

Lake Panorama

TIMES

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COMMUNITY



CAITLIN WARE | LAKE TIMES

Shannon Neff-Muell addresses the audience during an informational meeting on February 9 for 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County. Neff-Muell, along with Kristen Crouthamel and Laura Smith, is a founder of the group, which will raise money for causes within Guthrie County.

New women’s group kicks off

By CAITLIN WARE
Lake Times staff

A group of local service-minded women met and mingled last week to help form a new charitable organization: 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County.

Inspired by the male version of the organization within the county — 10 Squared Men Plus — Shannon Neff-Muell, Kristen Crouthamel and Laura Smith decided to found their own group. Members will work together to raise money that goes directly to causes within Guthrie County.

On February 9, the three women held an informational meeting at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center to explain the group’s purpose, and encourage attendees to join.

WOMEN, PAGE 4A

Second Beach Ball to raise money for Sports Courts

By SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Times staff

Plans are underway for the 2nd annual Beach Ball, sponsored by Friends of Lake Panorama. The event will be Saturday, May 6, at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center. All proceeds will go to the charity’s current priority project — new sports courts at Boulder Beach.

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. The Lake Panorama Association provided an additional \$50,000, and the playground was completed last July.

BALL, PAGE 2A

COMMUNITY

CAR ENTHUSIAST CHANNELS PASSION INTO CREATIVITY



CAITLIN WARE | LAKE TIMES

A portion of Paul Bierly’s diorama that he built in his basement. It took him nearly two years to put together the display, which features many model cars from his collection, as well as town scenery.

By CAITLIN WARE | Lake Times staff

The scene was set at Raceway Park during its Spring Drag Race. A rainbow of cars packed the entryway in bumper-to-bumper fashion. Traffic directors waving orange flags controlled the surge of vehicles as they made their way into the stadium, and anxious drivers leaned against their rides while waiting to show their stuff on the strip. Excited fans packed the stands, watching each set of cars approach the starting line, and wait for the tower of lights to flash green.

Missing from the scene was the telltale scent of exhaust, and the sound of tires screeching, because the racing scene was not outside, but tucked away in Paul Bierly’s home. Ever since he was a child, the Lake Panorama resident has been a car enthusiast. And what started as a passion has grown into a collection of nearly 1,200 model vehicles brought together in a handmade diorama in his basement.

“I have had a love for cars and trucks for most of my life, I’ve always been into them,” Bierly said.

Before Bierly, 73, began work on his diorama, he was an avid model car collector. He grew up in a “car family,” and the learned interest led to him building plastic models of cars and trucks. As the years wore on, he tried his hand at creating dioramas to accompany his model collection, start-

ing with one made out of a cardboard box he colored. With that, what would become a long-term project was born.

“I started this all in 1958 with plastic models, I had a table and I just started making dioramas, and it was all downhill from there,” Bierly laughed.

Eventually, he sold his collection of plastic cars, and switched to metal ones — known as diecast models — when they were introduced in 1995. The diorama in his basement now features dozens of these cars, in just about every color and style. The diorama takes up a corner of his basement, and features three large shelves of cars and scenery. On the top shelf, Bierly stores a portion of his truck collection. The middle shelf is set up like a small town, complete with people, streets, shops, and of course, cars. He painted and con-



Lake Panorama resident Paul Bierly poses with his diorama.

structed the miniature buildings, backgrounds and accessories in each scene on display, and even installed real lighting inside some of the structures. Many aspects of the diorama were made using creatively repurposed items, like cardboard painted to resemble rusty metal buildings, and push pins transformed to look like red, green and yellow lights.

“I’m very proud of what I do, I really like using my imagination to come up with different ideas,” Bierly said. “I’m always looking for what I can do to create something.”

He also took time to customize 90 percent of his model cars to

make them as unique and realistic as possible, from repainting to adding stickers. He even detailed the engines inside the model cars. They would be incomplete without the extra features, he said.

“I always look for realism, that’s what I’m searching for in the models,” Bierly said, pointing to a 1941 Willys Coupe that was a glossy purple before he detailed it to look rusty and worn. “They’re just some of my creativity.”

On the lowest shelf of the diorama is a set up with personal significance: a jam-packed drag

DIORAMA, PAGE 6A



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BALL
FROM PAGE 1A

Now Friends of Lake Panorama has a goal of raising at least \$50,000 for the sports courts. So far, \$25,000 has been donated to the project. Once

Friends raises \$50,000, the LPA has committed another \$50,000. An anonymous donor has pledged \$25,000 for a dedicated basketball court, once the \$100,000 level is reached. The goal of the Friends board is to have the new sports courts installed in 2017, which another

successful Beach Ball should make possible. As was done in 2016, sponsors will be sought for 30 tables of eight. Table sponsorships cost \$100. Sponsors will be recognized in a printed program and with a table sign. Each table of eight will be individually decorated with a different theme. Sponsors can do their own decorating, or a volunteer decorator will be assigned. Table sponsors are encouraged to recruit up to eight guests at \$40 each for their table. Seats not filled by sponsors will be available for purchase by others interested in attending the event. Friends of Lake Panorama is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so the \$100 table sponsorships and \$20 per ticket will be tax-deductible contributions. The other half of each ticket purchase will go to the LPN. The value of items donated for the auctions and raffle also could be tax deductible. The Beach Ball will begin at 5 p.m. with a social hour that features special drink prices, plus time to view the decorated



LAKE TIMES FILE PHOTO

There were eight fun-raising options available at the 2016 Friends of Lake Panorama Beach Ball, including raffle items. Guests placed half a ticket into the bucket and kept the other half, waiting for their number to be called.

tables, purchase raffle tickets, and place bids on silent action items. A committee is discussing other fun, fundraising ideas

to incorporate into the event. There will be a buffet dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a live auction. Donated items are being sought for the raffle and auctions. Those interested in sponsoring a table, purchasing tickets or donating an item for The Beach Ball can email staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org. Or call Susan Thompson at 515-240-6536. The Friends nonprofit is separate from the Lake Panorama Association, and has a goal of improving recreational amenities at Lake Panorama. All contributions are tax deductible, and all donors receive a letter of thanks as their receipt. The main sports court structure will be a concrete slab featuring two regulation-sized tennis courts with both tennis and pickle ball lines. A PowerGame two-tiered surface will be placed

over the concrete base. This modular flooring features a locking system. The five-eighths inch high, self-draining surface stays clean by allowing water, dirt and debris to drain through. The cushioned design provides shock absorption to help reduce joint stress and fatigue. These courts will be surrounded by a 10' tall chain link, black vinyl fence. There will be one gate, two nets and support poles. This project is estimated at \$125,000. The basketball court will be slightly smaller than regulation size at 50' 5" x 78' 8". The concrete will be marked for two half courts, with two basketball hoop systems installed. The \$25,000 estimated price tag does not include fencing or the PowerGame surface. While donations of all sizes are welcome, only donors of \$500 or more are recognized on the Friends website. A sign listing these larger donors will be erected near the courts. Donations can be made in someone's memory or in honor of someone. Checks can be mailed to PO Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216. A donation form is available on the Friends website, which can be completed and sent with the check. Donations also can be accepted electronically on the website at www.friendsoflakepanorama.org. 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. While the Friends board has made fundraising for the sports courts its current priority, donations can be made to five other funds or a combination of funds. There is a general fund, plus funds for Boulder Beach, Shady Beach and Sunset Beach. There also is a Golf Course Beautification fund, which allows donors to choose either Lake Panorama National or Panora West.



Guests to the 2016 Beach Ball browsed the banquet room to find their favorite decorated table, then stuffed cash into glass vases numbered with their favorite table. The cash was counted, and the decorator who brought up in the most cash was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and basked in the glory of being the People's Choice.

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4936 Lynn Dr., Panora, Iowa

\$409,900

This magnificent condo has sliders that allow you to enjoy views of the lake with a wrap around deck. The master bedroom has a lake view with a walk in closet with a full bath/laundry on the main level. Open floor plan so no one is left out.. The lower level has two bedrooms with a wet bar/game room and a 3/4 bath. Within walking distance to Main Beach, Conference Center and Lake Panorama Golf course. This truly has to be seen to encompass everything it has to offer. Could be the #1 condo on the lake!! If you are ready to leave the hassle of home ownership, you will find none better. Plenty of room for guests to park with this flat lot and enjoy boating (back door) and golf (front door). Definitely a must see with a price to sell.

Sale Pending

5148 Panorama Dr., Panora, Iowa

\$245,000

This completely renovated two bed, two bath house is ideal for that quick get away. It has beautiful views of the lake out the front and sits on the #5 fairway of the golf course in back. The back includes a beautiful patio with a pergola for shade encompassed by a retaining wall that adds the tranquility everyone so desires. The master has a beautiful closet with a full bath. The entire house has high ceilings that bring out the abundance of space this house has to offer with it's open floor plan. Great starter or a fine way to down size with minimal maintenance.

Sale Pending

4922 Lynn Dr., Panora, Iowa

\$272,900

This newly remodeled condo sits in the Boulder Cove complex with beautiful lake views and the golf course is across the road. This one floor is perfect for the couple that is tired of the upkeep of a house. It is golf cart ready to enjoy the lake, golf course, conference center, pool and driving range. The inside has a newly remodeled kitchen that opens to the spacious dining and living room. With two bedrooms and two baths there is room for over night guests! The deck offers a great setting to barbeque, entertain or just enjoy the lake views. Lots of parking. Move in ready!!

Sale Pending

5209 Tamara Pt., Panora, Iowa

\$435,000

Custom homebuilder's personal residence overlooking Lake Panorama! Built with stability and functionality in mind. Open concept gourmet eat-in kitchen with granite countertops, hickory cabinets, double oven, stovetop with interchangeable cooking platforms. Attached is a breakfast nook, formal dining room and wine/coffee bars. Vibrant hardwood floors on the main level. French doors open to a beautiful office space. Wood burning fireplaces in the living room and the family room. Three bedrooms upstairs including master suite with two closets and master bath with dual vanity, tub, and tile shower. Two more bathrooms upstairs including laundry. Finished basement adds a bedroom, bathroom, rec room, bar, and family room. Huge deck wraps around the home, two car garage with storage overhead. Highly efficient geothermal keeps utility bills minimal. This magnificent home delivers all the views of the lake without all the expense of lakeshore property!

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March 14 deadline to file for LPA board of directors

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

The deadline to file nomination papers for the 2017 election for a seat on the Lake Panorama Association board of directors is March 14.

The board consists of seven members. Board terms are three years, and members are allowed to serve two consecutive terms. Terms are staggered so the number of seats on the annual ballot varies each year.

For 2017, there will be two seats on the ballot. Bob Batschelet will be completing a three-year term on the board and has stated he won't seek a second term. Tom Jeschke also is completing a three-year term, and has stated he will submit nomination papers to run for a second term.

So far, Mary Jane Carothers also has declared her intention to run for election on the 2017 ballot.

Nomination papers are available at the LPA office, or will be emailed on request. Candidates must collect a minimum of 18 signatures, representing 18 separate active memberships.

Along with the nomination form, candidates are asked to submit a signed statement of willingness to serve, and a 100-word statement of qualifications. Also needed is a signed conflict-of-interest form listing any businesses or financial interests the candidate has with the LPA. These items will be included in the ballot mailing.

A mailing that includes the ballot, numbered envelope and the official announcement of the May 13 annual meeting will be sent in April. LPA members must return their completed ballot in the numbered envelope. Members are urged to return their ballots in advance of the annual meeting to speed up the tabulation process, although ballots also can be brought to the annual meeting.

Board meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning with open forum at 5 p.m., although the day and time sometimes is adjusted. The board does not meet in January or February, unless a special meeting is necessary.

Anyone with questions about the board election process, or details of serving on the LPA board, can contact the LPA office at 641-755-2301 or lpa@lakepanorama.org.

TRUMPETER SWANS SPENDING WINTER AT LAKE PANORAMA



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES

Trumpeter swans are spending winter at Lake Panorama. Trumpeter swans are native to Iowa. But unregulated hunting and habitat loss led to the last nesting pair being documented in the state in the 1880s. Efforts in recent years to reestablish the birds through targeted releases and improved habitat are showing signs of success.

By **SUSAN THOMPSON** | *Lake Times staff*

It was expected a new wetland established in 2016 to help improve Lake Panorama's water quality also would attract wildlife. That expectation already is reality, with some trumpeter swans spending time there this winter.

Brad Halterman, Lake Panorama Association's project manager, photographed some trumpeter swans on the ice at the 26-acre wetland on January 9. "The wetland was still frozen over, with no open water. They have been hanging out at the wetland off and on for a few weeks now," Halterman says.

The Helen's Cove/Donahey wetland, located on Sage Trail near the east campground, was finished last fall. It includes a six-acre water pool, which hosts microbes that turn nitrogen into gas. A forebay collects sediment, which can be cleaned out periodically. The wetland was financed by the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ), with additional funds from federal and state programs.

Halterman says he's also seen the swans on Lake Panorama's main basin, on the Middle Raccoon River below the dam, and in a cornfield near Bays Branch. "I believe they are feeding in fields in the area. As long as the fields stay clear of snow and ice, they should stick around," he says.

Trumpeter swans are native to Iowa. But unregulated hunting and habitat loss led to the last nesting pair being documented

in the state in the 1880s. Efforts in recent years to reestablish the birds through targeted releases and improved habitat are showing signs of success.

Reintroduction efforts have included clipping certain swans' wings, and banding the birds so they can be identified. "None of these have any bands or ID so it's doubtful they were released locally," Halterman says. "I think they were passing through and found a home, at least for the time being."

Halterman recently provided some facts about trumpeter swans in a Panorama Prompt newsletter, available weekly via email to LPA members.

Trumpeter swans have stark white feathers and all black beaks. Trumpeters are the largest native bird in North America, with wingspans of six feet or more and an average weight of 25 pounds. Because of their size, these birds must get a 100-yard running start across water or land before taking off to fly.

Trumpeter swans are fairly vocal, especially compared to non-native mute swans. Besides their lack of "trumpeting," it's easy to recognize the non-native mute swans because of the bright orange portion of

their beaks.

Trumpeter swans usually are monogamous, and pairs tend to reuse their nests year after year. When a pair has a clutch of eggs, both parents spend time sitting on them. Baby trumpeters, called cygnets, hatch after about a month. Within two hours, they can see, swim, communicate and run along with their parents. At less than a week, they can walk up to a mile, and at three months they can fly.

These swans usually migrate annually. Trumpeters released in Iowa have been recorded traveling as far north as Canada, west to Colorado, south to Texas, and as far east as Kentucky.

RIZ is in the process of developing a second wetland to protect Hughes Cove. Con-

SWANS, PAGE 8A

Lake Panorama author's book gains recognition

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

The latest young adult non-fiction book written by Cheryl Mullenbach, who lives at Lake Panorama, has been named to a list of exceptional books for use in social studies classrooms.

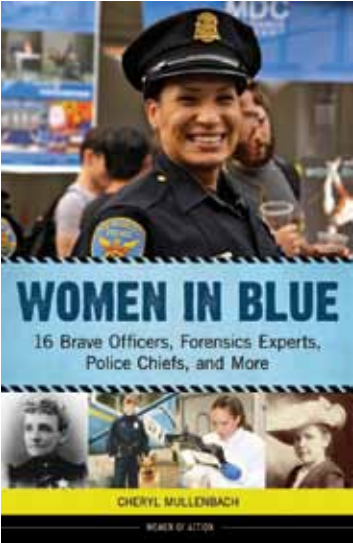
Women in Blue: 16 Brave Officers, Forensics Experts, Police Chiefs, and More has been selected for the list of Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2017. The list is a cooperative project of the National Council for the Social Studies and the Children's Book Council.

Women in Blue, which was published in May 2016, is written for readers ages 12 and up, providing them with profiles of 16 females with careers in law enforcement—from some of the first police matrons 150 years ago, to today's top forensic scientists and FBI agents.

Mullenbach wanted to highlight the progression of the role of women in law enforcement over the decades, so half of the women are from the past. She also wanted to showcase a variety of careers within law enforcement, and include women from a range of ages, backgrounds and locations.

"It wasn't difficult to find individuals who were passionate about their work and who could lend perspective to challenges they faced as women in a male-dominated arena," Mullenbach says.

The annual reading list is selected by a committee of social studies educators. Re-



Cheryl Mullenbach's book Women in Blue, released in May 2016, has been named to a list of exceptional books for use in social studies classrooms.

viewers look for books that emphasize human relations, represent a diverse range of cultural experiences, and are of high literary quality.

Mullenbach has written three other books—The Great Depression for Kids, The Industrial Revolution for Kids, and Double Victory: How African American Women Broke Race and Gender Barriers to Help Win World War II. Mullenbach's books are available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Her fifth book titled Torpedoed!, a recounting of a World War II attack on a passenger liner, will release in September.

Mullenbach is a former history teacher, public television project manager and social studies consultant. She and her husband, Dick Wohlgamuth, and their dog, Ink, have lived on Lake Panorama's Jones Cove for nearly 15 years.



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Caitlin Ware | Lake Times

The founders of 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County (from left) Kristen Crouthamel, Laura Smith and Shannon Neff-Muell, host an informational meeting for the new group on February 9. The organization's mission will be to raise money for local causes.

WOMEN
FROM PAGE 1A

“I think it’s important that we take pride in where we live, and that we give back to our communities,” Neff-Muell said of the organization, which has branches across the globe. “This is an international idea, and it is in towns and cities all over the country. There’s even one in the Cayman Islands. (If) you get a big group of people together who can each make a small donation, the group as a collective can make a really big impact. I get chills when I think about that, because it is so cool.”

During the meeting, Neff-Muell, Crouthamel and Smith explained how the organization will operate. They would

like at least 100 women from all corners of Guthrie County to join the group. Four times a year, the members will have a chance to nominate a local cause in need of funding. There are no limitations on what can be nominated, so long as the money stays in Guthrie County, and no overtly political or religious areas are suggested.

From the list of nominations, three will be randomly selected. At each of the quarterly meetings throughout the year, the three members who nominated the causes will have the opportunity to make a five minute presentation about why theirs is the best, followed by a three minute question and answer session. Then, in between drinks, snacks and socializing, all of the members will vote for the cause they like best.

Once one is chosen, everyone will write a check for \$100. By the end of the night, if the goal of having at least 100 members is met, the organization will raise a minimum of \$10,000 for a local cause.

“The basic idea of this group is simple: through the power of numbers, we will combine our donations to make an immediate, big impact on our local community while having some fun,” said an information letter for 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County. “In doing so, we will create a culture of giving, connection, and support. We will have a bigger impact if we stick together!”

Neff-Muell said that by the end of the informational meeting, 42 women had submitted membership forms to join the group. Another 15 to 20 individuals that were not able to attend the meeting also expressed interest in joining. The first quarterly meeting to decide where the group’s initial round of funding will go is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center on March 16, and Neff-Muell hopes to be “100 strong” by then.

“Hopefully you’ll join us and make a difference in Guthrie County,” Smith said during the meeting.

To get more information about 10 Squared Women on a Mission of Guthrie County, visit their Facebook page, or email 10squaredgc@gmail.com.

BROOMBALL
RETURNS TO LAKE PANORAMA



Special to the Lake Times

Referee Josh Merryman drops the ball, with Ben Schmidt and Ben Ellefson facing off to start another game. Ellefson seeks to emulate NFL Quarterback Tom Brady by winning his fourth championship in 2017.

By DANIEL FISCHER | Special to the Lake Times

The Seventh Annual Merryman Broomball Tournament returned to Lake Panorama on Saturday, Feb. 4. Following opening ceremonies, the national anthem, and a team draft on Friday night, the tournament was held at Horseshoe Cove.

Known for its fast passing, body checking, and low scoring, broomball is the non-skating relative to hockey. Whereas hockey involves skates, sticks, and a puck, broomball uses boots, brooms, and a ball. While the two sports have different gear, players of each require the same grit, determination, and teamwork.

The tournament format involves six teams playing preliminary games, with a semifinal round and championship game to determine the winner

of the coveted Golden Broom. Each team is guaranteed three preliminary games, though the champion and runner-up will play a strenuous and taxing five games in one day.

While most participants play primarily for fierce competition and the glory of winning, a positive side effect is the abundant health benefits. Of the invited guests, four out of five doctors recommend broomball and participated in this year’s tournament. Abbey Merryman, an Iowa City doctor, is constantly be-

ing asked about healthy living.

“I always recommend eating lots of green vegetables, getting eight hours of sleep, and playing broomball at least once a winter,” she jokes.

Merryman estimates that an average sized American man can burn 350 calories for every 20-minute game of broomball, in addition to improving core strength and working on their six-pack. Constant running on ice, bracing for traction, and jostling for position means that broomball is a true test of one’s aerobic and anaerobic capacity.

Returning champion Aaron Ambrecht, a Kansas City construction engineer and fitness enthusiast, says he’s played all the high school sports, poured cement on hot, summer days, and made it all the way through P90x.

“Broomball is a more intense workout than any of those,” Ambrecht said.

Although the health benefits are many, broomball is not without a few risks. Participants are prone to slipping on the ice and getting slammed against the boards. Whether hurt or injured, most competitors are determined to play through the pain. Sumit Patel, a Des Moines banker, said in last year’s tournament he was out there pushing it to the limit on the ice.

“Next thing I know, I slipped and took a couple shots to the dome,” he said. “Things got a little hazy, but I couldn’t let my team down by missing game time.”

Due to the physical nature of the game, many players have embraced knee pads, mouthguards, and pre-game ibuprofen. Cale Kassel, an Omaha doctor and weekend historian, is glad to see that people are taking precautions and preventing

BROOMBALL, PAGE 8A



Daniel Fischer looks for an open pass against the ferocious defense of Mark Sullivan. Sullivan is known to preach, “Offense makes YouTube highlights, but Defense wins Golden Brooms.”



Sumit Patel winds up for a slap shot with Bryce Rockers preparing for a rebound, while goalie Lea Sullivan and defender Abbey Merryman brace for the shot. Each team plays with one goalie, three “broomies,” and one or two substitutes.

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Guthrie County REC applauds members like Gregg Erickson for showing their “commitment to community”:

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MWP banquet highlights awards, successes

By TAMMY PEARSON
Special to the Lake Times

Two Audubon businesses were honored at the Midwest Partnership Economic Development annual dinner meeting Thursday at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center.

Midwest Partnership EDC serves Adair, Audubon, Green and Guthrie counties.

The Guy Powell Award was presented to Ben and Kathy Puck of Puck Custom Enterprises, Inc., a manure application business, for their leadership and passion for economic development.

The business has grown with the development of its dragline application process. It now manufactures 24 unique products, employs 60 people, and exports to a number of countries. The Pucks have been strong supporters of Audubon County economic development efforts, said Brett Irlmeier, outgoing president of MWP.

Ben Puck said support of the community has been important to the company's success.

Entrepreneur of the Year recognition went to Meg and Chad Gleason, owners of Moglea, a design and letterpress studio creating hand-crafted paper goods. The company employs eight full time and eight part time staff members and receives orders from many countries.

Meg Gleason said the company plans to expand to more household items such as blankets and candles. She said they started with making cards and "no idea of what we were doing," but with the support of those around them, she said they continued to grow.

After the awards were presented, highlights of the last year were reviewed, including new businesses Nutriom in Panora, which purchased the former Cargill facility and is expected to employ 12 people once the plant is converted, and Waspy's Truck Stop in Audubon, scheduled to open in the spring.

Expansions of the following businesses were noted: AMVC, Bauer Built Manufacturing, Herbers Seed, Puck Custom Enterprises, Inc., Scranton Manufacturing Co., Inc. and Wausau Supply Company.

Events held included EntreBASH, a resource fair for small business owners, attended by 52 people at Warren Cultural Center in Greenfield; Employer Educator Summit, which brings business and education leaders together to share ideas on retaining graduates in the area, held at Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson with 225 in attendance; and the MWP golf outing fundraiser and networking event held at Lake Panorama National Golf Course with 32 teams participating.

In addition, MWP worked with area businesses on business retention and development and followed up on 22 business leads, said Executive Director Sarah Gomez.

A laborshed study was conducted and found 134,000 people are in the workforce, 49 is the average age of the workforce, \$15 is the average wage, \$55,000 is the average salary and 76 percent of the workforce is educated beyond high school. Healthcare is the area's top industry.

Outgoing President Bret Irlmeier conducted the business meeting and introduced the new president of the board, John Rutledge, of Lake Panorama Association.

Other 2017 Board of Directors members are: Irlmeier, Audubon



ASHLEY SCHABLE | LAKE TIMES

Midwest Partnership President Brett Irlmeier (right) presents Kathy and Ben Puck of Puck Custom Enterprises Inc. in Manning with the Guy Powell Award, for their leadership and passion for economic development during Thursday's annual dinner meeting in Panora.



Chad and Meg Gleason, owners of Moglea, a design and letterpress studio creating hand-crafted paper goods in Audubon, are honored with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award during the Midwest Partnership annual dinner meeting held Thursday in Panora. Presenting the award is MWP President Brett Irlmeier.

State Bank; Cheryl Marks, Rolling Hills Bank & Trust of Stuart; Douglas Burns, Herald Publishing (publishers of the Adair County Free Press, Fontanelle Observer, Guthrie County Vadette and Guthrie Center Times); Everett Grasty, Guthrie County Supervisor; Jason Hocker, AMVC of Audubon; Jerry Sullivan, Farmers State Bank of Yale; Laurie Gilbert, Audubon County Economic Development; Marty Doud, First State Bank of Stuart; Matt Wedemeyer, Adair County supervi-

sor; Mike Underwood, Guthrie County State Bank; Norm Fandel, Midland Power Cooperative in Jefferson; Peggy Toft, Spartan Insurance of Exira; Rick Morain, community leader in Jefferson; Scott Tonderum, Greenfield Mu-

nicipal Utilities; Sid Jones, Home State Bank of Jefferson; Stacie Hull, Greenfield Chamber/Main Street and Economic Development; Todd Nelsen, Audubon

AWARDS, PAGE 8A



Brett Irlmeier, 2016 president of Midwest Partnership EDC, welcomes guests to the annual dinner meeting Thursday at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center in Panora. Midwest Partnership EDC serves Adair, Audubon, Greene and Guthrie counties.



Midwest Partnership Executive Director Sarah Gomez says MWP worked with area businesses on business retention and development and followed up on 22 business leads in 2016.



John Rutledge, Lake Panorama Association general manager, will serve as Midwest Partnership EDC president in 2017.



Outgoing Midwest Partnership President Brett Irlmeier (left) is recognized for his service by new president of the board John Rutledge, Lake Panorama Association general manager, during Thursday's annual dinner meeting held at the Lake Panorama Conference Center in Panora.



Dr. Daryl Olsen, a partner in Audubon-based AMVC, speaks at the Midwest Partnership annual dinner held at Lake Panorama Conference Center in Panora on Thursday. AMVC began as a private veterinarian practice with eight employees and has grown to include a staff of over 550 doing business in 14 states after expanding into swine production.

BUSINESS

AMVC partners strive to run a 'great' business

By TAMMY PEARSON
Special to the Lake Times

Running a "good" business that provides "products, talent and services to the community and industry" is not enough for Dr. Daryl Olsen, a partner in AMVC, based in Audubon. Instead, he strives to run a "great" business.

And what is it that makes a business "great"?

A great business does everything a good business does but it also "gives back to the industry and community it serves," said Olsen, guest speaker at the Midwest Partnership Economic Development's annual dinner meeting Thursday at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center.

AMVC began as a private veterinarian practice with eight employees and has grown to include a staff of over 550 doing business in 14 different states after expanding into swine production. The company offers nutritional services, producing 320,000 tons of feed a year, and management services, among others. It was the management services that allowed the company to "grow exponentially," said Olsen.

The company now offers management services in seven states for independent farmers, farmer cooperatives and groups of investors.

Olsen's business philosophy is "to do the right thing every day. We preach it top to bottom."

"Doing the right thing" means conducting business with integrity, passion, fairness, commitment and professionalism. "These are the core values we focus on," said Olsen.

Olsen spoke about the many ways that AMVC partners and staff give back to the industry and community.

Partnering with Iowa State University, AMVC launched the Swine Medicine Education Center so that students can get a real world experience.

The endeavor shows how private business and educational institutions can work together to save tax dollars, said Olsen. "Joint ventures just make sense. We don't make a lot of money on this, but it's one way we give back," he said.

Giving back to the industry also includes serving in a variety of industry organizations and on advisory boards for

related industries, such as the pharmaceutical industry. Of course, such service also allows one to "make friendships, build relationships and helps the business" said Olsen.

The same holds true for giving back to the community, he said.

"If you don't give back to the community you make a living in, you shouldn't be in business," said Olsen. "That community has given you so much. It gave us the opportunity to raise a family and start a business. As a business, if we don't give back, what does that make us? The community gives more than we can ever give."

AMVC's partners are involved in many aspects of the community "to make Audubon a better place tomorrow than it is today," said Olsen. Partners have served on a variety of boards, such as economic development, and have been involved in community projects such as a recreation center, day care, housing development, community theatre and more.

"We have a lot of col things going on for such a small town," Olsen said of Audubon.

Partners have also established AMVC Cares, a non profit organization set up for charitable purposes and for improving the quality of life in the area. The group's first project was cleaning up a junk yard along a major entry route to the community. The property was purchased, cleaned up and turned into a memorial park for people who have lost a young loved one, said Olsen.

Looking at the challenges faced by Audubon, Olsen cited its small population and tax base, a need for additional housing so that the local workforce can expand, and a need to expand the town's infrastructure so that additional housing can be built.

"As a community, we are in position to grow," said Olsen, adding that local businesses are growing but need housing for employees. To that end, a fund has been established to buy old houses and build new ones. Currently, \$60,000 is donated per year, but Olsen said he would like to see more businesses get involved to increase that amount.

"We can't count on the government for funds. We can't wait for grants. We have to do some of it on our own," he said.



A portion of the drag racing section of Paul Bierly's diorama, which is designed to look just like a real drag race strip, from the crowds to the cars.



A 1941 Willys Coupe in Paul Bierly's model car collection, displayed in his diorama. He detailed and painted the car, transforming it from a glossy purple vehicle into a rusty version.

DIORAMA

FROM PAGE 1A

race at “Raceway Park.” When he was a teenager, Bierly got involved in the drag racing scene. After starting out in a blue 1951 Chevy Coupe, he

eventually purchased an orange 1969 Plymouth Road Runner Hemi, and went on to race for nearly 40 years.

“I had my own car, and I started taking it to the drag races, contrary to what my parents wanted,” Bierly said. “They’d said, ‘Have you been running



A portion of Paul Bierly's diorama that he built in his basement. It took him nearly two years to put together the display, which features many model cars from his collection, as well as town scenery.

in the races?’ And I’d say, ‘No, father,’ with the numbers still painted on the side of my car. It was an exciting time in life.”

Now that he is retired from that aspect of his life, the drag race portion of the diorama (and the orange Plymouth that still sits in Bierly's garage) is a tribute to the memories he made.

“They tell a story, they all tell a story,” Bierly said, gesturing to the rows of cars and tiny figurines in the drag race part of the diorama. “Cars come in, and they’re on trailers, or maybe they drive in. They go back and get ready to race, and this is where the drag strip starts. When I go to a drag race, things are jammed just like this.”

The entire diorama is modeled after the way things looked between 1960 and 1970. Bierly chose that time period because he views it as the “hayday of muscle cars,” a term used for small cars with big engines and horsepower.

For now, the two year building project behind the diorama is complete. There is not enough room to add on to the display,



even with many of Bierly's model cars tucked away in closets, on shelves, and in his garage.

“I’ve had to stop building, I

don’t have any more room!” Bierly said. “I’ve kind of run out of places to put stuff.”

Instead, the car enthusiast

routinely moves pieces of the diorama around, admitting things are never in the same place twice.



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Please visit www.investgcsb.com to view this article in its entirety and contact our office with any questions.






Kristen Crouthamel, AIF®, Financial Advisor

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Q&A: Andrew Labath, executive chef, Lake Panorama National

WHAT’S COOKING IN THE LPN KITCHEN?

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

Andrew Labath took over the Lake Panorama National kitchen last summer. As executive chef, he’s responsible for feeding the hungry at The Links Restaurant and Lounge, plus at a multitude of meetings, banquets and receptions throughout the year. In this month’s Q&A, Labath talks about old favorites, new offerings and overall goals.

Q: Tell us about your first few months at the LPN?

A. It’s been busy! I started at the LPN the beginning of June. My wife Taylor and I got married June 25. And on June 24 of this year, we are expecting a baby boy or girl.

I really enjoy the atmosphere at Lake Panorama National. Everyone works hard, and works together. There is so much room to continue to grow and show people around this area, but also across Iowa and beyond, that this is a really great place to visit....and to eat!

Q: Breakfast is served each Saturday and Sunday at The Links, beginning at 8 a.m., but your Sunday offerings go beyond the regular menu. Tell us what’s available.

A. I started Sunday buffets last fall to give people the chance to try out a variety of foods that are hot and ready as soon as they get settled at a table. The first three Sundays of each month we offer a regular Sunday breakfast buffet. Items vary weekly, and include such

things as scrambled eggs with cheese, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, breakfast potatoes, fresh fruit, Danishes and desserts.

The last Sunday of each month, we add some extra items and do a brunch buffet with expanded hours. We still have all of the regular breakfast items, but we add mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, fried chicken, roast beef, a salad bar, a waffle station with fresh berries and cream, as well as a wider variety of desserts and pastries.

For big holidays like Easter and Mother’s Day, we will be doing a larger buffet with different stations — breakfast, lunch, salads, meat carving, waffles, desserts.

Q: Tell us about the regular menus...what’s new?

A. We recently updated our breakfast and lunch/dinner menus. For breakfast we now offer some new favorites such as biscuits and gravy, chocolate chip pancakes, strawberry and crème cheese stuffed French toast, and chicken and waffles. We’ve also added some great new breakfast sandwiches served on either a biscuit or croissant. The popular Grand Slams – at birdie, eagle or double eagle levels – still are on the menu, as are made-to-order omelettes, which now can be ordered as a burrito.

On the lunch/dinner menu, we kept all the favorites – burgers, pork tenderloins, plus lots of

other sandwich options, a wide variety of flatbread pizzas, wraps, appetizers and salads. We brought back the gyro sandwich and gyro salad, and a Philly cheese steak pizza was added to the menu. Also new to the menu is a locally grown Iowa pork chop with an apple bourbon glaze.

Q: What sorts of specials can patrons expect to find at The Links?

A. For daily lunch specials, I like to switch it up every day. Sometimes I’ll offer a new sandwich or salad that isn’t on the regular menu. Or sometimes it’s a regular menu item offered at a discounted price. I like to make fresh soup. I make it daily or every other day, so there’s always a different soup available.

For the winter months, we’re offering something different every evening to give our guests some greater variety than just what’s on the menu. On Tuesdays, we’re doing some down home cooking, offering things such as fried chicken, meatloaf and chicken fried steak. On Wednesdays, we have a different Mexican-themed special each week, and on Thursdays we offer an Italian-themed special. On Fridays, we have a buffet with that features fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, mac and cheese, vegetables, and rolls. Beginning March 3, we’ll switch to fried fish on the Friday night buffet, and run that until Easter.



Q: The LPN kitchen went through an extensive renovation last spring. Anything new this year?

A. The kitchen is spacious, and offers a lot of prep area that is well organized. For now the equipment is all up to date and in good working order. We did recently add a new large fryer, a new cook-and-hold oven and a new convection oven, and we’re putting all of these to great use.

With the new fryer, we plan to start offering fried chicken “to go.” This would be a large offering of to-go fried chicken, family style. So people can come pick up an 8, 16, or 20-piece bucket of chicken. We also have new to-go pizza boxes that help keep our pizza at top quality when transported.

Q: You’re fast approaching the busy wedding reception and golf tournament banquet season. What’s it like to manage an event that serves from 200 to 450 people?

A. I love cooking for large groups of people. The difficulty lies in making sure to prepare enough food to feed everyone, but not making too much so food is wasted. I am in the process of updating the wedding and large party menu, and putting my own touch to it.

Q: We know you’re not doing this all alone. What

support do you have in the kitchen?

A. Richard Holbrook is a veteran here, and has always been a big player in The Links. He helps anywhere he’s needed, cooking in the kitchen with me, helping out in the bar. T.J. Gliem also plays a big part. He is a very reliable, hard working, fun guy to have in the kitchen. Mitchell Wagler is

always here to help me with breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Aaron Irving and Victor Barroso also have been a big help in caterings and buffets, and are always willing to learn more and help out where needed.

Q: What are some of your goals for the LPN kitchen?

A. My overall goal for the LPN kitchen is to be able to serve people good, consistent food. I also want to give people the option to try something new that they might not try otherwise. I really do want to hear from our customers about what they like, and how we can better serve them. If something is not on the menu, but you want it, if I have the ingredients for it, then I want to make it for you. Just ask!

Current hours at The Links are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Links is closed on Monday.



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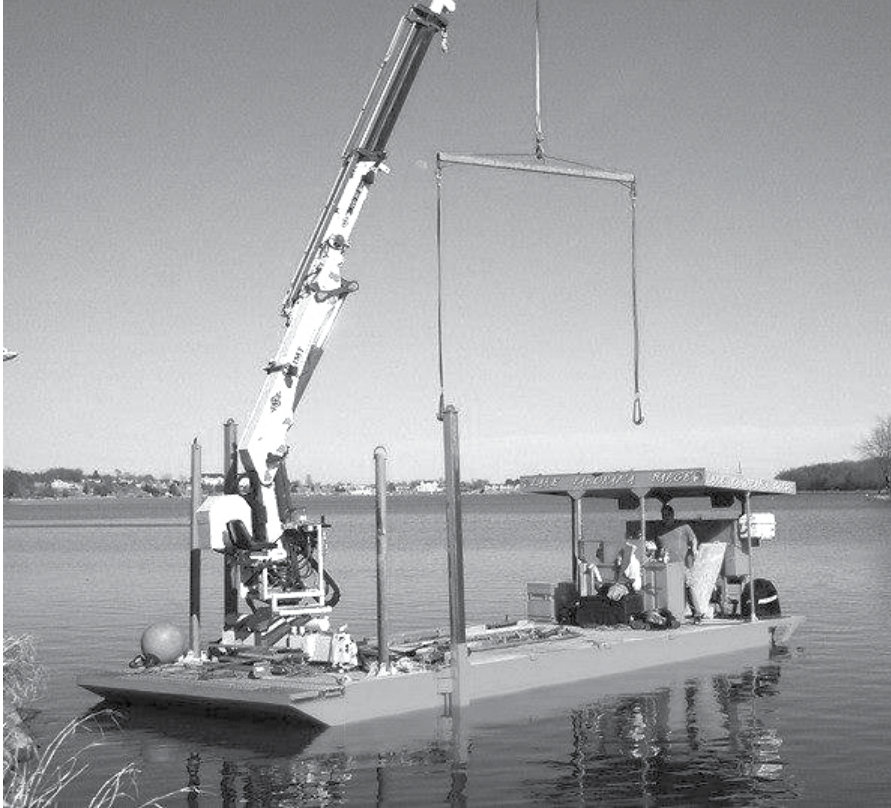
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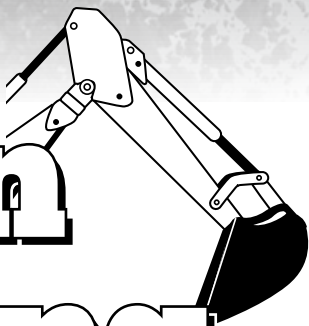
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The beautiful frozen Lake Panorama was host to the Seventh Annual Merryman Broomball Tournament on Saturday, February 4.

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES

BROOMBALL

FROM PAGE 4A

injuries. Kassel said back when he started playing, everyone was “much tougher and more fundamentally sound.”

“These hot-shot Millennial broomballers need to put down the selfie stick, put on their hard hat, and play some tough defense,” he said. This year’s participants and organizers are going the extra mile to make a great tourna-

ment. Competitors traveled in from across the country, including Drew Allison and Heather Newton from Seattle, Washington; Phil Sidles from San Francisco, California; Sean Fitzgerald from Nashville, Tennessee; and Ben Merryman

from Columbus, Ohio. Furthermore, Adel graphic designer Madison Merryman created new T-shirts to honor all six former champions including 2016 winner, the “Heavy Petters.” All agree that the extra efforts are worth the time and

money. “The atmosphere of the broomball tournament is a beautiful combination of the high stakes of the Super Bowl, the revelry of the Fourth of July, and the magic of the first snowfall of winter,” Sidles said. “I refuse to miss it.” Josh Merryman, an agronomist in Adel and tournament commissioner, is certain of another successful tournament. “The arena, ice, and lake are all fantastic,” he said. “Very classy. Our athletes are phenomenal. Attendance shattered the records.”

Visitors are always encouraged to see the wild and exciting spectacle at the Horse-shoe Cove.

AWARDS

FROM PAGE 5A

County Supervisor; Travis Warnke, B&D Manufacturing, Inc. of Scranton; Troy Wessel, Landmands Bank of Audubon; Warren Varley, Varley Law Firm in Stuart.

Outgoing board members recognized were Kyle Orris, Lisa Jaskey, Lyle Hansen, Jr., and Gary Haverman.

The staff members of MWP are Executive Director Sarah Gomez, Economic Development Coordinator Stacie Euken and Administrative and Marketing Coordinator Lynsi Pasutti.

Dr. Daryl Olsen, partner in another Audubon business, AMVC, was the guest speaker.

AMVC began as a private veterinarian practice with eight employees and has grown to include a staff of over 550 doing business in 14 different states.

SWANS

FROM PAGE 3A

struction on the Hughes Cove/Elmquist CREP wetland will begin this year.

Halterman says he expects to see other wildlife find and enjoy the RIZ wetlands, including ducks, geese, egrets, blue herons, frogs, turtles and more.

Once vegetation is well established this summer, an event for LPA members to tour the Helen’s Cove wetland will be held. Plans for the wetland also include recurring educational opportunities for LPA members, school groups, farmers and others involved in the agriculture industry.

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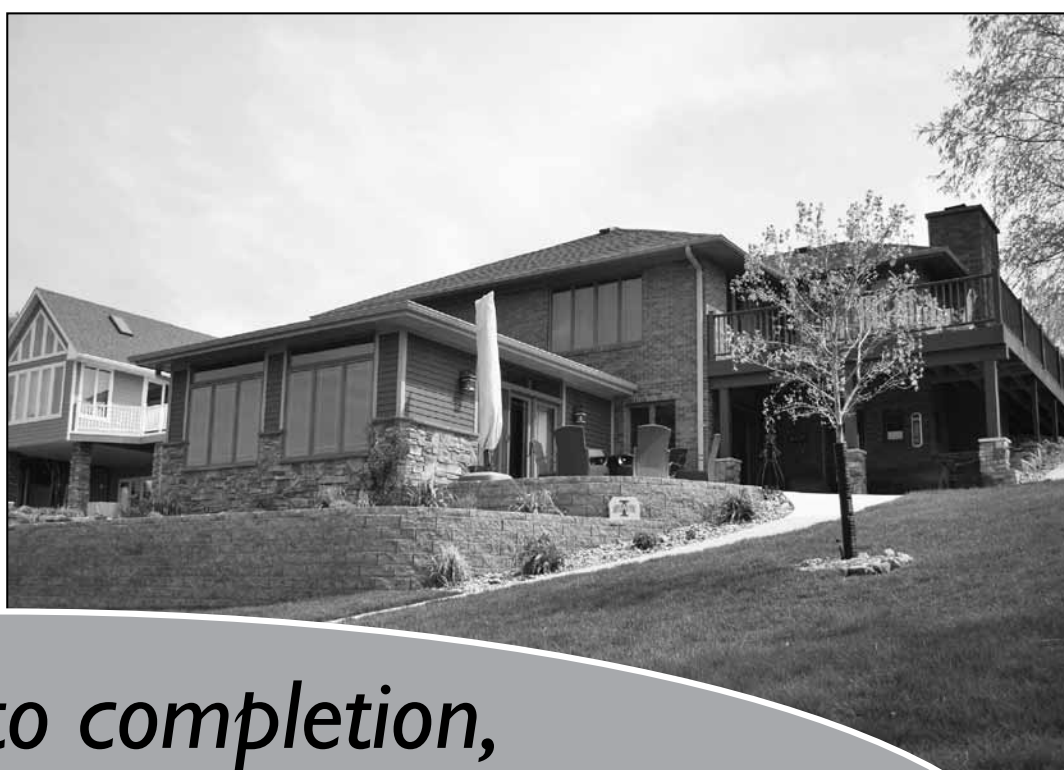
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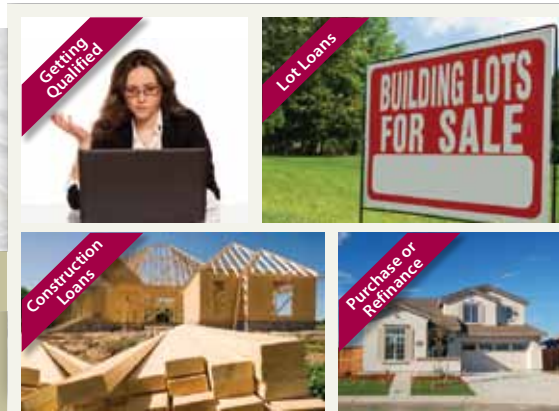
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COMMUNITY

Yale Steak Supper brings community together to support local causes

By CAITLIN WARE
Lake Times staff

The annual Yale Steak Supper welcomed 265 attendees to help raise money for local scholarships, Timber Creek Charities and the Panorama BackPack program last weekend.

Hosted by the Yale Community Club, the dinner, held on Saturday, January 21, allowed participants to enjoy a sit-down meal, before playing games and bidding on items in both a silent and live auction to raise money for all three causes.

The night got started with a meal sponsored by Landus Cooperative and Nutra Blend. Steak, corn, cheesy potatoes, salad, dinner rolls and dessert bars were all on the menu. The money raised from selling tickets for the meal at \$20 a piece added up to a final tally of \$5,300, which will be used to help local students with college expenses. For the past several years, the Yale Community Club has sponsored Panorama High School students with Yale addresses by giving out a \$500 scholarship to every one that successfully completes their first semester of college or trade school. This year, the group expects to hand out scholarships to seven students with the money raised from the steak supper.

After dinner, Cindy McCarty — the founder of Timber Creek Charities and Therapies — took center stage to introduce the second cause being sponsored through the supper. The therapy facility in Guthrie Center works with individuals with disabilities of all types. As time went on, McCarty realized that there were many patients who needed treatment, but could not afford it, or who could not get their insurance to cover it. That was when Timber Creek Charities was born. The non-profit branch of the treatment facility now allows funds to be collected and given to help patients in



CAITLIN WARE | LAKE TIMES

Participants in the “Heads or Tails” game at the 2017 Yale Steak Supper place their hands on their heads and their bottoms in an attempt to win prize money, while fundraising for local causes.

need pay for their treatments. All of the proceeds from the silent and live auctions throughout the evening, hosted by auctioneers Terry and Danny Laughery, were designated to Timber Creek Charities.

“This is an amazing opportunity,” McCarty said during the event. “Thank you to each and every person who came. We are so grateful.” Angie Laabs, a former patient at Timber Creek, and her mother Lana, also spoke during the event to share her experiences with the facility. Laabs was in her early thirties, with a great job in Des Moines and a serious relationship blossoming when her life changed forever. She had been sick with the flu, and was vomiting frequently. But it was not until she was unable to stand that she realized something was very wrong.

A trip to the hospital left her with the diagnosis of an allergic reaction. However, further testing and an MRI later confirmed a much more serious problem. “Sure enough, I had a stroke,” Laabs said.



Angie Laabs (left) and her mother Lana, share their experiences with Timber Creek Charities and Therapies during the Yale Steak Supper on January 21.

All of the vomiting while she was sick had ruptured her carotid artery, leading to the stroke. She was left unable to speak or walk. Two-thirds of the left side of her brain was destroyed, and as a result, she suffered from aphasia, the inability to understand or express speech. Laabs bounced between hospitals and rehabilitation centers before her insurance ran out, leaving her with few options. That was when she heard about Timber Creek, and the financial aid they offer

patients in need. Within two weeks of starting physical therapy and speech therapy, Laabs began to make improvements. At first it was just a word or a step here and there. But she was soon walking and talking again, and now, years later, is able to cook, clean, drive a car, mow the lawn and even work part time at the library in Guthrie Center. “There’s no insurance, no hospital, that will treat you that way,” Laabs said. “Not the way Timber Creek does. From the first time I went there to the last time I went there they were great.”

Laab’s mother Lana added, “Timber Creek’s just a place of miracles. There’s angels that work out there.”

When all was said and done, \$16,530 was raised for Timber Creek Charities through the auctions, several games and other donations.

YALE, PAGE 6B

Use Your Tax Refund Wisely

It’s tax time again – which for many Americans means that a tax refund is on its way. If you’re going to get a refund this year, how can you use the money to your best advantage?

Of course, it’s always tempting to spend the check from Uncle Sam on something fun. But a tax refund could be sizable – the average amount in 2016 was \$2,857, according to the IRS – so putting this money to work could help boost your progress toward your financial goals.

Here are some possibilities for using your refund:

Help fund your IRA. If you were to receive a tax refund of \$2,857, you’d have slightly more than half of the \$5,500 annual IRA contribution limit for 2017, although, if you are 50 or older, you can contribute an extra \$1,000. Consequently, you may find it much easier to fully fund your IRA for the year — and you should do exactly that, because an IRA is a great retirement savings vehicle. If you have a traditional IRA, your contributions may be fully or partially deductible, depending on your income, while your earnings can grow tax deferred. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty.) With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided you don’t start taking withdrawals until you’re 59½ and you’ve had your account at least five years.

Help diversify your portfolio. If a market downturn hits one asset class, and that’s where you keep most of your money, you could take a big hit. Owning an array of investments – such as stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, and so on – can help prepare your portfolio to weather the effects of market volatility. By adding new investments, or

increasing your holdings of existing investments, you may be able to further diversify your portfolio – and you can use your refund for this purpose. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can’t guarantee profits or protect against loss.)

Contribute to a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren whom you’d like to help send to college, consider using your tax refund to help fund a 529 plan. Your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes, and your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided they are used for qualified higher education expenses. (However, withdrawals not used for higher education expenses may be subject to both income tax and a 10% penalty.)

Pay off some debts. You can help improve your financial picture by reducing your debt load – but it may make sense to prioritize these debts. For example, rather than make an extra mortgage payment, you might want to first tackle those debts or loans that carry a high interest rate and that don’t allow you to deduct interest payments. After all, your monthly mortgage payment will remain the same even if you make an extra payment, but if you can get rid of some smaller debts, you will free up some cash that you could use to invest for your future.

Think carefully about how to use your tax refund. It represents an opportunity that you won’t want to waste.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



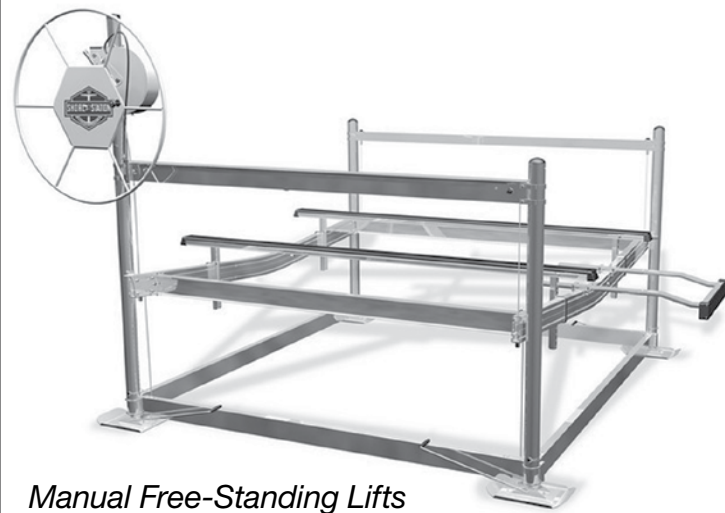
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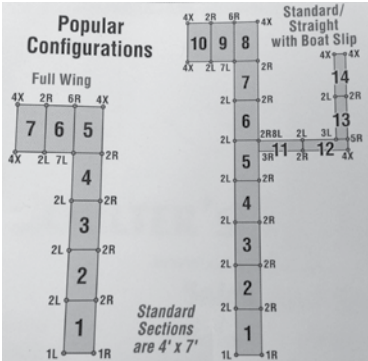


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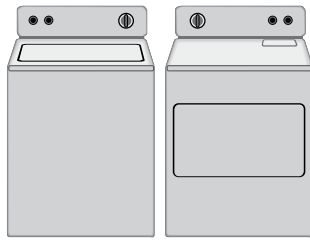
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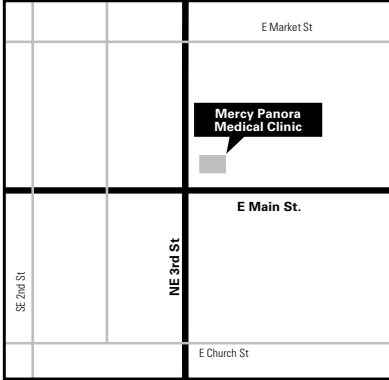
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Written history of LPA planned

The 50th anniversary of the Lake Panorama Association will be August 14, 2018. To celebrate, the LPA plans to sponsor an event in August 2018 in coordination with Panorama Days.

In addition, a formal history of Lake Panorama and the Lake Panorama Association will be written and made available to the LPA membership.

As part of this project, Susan Thompson is reviewing LPA board minutes and other archival materials at the LPA office. She also is looking for information, personal stories, photos and other memorabilia from past and present LPA members to use for this 50th anniversary publication and celebration.

Do you have photos, Lake Panorama promotional materials, newspaper clippings or other items that would help tell the LPA and Lake Panorama story from the early days to the present? Do you have personal stories about the early days of the lake development you'd like to share? Or a suggestion for someone who should be interviewed?

Photos and other printed material would be scanned and returned for possible use in the printed history or a display that would be part of the 2018 celebration. Other items, perhaps signs or other historical memorabilia, would be photographed or may be used as part of a display.

If you have items or stories to share, email Susan Thompson at thomcomm@netins.net. Or call 515-240-6536.

BUSINESS

Abigail Annie's Interiors to close its doors

By CAITLIN WARE
Lake Times staff

After 16 1/2 years as a local source for home decor, gifts and interior design, Abigail Annie's Interiors in Panora is set to close this spring.

Owned by Mardi Russell and Deb Moylan, both residents of Lake Panorama, the tan and red house at 310 E. Main St. has been home to three businesses under one roof since first opening. In addition to the home decor shop run by the two women, the building also hosts Russell's decorating business, Interiors By Mardi, and Moylan's painting business, Painter's Shingle. For nearly two decades the women have combined their forces and passions for making homes beautiful through all three branches of Abigail Annie's Interiors. But with intentions of semi-retiring, they have decided to close the retail space, and set their final day of business for April 1.

"I'm feeling sad, 'cause everybody's been coming in and saying, 'You can't be closing,'" Moylan said, noting that some hopeful customers have wistfully thought the April 1 closing date might be an April Fools' Day joke. "I hope we're missed."

When Abigail Annie's Interiors first opened, it was in a Victorian house across the street from its current location, where the Panora Casey's General Store now sits. The store started out as a combined effort between Moylan, Russell and Sherrie Winn, who brought silk flower arranging and Christmas decorating into the mix, but ultimately



CAITLIN WARE | LAKE TIMES

Abigail Annie's Interiors, located at 310 E. Main St. in Panora. For the past 16 1/2 years, the store has served as a local source for unique home decorations and gifts. It is scheduled to close its doors on April 1.

had to leave the group three years later for personal reasons. Moylan started her work in painting when she was young. Growing up on a farm, "there was always a barn or fence to paint." Through Painter's Shingle, she works with basic interior and exterior painting, "faux painting" — a technique used to make a surface look like marble, stone or other textures — as well as murals and more. Russell, a nurse by profession, started a decorating business in Omaha before teaming up with Moylan, and works in a range of interior decorating areas through Interiors By Mardi, from draperies and blinds, to upholstery and carpet. Between the three aspects of the business, customers have had the opportunity for Russell to help with new window coverings, Moylan to come in and paint, and then finish off their new look with items from Abigail Annie's Interiors.

"With what we do, I paint, and Mardi's the decorator, it was kind of a revolving door," Moylan said of the symbiotic partnership between her and Russell's businesses. "So her job would warrant somebody coming in to paint, or if I came in to paint, someone would say, 'I need new blinds now that it's painted.'"

"One business complemented



Deb Moylan (left) and Mardi Russell have owned and operated Abigail Annie's Interiors for the last 16 1/2 years. As part of their plans to semi-retire, the two are closing the home decor store in Panora, and its last day of business is scheduled for April 1.

the other," Russell added.

When Casey's General Store bought the property in 2010, and Abigail Annie's Interiors needed to relocate, the residential property across the street was perfect. The store's layout has always been modeled after an actual house. Instead of shelves holding their unique jewelry, fashion and household items for customers to peruse, products for sale are set up like a home. The house is sectioned off into themed rooms, complete with a "bedroom" holding bedding, furniture and wall decor, a "bathroom" with a decorative tub and accessories, and a "man cave"

with items for men, among other rooms. Russell and Moylan change the decor of the "house" every season, move the products, and sometimes even repaint the walls.

"It was more important to us to be in a home setting, rather than a rectangle or a box that you'd have to create rooms within," Moylan said.

Abigail Annie's Interiors has been in the same space for the last 6 1/2 years.

The decision to close the retail aspect of the business came about because Russell and Moylan were looking to slow down. They both have grandchildren they would like to spend more time with, as well as plans to travel and do more things they enjoy. However, even after closing down Abigail Annie's Interiors, they will both continue their individual interior design and painting businesses. They will also continue the work they do decorating and planning weddings for 2017.

"I think maybe we'll just have a little more flexibility," Russell said of closing the store. "It's been a good gig. But we wanted to continue our own businesses, but not be tied down, just slow down a bit."

The pair decided to try selling the business in the months before it closes. If possible, they would like to see the store remain open under new ownership. But if they are not able to find a buyer, it will close permanently. While

TALKBACK

Letters to the editor

Race to the Bottom

In case you didn't notice, the Iowa Legislature is in full swing. And swinging they are. Iowa appears to be on a race to the bottom.

We were once a welcoming state that cared about the workers and the teachers that teach our kids. We once cared a lot about things like clean water in our rivers, streams, and lakes and good land conservation practices. The signs on our borders say, "Welcome to Iowa" "A Place to Grow."

It looks like all we are trying to grow is more corn and more pigs. With over 30 million hogs in Iowa, it appears our Governor and the Republican led Iowa Legislature cares more about pigs than they do about the workers, teachers, and students of Iowa.

This Republican led legislature is not listening to the majority in their districts. They have their own agenda fueled apparently by out-of-state interests and money. Some of which are: (1) the de-funding of Planned Parenthood, which was not supported by the majority of the people of Iowa; (2) approving only a 1.1 percent increase in K-12 funding (even the Governor supported more); (3) limiting local control by rolling back the county approved minimum wage increase that some counties already increased at a higher rate; and (4) gutting Chapter 20, collective bargaining for teachers, city, county, state, prison workers, and others (approximately 184,000 public employees).

The proposed legislation, HF291 and SF213 removes 18 items currently included in Chapter 20 such as health insurance, seniority rights, equal pay/work, grievance procedures, etc. to being able to only bargain for wages.

I have never seen a more mean spirited hypocritical bunch than we have this year in the Iowa Legislature.

The majority of our legislators live in rural districts. You would think they would care a little more about attracting and keeping good teachers and keeping our rural schools open.

As I write this letter, they have not yet voted on the collective bargaining bill. I encourage you to call, text, or email your representatives to vote NO, and to stand with workers, support our teachers, and our public employees.

We can once again be first in education, a place where we care about clean water, a place where we care about good jobs, and taking care of employees. Let us race to the top, not to the bottom.

Steve Brannan
Panora

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CLOSING, PAGE 6B

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SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES
In 2015, Mike and Kristen stocked a private pond in Guthrie County with Channel Cat, Large Mouth Bass and Bluegill. Here is Kristen (and her dog Paola) catching the first Large Mouth Bass from the pond a year later.

“Outdoorsy girl” with volunteer spirit appointed to conservation board

By CAITLIN WARE
Lake Times staff

When it comes to volunteerism, Kristen Crouthamel is a jack-of-all-trades. Her day job is working as a financial advisor at Guthrie County State Bank Investment Center. But outside of that, she is the treasurer of Main Street Guthrie Center. She is the secretary for the Guthrie Center Lions group. She is the vice president of the Panora Chamber of Commerce. Not to mention the work she does as a member of Panora’s development group, PRIDE, and the help she contributes at St. Thomas Lutheran church, all on a volunteer basis.

Now, Crouthamel will tackle a new volunteer endeavor, as the newest appointee to the Guthrie County Conservation Board, where she will combine her love for giving back, with her passion for the outdoors.

“I kinda got it from my mom, she was a nurse, and she liked helping people,” Crouthamel said of her desire to serve. “She volunteered for just about everything if they asked her to, it’s in my blood to give back to the community. Being a business person in Guthrie County, or anywhere, so many of the people in this community give to you to help your business thrive. Why shouldn’t you give back to the community that’s given you so much?”

Crouthamel was appointed by the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors to a five-year term on the conservation board beginning January 2017. Before being named to the conservation board, Crouthamel was a member of the Prairie Woodland Conservation Foundation. The 501(c)(3) organization acts as the fundraising arm of the conservation board, and handles a range of things, from raising money for outdoor projects, to giving out scholarships to local students. Crouthamel started out in 2015 by finishing up what was left of another board member’s term, before taking over as the foundation’s chair in January 2016.

It was her experience as a

member of the Prairie Woodland Conservation Foundation that made her a good fit for the open board member position. Plus, Crouthamel has a love for everything outdoors. Growing up in rural Boone County, she spent much of her childhood surrounded by nature. Her family had chickens and goats, and her dad raised bees and rabbits. Her grandparents took her fishing whenever they could, her mom and step dad took her camping and her father often took her boating up and down the Des Moines River. And for many years, she spent her summers at Camp Hantesa in Boone, canoeing, participating in archery and sleeping under the stars, picking up an appreciation for the outdoors along the way.

Crouthamel still loves outdoor recreation, and is learning the ropes of hunting from her partner, Mike Stalknecht, who is also an outdoor and conservation enthusiast.

“I’ve just always been not so much a girly girl, but an outdoorsy girl,” Crouthamel said.

In her new position, Crouthamel—along with the four other members of the conservation board—will handle policy relating to outdoor aspects of Guthrie County, such as parks and all facets of outdoor recreation and conservation. She will work with agenda items, set policies and make decisions, to be passed along to Guthrie County Conservation Director Joe Hanner. After only a few weeks on the board, she is still getting her feet wet, Crouthamel admitted. But she is excited for what the new role holds.

“I’m kind of just soaking it all in and learning what my role will entail, so I can be the best board member I can be,” Crouthamel said of her experience so far. “But I’m excited at the same time. I’m excited to work with all of these guys. We all have a common interest of the outdoors in mind, and doing good for Guthrie County.”

Hanner added, “I’m excited. She’s just a great community leader. I think she’ll be a great fit, and (will) do a super job.”

YOURVIEWS
Letters to the editor



LAKE TIMES FILE PHOTO
Panorama golf coach Hal Rossow (right) talks with Will Babcock, who finished in 11th-place overall at the 2016 Class 2A state golf meet. The Panthers return two of the six players from the 2-time state championship squad in spring 2017.

Letter to the Editor
Congratulations to Pan-
orama high school boys golf
coach Hal Rossow for being
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along with fine arts pro-
grams in speech, theater,
debate and music. Golf was
the sixth most popular boys
sport by participation in
2015-16, with 13,503 schools
and 146,677 boys taking
part.

Hal has been the face of
Panora-Linden and Panora-
ma golf since the program
started, and has fielded
many solid teams, capped
by the last two state team
championships. I’ve had the
pleasure of knowing Hal for
many years and in many
capacities. He was my high
school baseball coach, and
later my officiating partner.
As a sports official, Hal has
been selected to umpire at
the Iowa High School Ath-
letic Association state base-

ball tournament, and has
officiated football playoffs in
the UNI-Dome. Hal’s junior
high football and basketball
teams had many successful
seasons.

P-L and Panorama stu-
dents for years had Hal as
their junior high science
teacher. He has always been
a staunch supporter of Pan-
orama and other local youth
activities.

2016 was a pretty good
year for Hal overall, even
though his Rose Bowl trip
didn’t result in a win for
his Hawkeyes. The sec-
ond consecutive state golf
championship in early sum-
mer helped him get over
that, and then in October
it was all good as his boys
of summer, the Chicago
Cubs, finally got their World
Series win. To be named
National High School Boys
Golf Coach of the Year was
just the icing on the cake,
the culmination of a great
career and a job well done.
But it’s not over by any
means! Do I hear ‘Three-
peat?’

Again, congratulations,
Hal. Our hats are off to you.
I consider myself fortu-
nate to have known you as
a coach, mentor, colleague,
and friend. All the best to
you. You have made us
proud.

Martin Wood,
Panora

EDUCATION

Panorama schools prepare for road embargo

By CAITLIN WARE
Lake Times staff

In preparation for the annual
road embargo at Lake Panora-
ma, Panorama schools, and lo-
cal students and parents have
begun mapping out plans to
accommodate alternate bus
pick up and drop off routes.

Every year, the majority of
the roads surrounding the lake
are closed to vehicles weigh-
ing over five tons, including
school buses. The roads near
the lake used to be gravel, and
were paved over with a thin
layer of sealcoat. In most ar-
eas, this layer is only about
one inch thick, and when the
weather begins to warm every
spring, and temperatures rise,
frost leaves the ground and
moves to the surface, causing
the roads to soften. Heavy ve-
hicles traveling the routes run
the risk of destroying them. So
the embargo is enforced for
several weeks every year to
help prevent potential damage.
“By putting this embargo on,
we’re able to keep good roads
for (everyone) throughout the
year,” said John Rutledge, Lake
Panorama Association (LPA)
General Manager. “If we didn’t,
the roads would take so much
damage, (people) would have
to drive over a much rougher
surface throughout the year.
The cost to repair our roads
is in the \$18,000 to \$20,000
range per mile. LPA bud-
gets over \$250,000 annually
to maintain our roads. If we
didn’t embargo, then we would
have to exponentially increase
that amount. Embargoing the
roads for a few weeks each year
means we can have great roads
for the other 50 weeks.”

Every Thursday leading up
to the spring, LPA manage-
ment meets to determine if it
is time to embargo the roads
the following week, based on
the weather. They stay in con-
tact with Panorama schools
to alert them in advance, al-
lowing students that take
school buses and their par-
ents enough time to schedule
pick ups and drop offs at al-
ternate locations. There are a few
roads around the lake that are

paved with asphalt that does
not break down when the frost
melts, so several bus stops are
set up on those routes during
the embargo, as opposed to
individual stops at every stu-
dents’ home.

“We’ve really developed a
good relationship with the
school,” Rutledge said. “We
let them know Thursday, the
kids can take something home
on Friday, and then by the
following Monday everyone
should have had enough notice
to make arrangements. The
school’s always been a good
partner on this.”

Typically, the embargo lasts
for a few weeks, and can be
implemented more than once
before spring arrives, as mixed
weather can lead to contin-
ual freezing and thawing of
the Lake Panorama roads.
When the embargoes are in
effect, there are signs in place
throughout Lake Panorama
to alert drivers, and accom-
modations are made with UPS
and Fedex drivers to use lighter
vehicles.

Although no embargo is
planned for this week as of
now, Panora’s Director of
Transportation Greg Randel
said students were sent home
with letters on February 1 to
inform parents that an em-
bargo will most likely go into
effect soon, probably between
February and March. The let-
ter also contained informa-
tion on the different stops that
will be available during the
embargo.

“In the situation where we
know it’s going to happen
year to year, basically to save
money on the roads and stuff
out there, it is a pretty decent
deal,” Randel said. “Of course
the parents are used to hav-
ing door-to-door pick up, so
it is a little bit of an inconve-
nience. But really, it goes pretty
smoothly every year. It doesn’t
even seem to slow anything
down out there.”

Rutledge encouraged any-
one with questions about the
embargo to call the Lake Pan-
orama Association office. For
additional information, visit
panoramaschools.org.

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— Gov. Terry Branstad in Guthrie Center

Lake Panorama **TIMES**



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors Meeting
December 20, 2016
Unapproved Minutes

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met December 20, 2016, at 5 p.m. at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members present were Larry Babcock, Bob Batschelet, Gary Evans, Tom Jeschke, Mindy Larsen Poldberg, Charles Schnack, and Jim Spradling.

LPA Staff present: Danna Krambeer, John Rutledge

Visitors present: None

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

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

Agenda Item 2 – Open Forum. No one spoke in open forum.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda. Evans moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Consent agenda to include:

a) LPA General Manager's Report
b) Approval of minutes from 11.22.2016 LPA Board Meeting
c) Acceptance of 11.30.2016 consolidated financial report – LPA & LPN, LLC.
d) Confirm date and time of next LPA Board meeting.

Agenda Item 4a – Offer on lot 1453
Offer has been received for purchase of lot 1453. The land sales committee recommended accepting this offer. Schnack moved to accept the offer of \$22,500. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5a – Inquiry on parcel between lots 120 and 121
Rutledge reviewed information from September 24, 2013 board meeting, at which John Coons offered to purchase the LPA owned parcel between lots 120 and 121. LPA was willing to sell at that time, but an agreement on price could not be reached between LPA and Coons. Coons has expressed interest in revisiting this discussion and will be in contact in March 2017.

Schnack moved to sell the parcel for \$20,000. Motion died for lack of a second.

After further discussion, consensus

was achieved that additional review was appropriate. Jeschke directed the land sales committee to bring a recommendation to the March 2017 meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Other Business (None)

Agenda Item 7 – Closed Session – Board entered closed session at 5:20 p.m. to discuss legal matters.
The Board exited closed session at 6:15 p.m.

Poldberg moved to provide Rutledge direction on legal question regarding interaction between LPA and Friends of Lake Panorama, as confidentially discussed in closed session. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Spradling moved to approve annual contract with John Rutledge, LPA general manager, for 2017 as discussed in closed session. Motion seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 - Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Danna Krambeer,
Recording Secretary

Mindy Larsen Poldberg,
Board Secretary

YALE

FROM PAGE 3B

“The generosity of the Yale community, surrounding area and Timber Creek Charities supporters was very humbling,” McCarty said in a later interview. “We are so grateful for this amazing opportunity to help support the patients who depend on our therapy programs for healing and hope. The Laughery auction team did an outstanding job with the live auction, and we thank them very much for their wonderful help. Many businesses and individuals donated items for the auctions and many also purchased these items in a beautiful display of what small towns and big hearts

can accomplish. We are so grateful and thank everyone for their amazing help and support!”

In addition to the money raised for scholarships and Timber Creek, the supper also raised money for the Panorama Elementary School Backpack Program, sponsored through the Yale United Methodist Church. With envelopes on the dinner tables as another way to donate funds, \$300 was raised to help buy food for the Panorama program, as well as those at Stuart, Adair and Guthrie Center elementary schools.

“Everybody that was in attendance had a great time, so it was a success,” Yale Community Club Chairman Scott Fredrickson said of the event.

CLOSING

FROM PAGE 4B

there has been some interest, so far, no serious buyers have come forward. To help move out merchandise before the closing date, Abigail Annie's Interiors started a 50 percent off sale at the beginning of January, which will continue until Russell and Moylan finish there.

“We want to let our customers know how much (they) have meant to us,” Russell and Moylan said in a letter announcing the store closing. “We have been proud to be a local store, and have appreciated (the) support for the past 16 1/2 years.”

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<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>SOLD 6225 Ridge Road \$136,000</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>5287 Tie Road \$269,000</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>501 S.E. 5th St. \$139,000</p>	 <p>5441 Chimra Road #8 \$299,000</p>
<p>SOLD</p>  <p>4733 Panorama Drive \$449,000</p>	 <p>119 E. Market \$149,900</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>6908 Petersen Hill \$159,900</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>6606 Arnold Lane \$669,000</p>
 <p>5158 Panorama Drive \$299,000</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>5453 Chimra Road \$299,000</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>4697 Panorama Drive \$389,500</p>	 <p>604 West Market Street \$199,900</p>

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