Komora, Kaleb Stogdill
Sophomores - Trey Cobb, Dylan Douglass, Jacob Iseminger, Gracen Welberg, Tate Willey
Freshman - Connor Powell, Kolby Shackelford, Nathan Wolfe

PREVIEW

Panthers have new coach, good numbers

Guthrie County Vedette

Melissa Hochstetler takes hold of the Panorama girls golf team for the first time this season and with a 17-girl roster, the new coach looks forward to success on the course this spring.

"Our goal this year is to improve our scores and have some fun in the process," Hochstetler said. "We have a lot of talent and we can make it to state with some hard work."

The Panthers finished 35-13 last year, and said goodbye to veteran leader Emily Houston, a school record holder on the golf course.

Returning for the Panthers this season is senior Cassie Labath, a three-year letter winner, along with seniors Christin Koch and Savana Mobley as well as junior Maddie Fear, all three two-year letter winners. Juniors Lauren McClatchey and Anna Duis also return with experience as letter winners.

Others returning with experience are seniors Maggie Smith and Nadia Sharairi and sophomore Taylor Raibikis.

Noted as promising newcomers, and expected to contend for playing spots are freshmen Alex Kurtz, Autumn Six, Chloe Webster, and Shaelyn Gettler, as well as senior Tori Troutman, sophomore Yerin OH, and juniors Fiona Kahle and Jensen Wilke.

PREVIEW, PAGE 6B

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'SEVERE STORM SATURDAY'

Storm chasing and radar sprinkled through weekend event

By REBECCA MCKINSEY
Lake Times staff

COON RAPIDS

Not many car dealerships host severe-weather events.

But New Way Ford in Coon Rapids just offered its second, featuring former KCCI TV chief meteorologist John McLaughlin, who grew up in the area and whose family owns the dealership, and two storm chasers.

"Severe Storm Saturday" covered phone apps that anyone can use to follow storms in real time, as well as the work of storm chasers who provide live storm updates "under the radar."

In addition to McLaughlin, the presentation featured professional storm chasers Ben McMillan, a Pella native who helped found the Iowa Storm Chasing Network and worked as the primary storm chaser for KCCI, and Nathan Moore, who is based in Kearney, Nebraska, and owns StormViewLive.com, which offers live storm broadcasts.

McLaughlin discussed two phone apps, RadarScope for iPhone, which costs \$9.99, and PYKL3 Radar for Android, which costs \$11.99. They allow users to select a location and see storms on the radar as they are happening.

A variety of information — wind speed, velocity, debris, storm location and more — available through the radar apps allows anyone with a smartphone

to keep an eye on weather in their area — so when they hear "thunderstorm warning," they can get more information about what that means for them.

"All this data is available on your telephone now so you can look at it in real time," McLaughlin said.

Typically on a weather radar, areas that are green, or cool colors, indicate conditions that are coming toward the radar, while areas that are red, or warm colors, indicate conditions moving away from the radar.

The point at which the two colors meet is where air begins to rotate — sometimes causing a tornado.

"In school talks, we say, 'When green meets red, get under the bed,'" McLaughlin said. "That's the rule of thumb."

Radar programs also can indicate debris that has been moved by a storm — small buildings, for instance.

"In Iowa, it could be corn, beans, hay that's been picked up and is spinning," McLaughlin said. "That's a helpful tool, because it tells people that this is serious. It's not just rotation, but it's moving debris around."

"It's not just, 'You're interrupting my show.' It's, 'We're interrupting your show because someone's roof is up in the air.'"

To practice with the weather apps, McLaughlin suggested, watch radar data for active storms throughout the country

and compare what you see on your radar with warnings from the National Weather Service. And don't chase a storm without plenty of information and a plan.

Iowa weather can be unpredictable, McLaughlin said.

"Our storms tend to be wrapped in rain," he said — and brief tornadoes or those lower to the ground can be missed by radar. "It's a little harder here in Iowa to pick out storms, compared to Oklahoma or Texas."

And radar, for all the information it does offer, isn't on the

ground.

"That's why we need the storm spotters and the storm chasers, to see what's happening when we're live, on the ground," McLaughlin said. "Instead of just saying, 'We see a tornado on the radar,' we can say, 'Storm spotters have confirmed what we saw on the radar.'"

McMillan and Moore both have professionally "chased storms" for years, passing on live film and updates to meteorologists who include the information in

STORMS, PAGE 4B



REBECCA MCKINSEY | LAKE TIMES

Pella native and professional storm chaser Ben McMillan, who helped found the Iowa Storm Chasing Network, discusses following a double tornado in Nebraska several years ago during a "Severe Storm Saturday" presentation April 8 at New Way Ford in Coon Rapids.

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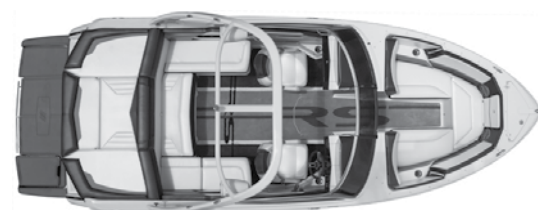


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STORMS

FROM PAGE 3B

live coverage of storms.

That live coverage is unedited and can be raw and messy.

“When a disaster hits, ratings don’t matter anymore,” McMillan said.

Typically, professional storm chasers have — or should have — some sort of first-aid or search training.

“A lot of times, we’re the first ones on a scene,” Moore said.

That training also helps when storm chasers are the first ones calling in emergency responders — they can note that although a tornado hit a house, no one was in it and there isn’t a need for 50 firetrucks, as opposed to a more serious situation such as hospital being hit.

“Minutes count in these situ-



REBECCA MCKINSEY | LAKE TIMES

Former KCCI TV chief meteorologist John McLaughlin speaks about reading weather radar during a “Severe Storm Saturday” presentation April 8 at New Way Ford in Coon Rapids.

ations,” Moore said.

If you’re just in it for the thrill and aren’t necessarily contribut-

ing anything, reconsider — or at least stay out of the way, McMillan said.

And when you’re on the road quite a bit, a milkshake is a great source of quick energy, he added.

As dangerous as tornadoes can be, storm chasers typically can avoid them, McMillan said. Other factors — flooding in the road, other drivers, lightning — are more unpredictable and dangerous.

And there always needs to be a backup plan.

“It’s like a chess board,” McMillan said. “The storm’s gonna go where it’s gonna go, and we have to adapt. The hardest part of what I do is to know when to stop what I do.”

Attendees at the event Saturday received a free rain gauge. They’re welcome to set them up and share results on the New Way Ford Facebook page, McLaughlin said.

“Just don’t make up an amount or add your number to someone else’s to win,” he joked. “We see that a lot in the TV business — our hail is bigger than your hail.”

He added that New Way Ford likely will host similar weather events in the future.

OUTDOORS

Let the camping season begin

Iowa DNR

Warming temperatures and other signs of spring have state park staff busy preparing for the start of the 2017 camping season.

This Saturday, April 15, most state parks will have water on, and shower and restroom buildings open for campers. And on Saturday, May 6, state park campgrounds will celebrate the start of the season with a Camping Kickoff.

“We look forward to welcoming people to our parks each year,” says Todd Coffelt, chief of state parks for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, “And this year we want to kick things off with a little season opener.”

Nearly all state parks with campgrounds will offer special programs or activities on May 6, including fishing clinics, fun runs, volunteer projects,

special hikes and demonstrations. A list of parks and their programs is available beginning April 13 at www.iowastateparks.gov/campingkickoff

Those wanting to join the Camping Kickoff celebration are encouraged to make a reservation now. Iowa has more than 4,700 state park campsites and between 50 and 75 percent of them can be reserved in advance. This year, more than 300 existing campsites were added to the reservations system, making planning vacations a little easier.

And, campers familiar with the state park reservations system will notice a significant face-lift to the website. The site not only looks more appealing, but is more user friendly, with links to state park events and social media outlets. To check out the

CAMPING, PAGE 5B

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If you're going to achieve all your goals, such as sending your kids to college, retiring in comfort and leaving a legacy, you will need to save and invest throughout your lifetime. But to really complete your financial picture, you'll also need to add one more element: protection. And that means you'll require adequate life insurance for your situation. However, your need for insurance will vary at different times of your life — so you'll want to recognize these changing needs and be prepared to act.

When you're a young adult, and you're single, life insurance will probably not be that big of a priority. And even married couples without children typically have little need for life insurance; if both spouses contribute equally to household finances, and you don't own a home, the death of one spouse will generally not be financially catastrophic for the other.

But once you buy a home, things change. Even if you and your spouse are both working, the financial burden of a mortgage may be too much for the surviving spouse. So, to

enable the survivor to continue living in the home, you might consider purchasing enough life insurance to at least cover the mortgage.

When you have children, your life insurance needs will typically increase greatly. In fact, it's a good idea for both parents to carry enough life insurance to pay off a mortgage and raise and educate the children, because the surviving parent's income may be insufficient for these needs. How much insurance do you need? You might hear of a "formula," such as buying an amount equal to seven to ten times your annual income, but this is a rough guideline, at best. You might want to work with a financial professional to weigh various factors — number and ages of children, size of mortgage, current income of you and your spouse, and so on — to determine both the amount of coverage and the type of insurance ("term" or "permanent") appropriate for your situation.

Once you've reached the "empty nest" stage, and your kids are grown and living on their own, you may need to re-evaluate your insurance needs.

You might be able to lower your coverage, but if you still have mortgage, you probably would want to keep enough insurance to pay it off.

After you retire, you may have either paid off your mortgage or moved into a condominium or apartment, so you may require even less life insurance than before. But it's also possible that your need for life insurance will remain strong. For example, the proceeds of a life insurance policy can be used to pay your final expenses or to replace any income lost to your spouse as a result of your death (e.g., from a pension or Social Security.) Life insurance can also be used in your estate plans to help leave the legacy you desire.

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CAMPING

FROM PAGE 4B

new site and make a reservation, go to www.iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com

Reservations for campsites can be made up to three months in advance of an arrival date. Currently reservations are open for two of the three major summer holidays, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Labor Day weekend reservations will be available beginning June 1 for a Friday arrival.

Last year, Iowa's state parks welcomed more than 15 million

visitors, and more than 900,000 of these were overnight stays. Similar numbers are expected again this year, given favorable weather conditions.

"Iowa's state parks are becoming the go-to overnight destination for many people," says Coffelt. "We offer campsites that appeal to a broad range of campers, from the more primitive hike-in sites to those with all the popular amenities."

And if camping isn't your thing, a total of 92 cabins are available to rent in 19 state parks, reminds Coffelt.

Cabins start at \$25 per day for simple camping cabins and range

to \$200 per day for the multi-family cabin at Springbrook State Park. Cabin reservations can be made up to a year in advance. During the peak season, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, many cabins will require a seven-day minimum stay, however from now until Memorial Day weekend, all cabins rent for two-day minimums.

Visit www.iowadnr.gov/state-parks for more information about campsites, cabins, events, closures and to sign up to receive State Parks News electronically. For more information about the May 6 Camping Kickoff, visit www.iowadnr.gov/campingkickoff beginning April 13.

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MCLUEN
FROM PAGE 1B

Seven entities will receive bequests from the McLuen estate. The largest gift will go to the Drake University College of Pharmacy for student scholarships.

Another bequest will go to Friends of Lake Panorama, with the McLuen's will directing those funds be used for

the "upkeep, beautification or expansion" of the Panorama West golf course.

Other estate beneficiaries are the Panora Volunteer Fire Department, Panora EMS, Panora Library, Panora United Methodist Church and Panora P.E.T.S.

The final amounts of the seven bequests aren't yet known. It's anticipated distributions will be made sometime this summer.

PREVIEW
FROM PAGE 2B

Kurtz made a hole-in-one during the team's first round of qualifying this week when she used a 5-wood on the Par 3, 120-yard No. 7 hole. At 14 years old, she is believed to be the youngest to make a hole-in-one at the Lake Panorama National Golf Course.

"We have a lot of new faces and everyone is excited to

get the season underway," Hochstetler said.

The coach said the girls returning from last year are looking strong and the newcomers showing a lot of potential.

"I see good things to come for us," she said. "This is a great group of girls. They have all showed great dedication so far. The weather has not been ideal for us, but they all are eager to play and learn."



The Lake Panorama National driving range can be a popular spot as the golf season begins.

GOLF
FROM PAGE 1B

awards luncheon will be September 5. For more information, contact Sharon Wedemeyer, 641-747-3938 or sharonwedemeyer@gmail.com.

The Tuesday evening men's league will begin April 25 and run through August 29. 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 jmerryman1@gmail.com; or Bill Eby at 515-240-7652 or wheby@stineseed.com.

The Thursday morning men's league will begin April 27 and wrap up August 31 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 Vir-

gil Hoehne at 641-757-0962 or 2grandkids@live.com.

At the 18-hole Lake Panorama National, all league players must have purchased a LPN annual membership.

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.

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 league play who do not yet have a partner will be matched with another player, or can play as a sub.

There is a junior golf league for LPN members at 5 p.m. every Monday beginning June 5 and running through Aug. 14. 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-tional.com. Questions? Call the LPN pro shop at 641-755-2024 or the Panorama West pro shop at 641-755-2250.

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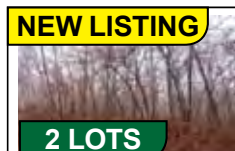


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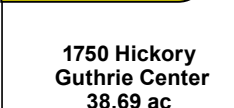


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WILD ROSE CHARITY JACKPOT HITS \$1.47M

By **DOUGLAS BURNS** | *Lake Times staff*

JEFFERSON
Norm Fandel, president of the nonprofit associated with Wild Rose Casino & Resort in Jefferson, says the double-barreled approach of Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation is to spread charitable giving over a vast sweep around the gaming facility — but to also reserve enough funds to boost some high-impact, big-dollar “wow” projects, game changers for communities.

Near the end of a \$1.47 million philanthropic bonanza Tuesday night at Wild Rose, Grow Greene County awarded \$80,000 to the Churdan Public Library for remodeling and expansion of the public lending building.
“There’s the wow!” said Churdan Library Board of Trustees member Lou Blanchfield. “Thank you so much.”
The library offers about 40 programs serving nearly 50,000 people in the area annually, Blanchfield said.
“We need more space,” she said.
For nearly two hours, a parade of Greene County organi-

zation and those from bordering counties — Boone, Calhoun, Carroll, Dallas, Guthrie and Webster — crossed the stage at Wild Rose in Jefferson to receive checks for dozens of projects.
The \$1.47 million in contributions represents 5 percent of the casino’s adjusted gross gaming revenue for the calendar year 2016 with 18 percent of that figure going to area counties. Since opening July 13, 2015, the casino has provided \$2.4 million in charitable contributions, money doled out by the nonprofit. This doesn’t count the considerable boost to the local and state tax rolls.

All contiguous counties received \$42,130 to disburse through their nonprofits in the 2016 round.
“It’s very generous that this organization involves Carroll and the other area counties in the gifting,” said Eric Neu, president of the Community Foundation of Carroll County.
There were a number of big winners in the second annual awards from the casino-financing charity.
The Greene County Youth Athletic Association received \$150,000, money that will go to lay the groundwork for the potential development of a sports facility.
The E911 Board of Greene County received \$104,635 to update portable radios.
Besides Churdan, the City of Scranton emerged as spotlight community in this round of giving.
Scranton, population 557, received \$31,207 in the regular annual city giving, some of which will help with park development, and also took home two major awards in the competitive round with \$40,000 for water-tower repair



JEFF STORJOHANN | LAKE TIMES

The \$42,130 donation to Guthrie County from the Grow Greene County Gaming Corp. will fund a host of projects. The check was presented to the community foundation last week in Jefferson.

and \$36,775 for senior apartment upgrades.
“I wasn’t expecting this so it’s like a double bonus tonight,” said Scranton Mayor Randy Winkelman.
The Greene County Supervisors received \$55,000 for courthouse rotunda improvements, expected to be complete for the 100th anniversary celebration of that building in the fall.
The two school districts in Greene County picked up sizable checks.
The Greene County Community Schools pulled in \$158,412, money that will be used to add a digital sign at the high school, provide a shade structure at the preschool playground and pay for technological upgrades.
Paton-Churdan School District received \$24,153 to improve the gymnasium.
Other charitable disbursements:
— Greene County Trailhead, \$35,000 for adding art at entries to the Raccoon River Valley Trail in Cooper, Jefferson and Winkelman Switch.
— Greene County Medical Center, \$20,000
— Thomas Jefferson Gardens in Jefferson, \$50,000 for the remodeling of a Greene County Welcome Center.
— Greene County Community Foundation, \$182,565 which will be involved in a host of grants.
— The Greene County Development Corporation, \$92,000 for the Vision 2020 program aimed at boosting growth in the county.
— City of Churdan, \$21,622 for water-system improvements.
— City of Dana, \$3,981.
— City of Grand Junction, \$46,168 for downtown business district improvements, including lights, pavement and sidewalk work.
— City of Jefferson, \$50,000 for mini-grants to repair homes, \$6,000 for tennis courts work and \$24,000 toward long-term visioning.
— City of Paton, \$13,228 for updates to its community building.
— Rippey, \$16,357.62 for street repair and infrastructure.
The five contiguous counties’ nonprofit community foundations received \$42,130 each.
Here is how some of that money will be used, according to representatives from the counties.
Boone — Improved handicapped accessibility for the Salvation Army, Madrid City Museum restoration, Iowa Railroad History Society work and improvements at the Boone County Fairgrounds and Don Williams Lake.
Calhoun — Additional CPR devices for the EMS in the county.
Carroll — \$20,000 to expand the New Hope Village Bargain Shoppe in Carroll, \$6,848 for flooring at the Breda American Legion and \$15,000 for educational materials at the Carroll Area Child Care Center.
Dallas County — A truck for the Dallas County Food Bank, parking lot restoration in Minburn, Perry High School welding program and upgrades and historical upgrades.
Guthrie — \$1,607 for the Boys and Girls Club, \$3,440 for Tori’s Angels Foundation, \$7,000 for Habitat for Humanity, \$8,890 for the Guthrie County Historical Village, \$10,500 for the Prairie Woodland Foundation and \$10,693 for the Guthrie County Fair Foundation.



The \$1.47 million in charitable contributions from Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation announced Tuesday night at Wild Rose Casino & Resort in Jefferson represents 5 percent of the casino’s adjusted gross gaming revenue for the calendar year 2016 with 18 percent of that figure going to Greene’s surrounding counties. Since opening July 13, 2015, the casino has provided \$2.4 million in charitable contributions, money doled out by the nonprofit. This doesn’t count the considerable boost to the local and state tax rolls. Pictured are representatives of the dozens of organizations and local governments that received money in the 2016 cycle of giving.

PHILANTHROPY

How the Jefferson casino charity boosts Guthrie County — specifically

\$42,130 flowing to Guthrie projects, organizations

By **DOUGLAS BURNS**
Guthrie Center Times

JEFFERSON
So how will that money Guthrie County received from the non-profit associated with Wild Rose Jefferson be spent? Not all in one place.
The \$42,130 in donations Guthrie County received from Grow Greene County Gaming Corp. — part of the 2016 split of contributions to the six counties bordering Greene County — will be divided among several worthy causes and or-

ganizations, with the money flowing through the Guthrie County Community Foundation, said Julie Kipp, the secretary of that organization.
Here’s the breakdown:
Guthrie County Fair Foundation — \$10,693
The funding here will be used to purchase a new sound system, small animal cages, pressure washer, picnic table, exhibit tables and office equipment.
Prairie Woodland Conservation Foundation — \$10,500
The money will go toward paving of three secondary road crossings along the Raccoon River Valley Trail between the town of Yale and Highway 141.
Guthrie County Historical Village — \$8,890
For a new roof and repairs

to the Marchant House.
Heart of Iowa Habitat For Humanity — \$7,000
For repairs to four low-income families’ homes in Guthrie County.
Tori’s Angels Foundation — \$3,440
The organization serves Iowa children with life-threatening illnesses and their families by helping them pay expenses insurance doesn’t cover. This money will be used to buy a popcorn machine, condiment warmer and other equipment for use with fundraisers.
Boys and Girls Club of Central Southwest Iowa — \$1,607
Will pay for improvements to the driveway, ballfield and a new convection over in the kitchen.

ENTERTAINMENT

Wild Rose debuts horse, dog TV betting in Clinton, with Jefferson next

Special to the Vedette

Wild Rose Casino & Resort became the first Iowa casino without live racing to offer off-track betting (OTB) on Friday in Clinton.
The ability to offer simulcasting resulted from a change in Iowa gaming laws in 2014. Under that statute, live dog racing was phased out in Council Bluffs and transitioned to the Iowa Greyhound Association at The Iowa Greyhound Park in Dubuque.
Wild Rose intends to bring pari-mutuel horse and dog racing to its other properties in Jef-

erson and Emmetsburg in the near future.
The first day of wagering included races from 16 different tracks across the country including thoroughbred racing from Santa Anita Park, Aqueduct, Keenland and Oak Lawn.
“We are thrilled to be the first land-based 99F casino in Iowa to offer simulcasting and pari-mutuel to our patrons,” said Steve Nauman, general manager of Wild Rose Clinton. “The opening comes just in time for the Santa Anita Derby on Saturday. This race serves as a qualifier for the Kentucky Derby, and this year, the stakes are even higher

because there is no clear-cut Derby contender.”
Iowa-based Donegal Racing will feature one of the race’s “longshots” with Irish Freedom.
In preparation for OTB, Wild Rose Clinton remodeled and upgraded Coaches Corner with 56 new televisions including 16 screens that combine for theater-style viewing. In addition, each booth in Coaches features upgraded screens for viewing races or other programming.
Wild Rose officials in Jefferson are eyeing changes to the Coaches Corner restaurant and bar for the introduction of horse and dog racing as well.

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SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES

AN ACE FOR ALEX

Panorama freshman Alexandra Kurtz made a hole-in-one on Number 7 at Lake Panorama National Golf Course on Monday, March 27, 2017. Kurtz, 14, who was playing a qualifying round as a member of the Panorama girls golf team, used her 5-wood for the Par-3, 120-yard shot. She was playing with teammates Lauren McClatchey, Chloe Webster and Kristin Koch. John Dinnebier, LPN general manager and director of golf, believes Kurtz is the youngest golfer to sink a hole in one at the Lake Panorama National Golf Course.

BUSINESS

New Coffee Shop “Crafty’s Coffee & Gifts” opens on Main Street

By **ASHLEY SCHABLE**
Lake Times staff

PANORA

Perk up Panora, there’s a new coffee shop in town.

Kristin Rumelhart opened the doors to Crafty’s Coffee & Gifts at 102 West Main Street in Panora at 7:00 a.m. Monday morning. She served her first cup of coffee around 7:05.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” Rumelhart said after serving three Lattes Monday afternoon. “I didn’t know if we were going to be quiet the whole day -- Did we bake too much, not enough?”

For Rumelhart, it has been a long wait for the coffee shop to make its way to opening day. A native of Cedar Rapids, Rumelhart, and her husband, Ryan, a

2001 graduate of Guthrie Center High School, purchased the corner building in the fall of 2011. Ryan is the son of Roy and Werdna Rumelhart of Guthrie Center, and works with his dad at Rumelhart Building Co Inc. His mom and older brother, Rod, own Rumelhart Financial Services in Guthrie Center.

With Ryan doing most of the work, the young couple and their three-year-old daughter, Rowan, have remodeled not only the coffee shop, but two stories above for their living quarters.

“I just love the old architecture of the building,” Kristin said, glancing around at the exposed beams and sparkling lights that give the shop an inviting touch.

Ryan said he’s surprised how well it turned out.

“It does look really nice,” he said.

The shop features espresso-based drinks, Iowa-roasted coffees, Bunker’s Dunkers doughnuts, muffins and bagels. On Monday, caramel lattes were the most popular, Kristin Rumelhart said.

Walk-ins are welcome and Take-outs available.

The shop is more than just coffee, too. Rhonda Stanley has joined Rumelhart and moved her Olde Rooster business from the corner of Highways 121 and 25, halfway between Bayard and Bagley, into the shop. Her part of the business features home decor items, clothing, re-purposed furniture, and jewelry.

Vintage letters and word signs hang on the walls.

Stanley started helping Rumelhart with her store by painting tables and the two soon connected their ideas for Crafty’s Coffee & Gifts.

“I thought what a great location,” Stanley said. “I’ve enjoyed meeting people, everyone is so friendly here.”

Both Rumelhart and Stanley say they love to see small communities thrive and revive, and are happy to be on a street full of activity.

“Everyone from the post office came this morning,” Rumelhart said. “The track teams are coming after school today.”

Rumelhart said she hopes the shop will become a place for people to gather.

“They can come chill out on the couches and rest their feet,” she said.

Crafty Coffee & Gifts is open Tuesday through Friday, 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays 8 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for biscuits and gravy.

Rumelhart intends to listen to customer suggestions and provide different products that people seem to be interested in seeing on the menu.

“We have some ideas,” she said. “We’re happy to be here.”



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