## Friends of Lake Panorama "Fun-Raiser" is May 6

Lake Times staff

The 1st annual Friends of Lake Panorama "Funraiser" will be held Friday, May 6, at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center. Planners have dubbed the event "The Beach Ball" since there will be live music and dancing, and money raised will be used to build a new playground at Sunset Beach.

Friends of Lake Panorama needs to raise about \$20,000 more to reach its \$80,000 goal. If The Beach Ball raises more money than needed for the playground, proceeds will be used for other projects endorsed by the Friends board.

The May 6 event will include dinner, live music, a wine pull, raffle, silent and live auctions, and other "fun-raising" activities. Donated items for the auctions and raffle are being sought. In keeping with The Beach Ball theme, casual attire is encouraged.

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

FRIENDS, PAGE 4A

## Make Reservations for LPN Easter Brunch

Lake Times staff

The Lake Panorama National's annual Easter Brunch will be Sunday, March 27, with reservations available every half hour from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The fourth annual LPN Easter egg hunt also will be held that day at 10 a.m., adjacent to the east side of the conference center. This is open to all children, not just those attending the brunch.

For the brunch, Chef Peter Makens has planned a wide variety of dishes, which will be presented at new serving stations first used at the December holiday brunch. Diners will enjoy fresh cinnamon and caramel rolls, assorted pastries, fresh fruit, assorted salads and an artisan cheese display. Eggs will be featured several ways, and include a made-to-order omelet station, scrambled eggs, egg soufflé and Eggs Benedict.

Meat offerings will include house-cured salmon, thick-sliced applewood bacon, breakfast sausage, chef-carved roast beef and ham, and corned beef hash. Crepes, French toast, au gratin potatoes and baked mostaccioli will round out the buffet offerings. Adults can make a trip to a build-yourown Bloody Mary bar for an extra \$7.

Since the kitchen staff will be busy preparing for the brunch, The Links breakfast menu won't be available that day. The brunch cost is \$19.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children ages 5 to 12, with children 4 and under free. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call the LPN front desk at 641-755-2080 or 800-879-1917 to reserve.

## 2016 BRINGS CHANGES TO LAKE PANORAMA NATIONAL



The Links has been updated with new chairs and bar stools, new paint, and a feature wall of stacked wood behind the bar.

By SUSAN THOMPSON Lake Times staff

Lake Panorama National has seen a lot of changes since the golf course opened for the first time in 1971. With the busy 2016 season getting underway, let's take a look at some of the most recent changes.

But first, a bit of history. Early plans for Lake Panorama included two golf courses. In the late 1960s, Richard Watson designed the 18-hole Lake Panorama National and the 9-hole Panorama West. Mid-Iowa Lakes Corporation, a company that issued stock to raise money for the lake development, built the courses in 1970 and both courses opened in 1971. But soon Mid-Iowa was bankrupt and the courses closed.

In 1975, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) purchased the assets of the bankrupt Mid-Iowa Lakes and the courses were operating again. The Lake Panorama Association bought the lake and golf courses from CIPCO in late 1977. In 1983, Irv Gerlich leased the LPN course and began building condos, the conference center and the motel. The Panorama West course continued to be operated by the LPA.

In 1992, CIPCO took over the LPN lease until 1997. Next came the Guthrie County REC, which



Two familiar faces are in new positions at the LPN. Michael Kleinwolterink (left) now is the Links manager. Taking his place in the LPN pro shop as first assistant pro is Justin Smool (right).

leased the operation until 2004 under a subsidiary company. In 2005, the LPA took the course back, plus purchased the conference center. A legal corporate entity known as "LPN, LLC" was established to manage the wholly owned subsidiary.

Last fall, the LPA Board of Directors created a new LPN Board of Managers and appointed its seven members. Keeping the LPA and LPN, LLC operations separate protects

the LPA's 501(c)4 nonprofit status. John Dinnebier started work at the LPN in 1999 as head golf pro, and was named LPN general manager in 2002. He now carries the title of director of operations, which better describes his role overseeing all aspects of the LPN operation.

Dinnebier says LPN members and public customers will see some new things in 2016. "With a remodeled kitchen, a new Links menu, a full season for our new pool, an early start for the golf season, and some

NATIONAL, PAGE 5A

## Benefit concert for Timber Creek Charities April 30

Lake Times staff

MARCH 2016 | VOLUME 48 | NUMBER 3

A concert to benefit Timber Creek Charities will be held Saturday, April 30, at the Lake Panorama National Conference Center. The concert will feature The Pale Moons, an Americana duo combining the rich vocals of Anna Kopaska with fingerpicking guitar, harmonica and deep vocals from Chad Elliott.

The idea for the benefit concert started last October when Cindy McCarty, a speech therapist and founder of Timber Creek Therapies, heard The Pale Moons perform in Des Moines.

Timber Creek Therapies is an outpatient facility east of Guthrie Center where people of all ages and with all types of disabilities receive therapy services using innovative tools not found in most

CONCERT, PAGE 5A

### Lake Panorama Author Brings History To Life

By SUSAN THOMPSON Lake Times staff

For the past 14 years, Lake Panorama has been the home of an author who finds ways to make

history interesting for readers of all ages. I first wrote about Cheryl Mullenbachin September 2013 when her first book was receiving national attention. Now her fourth book is being released May 1.



Mullenbach

In her first book, titled Double Victory: How African American Women Broke Race and Gender Barriers to Help Win World War II, Mullenbach provided glimpses into the lives of African American

AUTHOR, PAGE 2A



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#### **AUTHOR** FROM PAGE 1A

women in the 1940s. The book made it clear the opportunities black women took advantage of in the 1940s set the stage for the coming civil rights and women's movements.

Her latest book also has women as its focus. Women in Blue: 16 Brave Officers, Forensics Experts, Police Chiefs, and More is in the "Women of Action" series from her publisher, Chicago Review Press. The target audience is teens and young adults.

"I hope to encourage young people to consider a career in law enforcement," Mullenbach says. "There are many different directions to go - forensics, profiling, FBI, white collar crime investigation. The women I profiled work in a variety of environments and sometimes followed unusual pathways to their careers. But I saw a common thread in the women who worked in law enforcement in the past and their contemporaries — they believe they are making a difference in the world."

Mullenbach decided to write Women in Blue after reading old newspaper articles about a woman named Isabella Goodwin who was a police detective in New York City in the late 1800s and early 1900s. She was instrumental in solving an especially baffling case and went on to serve for 30 years. At her retirement she said, "My experiences would fill a book.'

"I was intrigued," Mullenbach says. "That got me wondering about other untold stories of women who had served in law enforcement. And I became curious about how things had changed in police work since

Isabella's day."

Sixteen women are profiled in the book. 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 maledominated arena," Mullenbach

She used archival materials such as newspapers and books to research the women from the past. One was Isabella Goodwin, the New York City police detective who gave Mullenbach the book idea. Another was Mary Sullivan, a police officer in the 1930s who wrote a book about her own experiences.

For contemporary women, Mullenbach relied on books, news articles, magazines, videos, and personal interviews. Gathering details on Moira Smith, the only female officer killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11, was the most memorable for Mullenbach. She interviewed her husband, daughter, best friend and a man who survived because Smith led him from the building as it was collapsing.

"He was probably the last person to see her alive," Mullenbach says. "He rarely gives interviews but he was willing to visit with me because I was focusing on Moira and he was happy I was giving her the credit she deserved. He owed his life to her and he wanted readers to appreciate her sacrifice."

Smith's daughter, Patricia, was

16 Brave Officers, Forensics Experts, Police Chiefs, and More



WOMEN OF ACTION

a two-year-old. "She was able to tell me about her mother because friends and relatives had told her so many stories about Moira," Mullenbach says. "When I interviewed Moira's best friend, Kathleen, I asked her what she would say to Moira if she could spend an hour with her. She said she would take one minute and give the rest to her daughter, Patricia.'

In between her first and fourth

book, Mullenbach wrote two books for her publisher's "For Kids" series, which has a target age of 9 and above. Industrial Revolution for Kids: The People and Technology That Changed the World, published in August 2014, highlights life in the United States from the 1800s to 1910. Next came The Great Depression for Kids: Hardship and Hope in 1930s America.

"There seemed to be a gap in

books on these topics for this age group so I made the proposal to my publisher and they offered me a contract," Mullenbach says. "The series requires me to include 21 activities and about 50 photos in each book. There also are 'sidebars' of boxed text that offer interesting little stories that add to the overall narrative."

For example, one sidebar in The Industrial Revolution for Kids features a rat catcher and another in The Great Depression for Kids centers on a man who designed a grasshopper exterminator machine during the Dust Bowl. "I found a great photo of a rat catcher and his rats from the Library of Congress, and a sketch of the exterminator at the patent office," Mullenbach says. "Those features add to the dry facts that can make history unappealing to young people.'

Mullenbach earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science at the University of Northern Iowa, and a master's degree at Iowa State University. She taught history and government in Iowa for 11 years, followed by 10 years in the Phoenix area.

When she and her husband, Dick Wohlgamuth, returned to Iowa from Arizona, she worked at Iowa Public Television for 12 years as a project manager of educational programs. She spent five years as a social studies consultant for the Iowa Department of Education, before retiring in January 2013. Wohlgamuth also is retired after 40 years in the car business.

After their return from Arizona, the couple lived in Des Moines, but wanted to move to a smaller community. "I used to drive through this area and see Lake Panorama from Highway 4," Mullenbach says. "We're both Iowa natives and spent 10 years living in Arizona. We found we like the Lake Panorama woodlands better than the desert.'

The couple lives at the west end of Jones Cove, with large windows framing views of the water. Mullenbach says they love the wildlife, the beauty and the quiet of Lake Panorama, even in winter. They especially enjoy taking long walks with their dog, Ink, who's named after her writing business, Cheryl Mullenbach Ink.

Mullenbach's first three books have won national and international awards. The Great Depression for Kids was selected for Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2016. for kids and adults."

**Industrial Revolution for Kids** received the same recognition in 2015, plus won the International Literacy Association's Intermediate Nonfiction category

The American Library Association named Double Victory to its "Amelia Bloomer Top Ten List for 2014" and it was one of 10 books featured at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum's 2013 Reading Festival.

Mullenbach's books are available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. School and public librarians and classroom teachers are her biggest markets. She has high hopes for Women in Blue, which is available for preorder at Amazon, in advance of its May 1 release.

"Police officers have been under intense scrutiny lately, and I'm hoping my book will help readers see the kind of pressure they are under," Mullenbach says. "I started writing the book just as we started seeing so many news accounts about police brutality, so some of that was driving my research. Police officers in the past dealt with many of the same issues as today's officers. Of course, today's female officers don't wear high heels and white gloves or carry purses for their lipstick as they did in the early 1970s."

It takes Mullenbach about six months to research and write a book. Over the past year, she also wrote an Iowa history newspaper column she marketed to newspapers around the state. The columns are archived on her website — <u>www.CherylMullen-</u> bachink.com.

She's taking a break from the newspaper column for a few months to promote her books here in Iowa. This month she's giving talks in Council Bluffs and Waverly for Women's History Month. In April, she'll be in Ankeny for an author event, and has a book signing at Barnes & Noble in Des Moines.

What's next? Mullenbach is working on a proposal for her publisher about a World War II naval attack by a German submarine, which she describes as a suspenseful story of disaster and survival at sea.

"For every uninspiring fact in a history book, there's a humorous, delightful, enlightening, sad, bewildering or shameful story connected to it," Mullenbach says. "I like to uncover those stories to enrich history



#### **BUSINESS**

### Gamblers hit Jefferson slots for \$180,180 over weekend

**By DOUGLAS BURNS** Lake Times staff

#### **JEFFERSON**

It was a players weekend at Wild Rose Casino & Resort in Jefferson to say the least.

Not only did the casino pay out its largest jackpot to date -\$37,500. From Friday to Sunday, gamers hit 49 jackpots on slot machines with total winnings of \$182,180.

Aaron Harn, marketing director for Wild Rose Jefferson, said the payouts represented the best run for gamblers since the casino, which now has 515 slot machines, opened last summer.

"It was a very celebratory atmosphere," Harn said.

That extended to staff as well, as they enjoy seeing patrons hit jackpots, he said.

"We always want to celebrate our winners," Harn said. So what's the reason for the big hits? Is it something

or higher admissions? "It's just luck of the draw, that's all it is," Harn said.

in the system or a full moon

That being said, slots gamblers' luck is better statistically in Jefferson than in all but two of the other 19 state-regulated casinos, according to the most recent reports filed with the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

Jefferson's slot machines paid out 91.4 percent of the money funneled into the machines from November through January. Prairie Meadows in Altoona paid out 92.2 percent; and Wild Rose in Emmetsburg paid 91.5 percent.

The worst payout for gamblers during that three-month time frame came at Horseshoe in Council Bluffs with 89.3 percent of the money going back to gamblers.

In the month of January, Wild Rose Jefferson reported gaming revenues of \$2.177 million with admissions of

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#### NATIONAL FROM PAGE 1A

people working in new roles, I'm looking forward to another year of strong business at the LPN," he says.

**SPAWNS OTHER UPDATES** 

#### KITCHEN REMODEL

The Links kitchen reopened March 8, after being closed two weeks for remodeling. The LPN Board of Managers got the ball rolling last October by looking at health and safety issues related to the kitchen. After meeting twice with Dinnebier and Chef Peter Makens, the facili-

ties committee presented a re-

port recommending a kitchen

remodel

The committee's report, endorsed by the LPN board, was presented to the LPA board at its November meeting. After discussion, the LPA board agreed to include the kitchen remodel in its 2016 capital budget.

Brice Oakley, president of the LPN board, says he appreciated the LPA board making the decision to fund the \$100,000 remodel. "The conference center is an old building, and the kitchen was in serious need of updates. This remodel was truly an investment in the health and safety of our members and guests, as well as the financial viability of the LPN operation," he said.

The remodel included replacing the ceiling and overhead light fixtures damaged by a roof leak that has been fixed. An aging walk-in cooler in the kitchen was replaced by a new refrigerator twice the size. This new cooler is adjacent to the kitchen, which opened up additional space within the kitchen.

Many improvements to the food prep line were made, with the addition of new sinks, tables, coolers, counters and server stations. Makens says the new surfaces are easier to keep sanitized, and food prep is more efficient. "The larger cooler makes it possible for us to have more fresh, specialty food products on hand, so we can offer customers a wider variety of dishes," he says.

While the kitchen remodel



New menus sporting this new logo now are in use in the Links restaurant at Lake Panorama National.

was underway, LPN staff members painted the walls in the Links lounge, plus the reception area and hallway. The Links has been completely remodeled with many upgrades such as new black chairs and bar stools, a feature wall of stacked wood in a variety of colors behind the bar, and a new foot rail and purse hooks under the bar.

The fresh paint, new chairs and upgrades behind the bar make the room look and feel bigger. To keep this minimalist look, sports memorabilia and neon signs previously on the walls won't be rehung. Anyone who loaned sports-related items for display in the lounge are asked to pick those up by early April.

#### NEW LINKS

MENU AND LOGO

A new menu was introduced in the Links once the kitchen reopened. It sports a new logo featuring silverware nestled in a golf bag, and includes old favorites, plus lots of new offerings.

Makens, who joined the LPN as executive chef last summer, spent his first few months trying new menu items and getting feedback from customers. "That was the best way for me to get everyone's input on items to include in the new menu, and to track what didn't sell well so it could be dropped,"

Makens says many of the

items on the new menu are priced lower than the old menu, while offering more options for how they are served. "All the sandwiches, wraps and burgers are served a la carte. On the old menu, these came with a side, and were priced higher. Now diners can choose from a longer list of sides in a wider price range," he says.

Appetizer offerings have expanded, with several items Makens tested as weekly features making the regular menu, such as fried Brussels sprouts, coconut shrimp and baconwrapped shrimp. Cheese curds, chips and guacamole, loaded tater tots and jumbo buffalo wings also can be found on the 15-item appetizer menu.

There are 15 different burger options, all available in two sizes. There also is a list of extras that can be added for a small fee, such as haystack onions, avocado, sautéed mushrooms or a fried egg.

The popular Links pork tenderloin still is available grilled or breaded. But there also are new options, including the sweet pepper loin, the big pig loin, the pig pile loin, and the pigs and apples loin.

The menu includes 13 other sandwiches, four wraps, six pasta dishes, nine all-new flatbread pizzas, and several salads offered in two sizes. French onion soup always is available, plus a soup of the day. Steak, seafood, chicken and pork en-

trees round out the menu.

Makens says almost all items on the menu are made from scratch, "which means we can offer better quality food at reasonable prices."

The new menus are printed onsite, which increases flexibility. "I'll soon start offering weekly feature items that aren't on the regular menu," Makens says. "So as I find things people like, and as seasonal items become available, it will be easier to make menu changes."

For now there is just one main menu, but Makens hopes to develop separate menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The current menu doesn't include any desserts, but he anticipates offering some as part of his weekly features.

A five-course, five-wine Valentine's dinner in February received rave reviews, and Makens plans to schedule a similar dinner in late April. These dinners are limited to 60 diners, with Makens personally presenting each course and the wine pairing.

Current Links hours 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 4 p.m. Breakfast is served on weekends until 11 a.m.

#### PERSONNEL CHANGES

Some familiar faces are in new positions this spring. Mike Kleinwolterink now is the Links manager. "He's been my right hand guy for the past few years, and has worked in every department, so he's ready for this new position," Dinnebier says.

Kleinwolterink started working at the LPN as a teenager in the cart barn, moved to the pro shop, and has been the first assistant pro there for many years. He is a graduate of Panorama Community Schools and the University of Northern Iowa.

"My interest in playing golf competitively has been declining, and this move upstairs is a nice change," he says. "I just want to be in a position to help the organization, and I'm enjoying this new challenge."

Kleinwolterink's new duties include staff scheduling, beverage ordering, and helping with special events. At least for the next few months, he'll also continue to help with golf

packages and tournaments.
Replacing Kleinwolterink in the pro shop is Justin Smool, another Panorama graduate who got started at the LPN by working in the cart barn. Smool played golf for Central College in Pella, before turning pro and playing mini-tours and state open tournaments for three years. He has worked in the LPN pro shop off and on, and last fall decided to enter the Iowa PGA Apprentice program.

Smool has already passed the first step in the program, which involved playing 36 holes in two days. He played his two rounds at the Ames Country Club last fall, and scored 72 both days. "It's great to be back at Lake Panorama, and have this opportunity," he says. As first assistant pro, Smool will work with head pro Gary Babcock, helping with leagues, golf packages, tournaments and the LPN junior golf school.

Sarah Burkhardt, who was both an intern and then a part-time employee, is the LPN's new event planner and a full-time employee. She will continue to work at the reception desk three days a week, while helping with events, marketing and communications.

GOLF COURSE MEMBER-SHIPS

Annual golf memberships are important to the success of both the LPN and Panorama West. While daily green fees and special events help pay the bills, it's a strong membership base that keeps both golf courses operating.

On the recommendation of the Board of Managers, there was no dues increase at the LPN for 2016. "We have seen a slight decrease in LPN memberships sold during the past couple years," Dinnebier says. "By freezing dues this year, we hope to stop that decline and gain some new members. Our goal is to reach 250 memberships for 2016."

Special rates are available to those who were not LPN members in 2015, and for those who live more than 18 miles from the LPN

The Panorama West golf course was first opened to the public in 2008, and has been under LPN management the last several years. There was a slight increase in membership rates at Panorama West this year. People who were not Panorama West members in 2015 can join at a reduced rate for 2016. This promotional rate is offered to encourage the purchase of an annual membership in future years.

Four new pieces of maintenance equipment have been purchased for use at Panorama West. The course now is open for play by members, or green fees can be paid at the outdoor kiosk. The pro shop will open April 1, and four rental carts will be available beginning that day.

#### **POOL MEMBERSHIPS**

This will be the first full year for the new pool and spa. The pool is scheduled to open May 15, and be open until the end of September. In 2015, 45 annual memberships were sold, and more than 1,000 daily fees were paid. Dinnebier thinks those numbers will increase for 2016.

A new awning will be placed soon over the check-in window in the southeast corner of the pro shop. Anyone using the pool must check-in at the pro shop window before entering the pool. Those purchasing an annual membership will receive permanent wristbands. Those paying the daily fee will receive a paper wristband for that day. Concessions also are sold from this window.

Guests of Clover Ridge and Lake Panorama Inn and Suites have access to the pool at no charge. All others must either have an annual membership or pay the daily fee. Annual memberships for LPA members are \$75 for a single and \$130 for a family. Non-LPA members can get an annual membership for \$85 for a single and \$145 for a family. The daily fee is \$3. The pool can be rented for special events.

More details on golf and pool memberships are available at lakepanoramanational.com.



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Presentation





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RSVP by Monday, April 11th to the Angie Holloway, Community Relations Coordinator at 641-757-3443 or welcome@thelakesidevillage.com

#### **FRIENDS**

FROM PAGE 1A

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 and time to view the decorated tables. Guests will be asked to vote on a "People's Choice" award for the best-decorated table.

A buffet dinner at 6 p.m. will feature strawberry spinach salad, fresh fruit, marinated vegetables, Chicken Francese — a lightly breaded chicken breast served with herbed lemon butter sauce— and Parmesan garlic potatoes

Wine lovers will be interested in the wine pull. Donated bottles of wine are being solicited for this event, and will be wrapped so labels aren't visible. Patrons will buy a numbered cork for \$20, giving them the chance to pull a mystery wine bottle to take home. Anyone donating bottles of wine for this game can contact Julie Wykoff at jaallen @aol. com or 515-778-0053.

The evening will end with live music presented by the RBJ Trio, which specializes in music from the 1950s to the '70s. With Rick McReynolds on vocals and guitar, Beth McReynolds on vocals, and Jack O'Leary on vocals and keyboard, the group plays along

FRIENDS OF LAKE PANORAMA SUNSET BEACH PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$50,000



Friends of Lake Panorama is closing in on its goal of raising an additional \$50,000 for a new playground at Sunset Beach. Donors are asked to help "Climb the Slide" so the playground can be built this summer.

with digitally recorded drums and bass to present a full band

Those interested in sponsoring a table, purchasing tickets or donating an item for The Beach Ball can email <a href="mailto:staff@friendso-flakepanorama.org">staff@friendso-flakepanorama.org</a>. Or call Susan Thompson at 641-755-4382 or 515-240-6536.

A \$30,000 down payment on the playground equipment was made in January by Friends of Lake Panorama. The main playground structure includes multiple slides, bridges and climbing opportunities. Several smaller structures surround the main area, including hop rocks, bongo stumps, a merry-go-round and teeter-totter.

While donations of all sizes are welcome, only donors of

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108 N. 3rd St., Guthrie Center Insurance accepted induding Medicare and Medicaid \$500 or more are recognized on the Friends website. A sign listing these larger donors will be erected near the playground.

Donations can be made in someone's memory or in honor of someone. Donations by check can be mailed to Friends of Lake Panorama, PO Box 488, Panora, IA 50216. Donations also can be accepted electronically on the Friends 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 information is available on the Friends website at www.friendsoflakepanorama.org.

#### RIIGINESS

## Panora Telco attends Iowa's largest communications expo

Local company joins 1,000 broadband industry advocates in Des Moines

Panora Telco participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Expo of the Iowa Communications Alliance Tuesday, March 8 through Thursday, March 10, at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in downtown Des Moines. The theme of this year's event was "Building the Future Together". With access to broadband and robust internet speeds becoming critical to commerce and economic growth as well as meeting the everyday demands of consumer convenience, this timely event brought together communications service providers from all across the state.

The Annual Meeting and Expo featured more than 110 strategic partners who provide products, services and expertise to Iowa's 125-plus rural communications companies. Nearly 1,000 communications industry professionals from across the Midwest region attended the event. Staff and Board members from Panora Telco learned about current trends in the communications industry ranging from regulatory and legislative issues to emerging technologies, consumer preferences and effective marketing and

training techniques.

In addition to a number of expert speakers on a variety of industry-related topics, attendees from Panora Telco heard from business executive and motivational speaker Kevin Brown about "The Hero Effect" through his fresh and entertaining style of delivery.

"An event like this one gives us the opportunity to stay on top of technical, regulatory and consumer trends and at the same time stay close to home – which allows us to send some staff and board members. It is another reason we are pleased to be a member of the Iowa Communications Alliance," said Andrew Randol, General Manager of Panora Telco. "This event gives our staff and board

time to talk with national and local experts, who understand the challenges we face as a rural communications provider.

"We were proud to have Panora Telco join us at our third annual gathering of so many communications industry leaders from around our state and across the country. This event allowed attendees from Panora Telco to share best practices, learn about new technologies, and focus on the ever-changing consumer demands for communications services," said Dave Duncan, CEO of the Alliance. "Panora Telco exemplifies how Iowa-based providers offer the most reliable, robust and affordable broadband service that is becoming an even more critical part of our daily lives.'

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Candidates for the RICP designation must complete a minimum of three collegelevel courses and are required to pass a series of two-hour proctored exams. They must also have three years of experience, meet stringent ethics requirements, and participate in The College's continuing education program.

The RICP educational curricula is the most complete and comprehensive program available to professional financial advisors looking to help their clients create sustainable retirement income. The rigorous three-course credential helps advisors master retirement income planning, a key focus area not fully covered in other professional designation programs. From retirement portfolio management techniques and mitigation of plan risks to the proper use of annuities, employersponsored benefits and determining the best Social Security claiming age, the RICP provides a wealth of practical information for advisors.

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Johnk and Dvorak have over 30 and 20 years of experience in the financial services industry respectively. As owners of Total Financial Solutions in Panora, they are members of local groups such as Chamber, Pride, and Panorama Booster Club to name just a few. Total Financial Solutions looks forward to supporting their local community for many vears to come.

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## **CONCERT**

FROM PAGE 1A

therapy centers. Hippotherapy, which is equine-assisted physical, occupational, behavioral/ emotional, and speech/language therapies, and hydrotherapy – warm, moving-water physical therapy—are offered, in addition to traditional physical, speech and occupational therapy, and therapeutic riding.

Timber Creek Charities is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity that helps patients receive therapy services when they don't have insurance or adequate personal

Elliott graduated from Guthrie Center Schools, and now lives in Coon Rapids with his wife Alyssa and their children. Kopaska graduated from Coon Rapids-Bayard, and lives in rural Bayard with her husband Jared. Kopaska's mother, Barb Halverson, has been a volunteer at Timber Creek, and Kopaska completed a speech therapy internship last spring with McCarty.

So when McCarty approached the pair about the possibility of a benefit concert, they were excited about the opportunity, and quickly agreed to donate their time and talent to the Timber Creek Charities cause.

"Chad and Anna are very gifted and talented musicians," says Mc-Carty. "I am very grateful to them for their generosity and willingness to help us raise funds for Timber Creek Charities. I also am grateful to John Dinnebier and LPN for allowing us to have this event at their wonderful facility. Additional funds are crucial for us to stay open and help our patients who need financial support continue to receive their needed and beneficial therapies."



The duo of Chad Elliott and Anna Kospaska, known as The Pale Moons, will perform a benefit concert for Timber Creek Charities April 30 at Lake Panorama National.

ing business hours, or at Timber

Creek Therapies Monday through

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Timber Creek Charities board

members and volunteers also

Elliott has a long career songwriting and performing live. He travels extensively, but is well known in west central Iowa as a hometown boy with a multitude of talents. He's been hailed as the Woody Guthrie Song Contest winner and an International Song Contest third place winner on a long list of songwriting awards.

Kopaska is a new voice in the music community. Her unblemished vocals are the answer to the soul-striking melodies written for The Pale Moons.

The concert, held in the LPN banquet room, will begin at 7 p.m., and include two 45-minute sets with an intermission. Food and beverage service will be available from the LPN in advance of the concert, and during intermission. A variety of desserts, prepared by Timber Creek volunteers, will be offered for a freewill donation.

Tickets are \$25 each, and can are selling advance tickets. Call be purchased in advance or at Timber Creek at 641-747-3225 the door. Advance tickets are to make ticket arrangements, or encouraged to help organizers to reserve tickets to pick up the and the LPN staff plan for the night of the concert. event. Advance tickets can be To learn more about The Pale purchased at the Lake Panorama Moons and hear them perform National front desk daily durtwo of their songs, visit their web-

> site at thepalemoons.com. More information about Tim-

ber Creek is available online at timbercreektherapies.com and timbercreekcharities.com.

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## Lake Panorama TIMES







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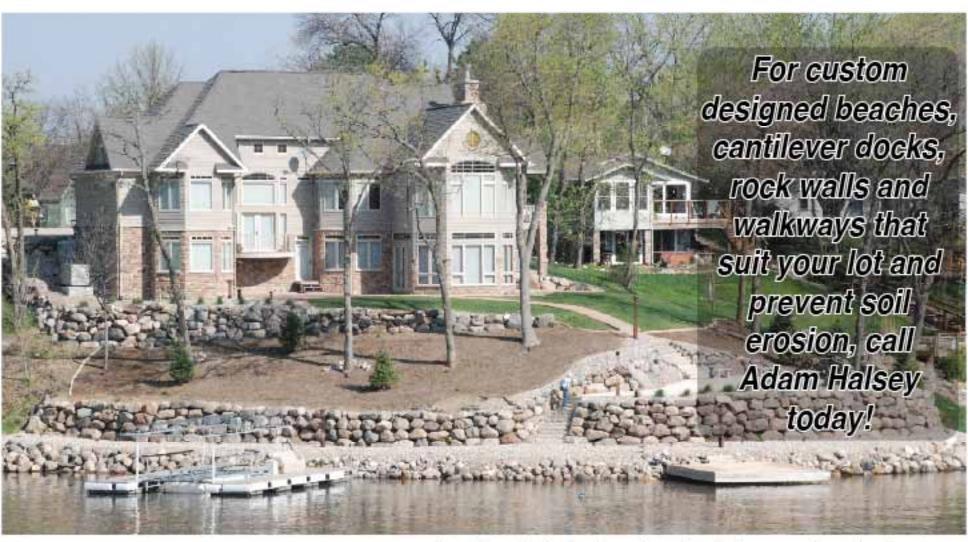




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dipping into retirement funds to pay for college. Now's the time to look into long term care insurance - it's wise to buy it before age 50 and while in good health.

In your 30s: Think about creating In your 50s: Accelerate your retirement savings through greater contribution levels or the catch-up contributions. Analyze the level of risk in your portfolio. Estimate an approximate retirement date. Aim to reduce your debt as much as possible.

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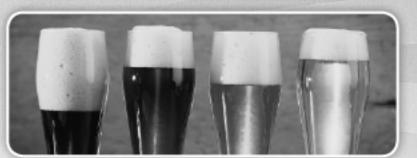












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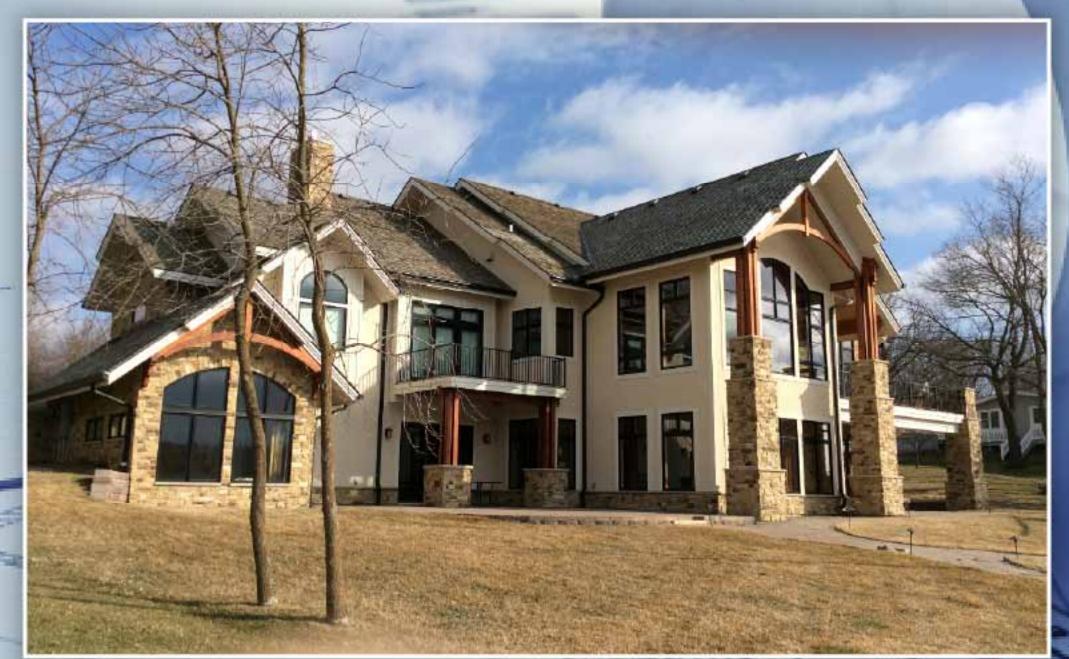
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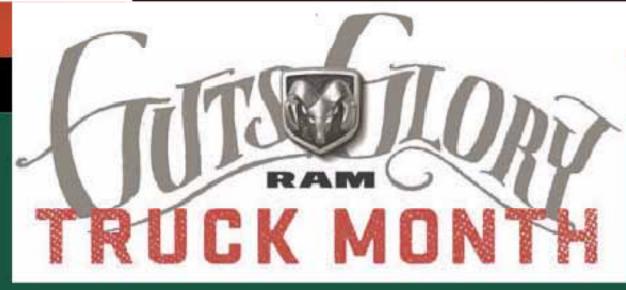
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SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES

Farmers State Bank in Yale is celebrating its 95th year with an open house February 27.

## Farmers State Bank celebrates 95 years

By REBECCA MCKINSEY Lake Times staff

In 1931, a decade after Farmers State Bank in Yale first opened its doors, bank employee Jay W. Hemphill arrived at the bank and was confronted by two robbers who had hidden there during the night.

They demanded that Hemphill, and later employee W.R. Hitchens when he arrived, give them money from the vault. But their getaway car—as they carried off more than \$4,000—was gone; then-Mayor Fred Brechbiel had towed the unfamiliar vehicle to his garage.

The pair stole a car from bank cashier Guy Heater's driveway, only to later be caught and put on trial.

This story is just one of many in the history books of Farmers State Bank, which celebrates 95 years of business this month.

Farmers State Bank first opened in March of 1921. The building burned down in 1928, with a new one then built in the same location. The building's interior was remodeled in 1967 and again in 2009.

Outside, though, the building has remained much the same, with the exception of a new roof and windows as needed, Bank President Douglas Hemphill said.

Farmers State Bank was the only one to re-open after the 1933 "banking holiday" during the Great Depression, and as such is now the oldest bank in Guthrie County, according to the bank's website.

"The Farmers State Bank of Yale, which has been operating under Senate File 111 since the bank holiday, opened for business, making fifty percent of all deposits available at once, the remaining fifty percent to be held in trust for not to exceed three years," states a June 1933 issue of the Guthrie County Vedette. "At the end of the first day's business, deposits exceeded withdrawals by more than \$500, evidence the public has not lost confidence in the stability of the bank."

Hemphill's family has been involved with the bank from the start. His great-grandfather, C.R. Hemphill, was one of the bank's original directors, and his grandfather, Jay W. Hemphill, faced the robbers in 1931. Hemphill's father, Jay C. Hemphill, worked at the bank as well, and Douglas' son, Derek Hemphill, is now on the bank's Board of Directors.

The bank's longevity is significant, Douglas Hemphill said.

"We're deeply rooted in this area and are trying to provide the best services to the local area," he said.

The bank offers up-to-date electronic services, he added, including online and mobile banking and mobile deposits.

"We have the same types of electronic offerings as the largest banks in the country," Hemphill said.

Eight people work at the bank, which serves people both in Yale and throughout Guthrie County, but also from much further away—with customers on both coasts and in several other countries, he said.

The bank's annual open house—typically held on the first Saturday of every March—was planned this year for March 5, with food from Dad's Belgian Waffles being served from 9 a.m. until noon. The bank is located at 201 Main St. in Yale.

"The community open house is for everybody, not just for the people of Yale or for our customers," Hemphill said. "It's an open house to celebrate with the community and say thank you to the area."

More information about the bank is available at yalebankiowa.com.

"We're very proud to have been able to survive the Great Depression — we were the only bank in the county that re-opened after the big bank holiday," Hemphill said. "We're proud to have been able to do that, and to carry on for that many years and continue to provide banking services for Yale and the area."

## Panora Chamber's Annual Egg Hunt March 26

The Panora Chamber will host it's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Guthrie County Historical Village on Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. All kids fifth-grade and younger are welcome to the hunt. The event is sponsored by Lakeside Village.



Lexi Galvan gets help from her mom Becky during last year's Easter Egg Hunt in Panora at the Guthrie County Historical Village.



Dozens of kids stopped for a seat and got their picture taken with the Easter Bunny last year.



Brynlee Bennett, daughter of Bailey and Brody Bennett, poses for a picture with the Easter Bunny during the 2015 Easter Egg Hunt in Panora. She was visiting with her grandparents Bill and Denise Dorsett of Panora.



More than 100 kids participated in the 2015 Panora Chamber's Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Lakeshore Family Dental, Saturday at the Guthrie County Historical Village.

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#### **BUSINESS**

## **Art on State excited** about move

By REBECCA MCKINSEY Lake Times staff

After a successful year in its location at 300 State St., Art on State is moving a few doors down to share space with Seven J's Custom Creations and Quilting.

Those involved with Art on State and the Guthrie County Arts Council hope the move will be complete in about a month, depending on volunteers' schedules.

Seven J's isn't closing, Guthrie County Arts Council Co-President Lynsi Pasutti emphasized - it'll remain at 320 State St. and will share some of the open space in its building, owned by the Guthrie Center Development Group, with Art on State.

Art on State is run by the **Guthrie County Arts Council** and serves as a gallery to display and sell the work of more than 20 area artists. Seven J's Custom Creations and Quilting, run by Jim and Joanie Grace, opened in May and offers quilting service, custom-made furniture, signs and more.

"(Art on State's) current location was temporary; we always knew it would be temporary,' Pasutti said.

It wasn't a large space, she noted, and it didn't include significant display space or room for classes, although the spot and the month-to-month lease were a valuable starting point.

Seven J's will continue to use the back half of its building for its longarm quilting machine work, furniture restoration and retail. Art on State will use the front half of the store. There will also be a dedicated space for classes — a big plus for Art on State.

The Guthrie County Arts Council has offered classes in the past, including canvas painting and card making, using the Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library or other local spaces, but the classroom space at the new location will allow for more classes.

"We're excited about this new space," Pasutti said.

Art on State is one of the recipients of a Main Street Guthrie Center grant awarded to local businesses for business improvements. The grant will allow Art on State to set up a display wall, do some painting and place lettering on the front windows at the new location.

Another grant will allow the Guthrie Center Development Grant to update the bathroom

at the 320 State St. building and make it handicap accessible, Pasutti said.

Temporary space dividers will separate the two businesses as needed, but no new walls will be built, she said. The two businesses will share the window display — a larger area that will provide more of a view of the store inside.

The new space will allow a display wall with themes varying each month — a particular artist, theme or color could be highlighted, Pasutti said.

"We hope that will bring people in more often," she said. There are lots of opportunities — it's still new, and we're figuring it out."

The current Art on State store is still open and will be throughout most of the move, Pasutti said. Its hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Art on State opened in December of 2014 and has grown since then, both with its customer base and the artists it displays, all of whom are required to be Arts Council members. A membership costs \$25 each year.

Holidays are always a busy shopping period at the store, but personal art shopping remains consistent throughout the year as well, Pasutti said. Right now, more than 20 artists have their work displayed at the store - pottery, jewelry, paintings, drawings, photos and more.

The move has been in the works for several months, and Main Street's involvement was vital, between the business improvement grant and its help in lining up consultants to offer design and business advice, Pasutti said.

"I don't know if we would have jumped on board as quickly or fully without that help from those consultants," she said.

The shared space could allow the businesses to help promote each other, and the designated classroom space could mean more quilting and sewing classes down the road as well, Pasutti said.

The new space will allow the Guthrie County Arts Council to continue its main goal of promoting the arts throughout the county, Pasutti said. Right now, there are more than 70 Guthrie County Arts Council members.

"We're really excited to partner with Seven J's," she said. "Everyone's very excited; it's very beneficial to everyone."



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE TIMES

Panorama golfer Will Babcock was honored as the 2015 Class 2A Player of the Year and head coach Hal Rossow as the 2015 Class 2A Coach of the Year during the Iowa High School Golf Coaches Clinic at Iowa State University in Ames on Friday. In 2015, with Babcock leading the way, the No. 1 ranked Panthers held off challenges from four-time state champion Kuemper Catholic to win the first state title for the Panorama golf program. Babcock shot a weekend 142, the best score in Ames by eight strokes, and also became the first-ever Panorama golfer to win an individual state championship. The Panorama golf team finished the season with a school record 80-1 mark - their only loss to Webster City, who won the Class 3A title. Five of the six state tournament members return this spring for Panorama, including Babcock, George Appleseth, Reid Cobb, Adam Hackfort and Max Monthei.

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#### **BUSINESS**

## Greene County facing child care 'crisis'

**By DOUGLAS BURNS** Lake Times staff

#### **JEFFERSON**

Greene County's top economicdevelopment official calls the lack of child care in his region a "crisis."

'We have a serious problem," said Ken Paxton, executive director of the Greene County Development Corporation.

With the opening of a new casino last summer, perhaps the most high profile in a string of business and job expansions, Greene County posted an unemployment rate of 3 percent in December.

Bottom line: the county is fighting to expand its labor pool to feed growth, Paxton said.

Iowa's unemployment rate for December was 3.4 percent, and the national rate 5 percent.

Locally, the unemployment rate is viewed as a mixed bag by businesspeople. It reflects a strong economy, but also makes attracting new businesses and recruiting employees challenging.

A key factor in that drive to lure labor is child care. The non-profit Greene County Early Learning Center serves 103 kids, but it has a waiting list of 37, said Cherie Cerveny, executive director.

Operating out of a former school building (204 S. Madison St.) south the middle school in Jefferson, the center's board is working with a consultant, First Children's Finance of Minneapolis, on possible expansion or relocation into a larger facility that can accommodate more children — and speed the flow of employees to jobs in Jefferson. A feasibility study is expected within months. Paxton and Cerveny say a capacity of 200 children is a reasonable target.

Paxton said child-care availability is essential to existing and prospective business.

"A 37-person waiting list is an automatic 'no,'" Paxton said, reflecting on reaction of new business prospects to reports of those numbers.

Cerveny says 75 to 80 percent of the center's annual operating budget of about \$325,000 comes through tuition for children, who range in age from two weeks to 12 years. The rest of the money comes through fund-raising or grants.

The center's 24 employees start at \$8 an hour and most make less than \$9 an hour. Cerveny, executive director since 2008, makes \$33,000 a year.

"They have a hard time attracting people," Paxton said.

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## John Rutledge, general manager of Lake Panorama Association

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By SUSAN THOMPSON Lake Times staff

The Lake Panorama Association (LPA) is gearing up for its busiest season. This month's Q&A with John Rutledge, LPA general manager, takes a look at a grab bag of topics that

Q: Most of the work financed by the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) takes place during the spring, summer and fall. What sort of budget does RIZ have for the coming

impact LPA members.

A: The Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) is a local government entity, so it operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year budget. The five-member RIZ board of trustees must approve the coming fiscal year's budget by March 15 of each year. The FY2016-17 budget was approved on February 3, 2016. Most notable this year is discontinuation of the \$2.50 standby tax.

The standby tax is a narrow provision in RIZ law that allows the RIZ board to ensure sufficient funding is available to pay off annual debt obligations. The RIZ board reviewed outstanding debt obligations and determined the standby tax should be suspended at this time. RIZ is nearing payoff of its current bonds and

the standby is not needed to make the remaining payments. It is possible the standby tax could be implemented again in the future, but it would be unlikely for at least a few vears.

Members should note their March 2016 tax statements still will reflect the \$2.50 per thousand standby tax. The suspension of this levy first will be recognized in the September 2016 tax statement.

#### Q: Where is the RIZ at with renewal?

A: As you will recall, Iowa RIZ law was amended in 2015. The amendment was broadly supportive of RIZ, but also formalized a transparent process by which RIZ is periodically renewed. Lake Panorama RIZ currently is in the process of securing renewal for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2039.

RIZ's current task is to complete a comprehensive analysis of Lake Panorama's erosion control and water quality outlook. RIZ has engaged Shive Hattery Engineering to lead this effort, with support from both LPA and RIZ. To comply with the new RIZ law, this report must be submitted to the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors no later than June 30, 2017. The process is intended to be thorough,

which explains the long timeline for study and analysis.

The report will be made public when it is submitted to the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors, and is expected to comfortably meet all statutory requirements for renewal.

#### Q: How successful was the Whitetail Deer hunting season within the boundaries of the LPA?

A: LPA's deer hunting program has remained largely unchanged for several years. LPA's philosophy is to facilitate a deer hunting program that promotes population control in a safe, legal and humane manner. I feel as though our program is very effective in reaching these

Antlerless harvest for the 2015-16 season was up by 12 percent from the 2014-15 season, with a total count of 113 does taken. LPA records show only two seasons had higher harvest totals (154 antlerless deer in 2013-14 and 137 antlerless deer in 2012-13). The downward trend from the 2012-2014 harvest peak is consistent with statewide trends in Whitetail Deer population.

About three-fourths of the hunters in our program are LPA members, with the remaining one-fourth being registered guests. Harvest trends correspond with this breakdown – about three



fourths of antlerless deer are taken by members.

New this year was a late season archery hunt on the LPN golf course. The success of this effort was limited, with only five antlerless deer taken. However, we feel the hunt was worthwhile as it served to disrupt the LPN golf course as a learned sanctuary area for the deer.

I don't anticipate major changes to the hunting program for the 2016-17 season, but the LPA board's final decision on that issue still is several months away.

#### Q: We've been seeing some discolored water lately. What's up?

A: January through March has traditionally been a challenging time for our water system. This period marks the low point for our residency, which means leaks in yards and homes are less likely to be noticed by property owners. Leaks that do occur linger for longer than they would in the summer, and therefore stir up iron and manganese sediment in the system. Iron and manganese are NOT a health concern, but do present other troublesome issues for laundry and plumbing fixtures.

The continued challenge of iron and manganese in our water will be a top priority for the board this spring and summer. I am confident we can build upon the investments we've already made in our

water system to address this issue. But, the options we will explore are neither immediate nor inexpensive. Careful study will be done with our engineers, and the results of this analysis will be made available to the membership.

I've spoken with a number of members who do not yet have a whole-house filter for their water line. This continues to surprise me as a large number of LPA members have enjoyed remarkable success from the installation of a basic and affordable filter system.

Members lacking filters should give strong consideration to this modest investment. A filter is good insurance against occasional iron and manganese sediment that occurs in our system. Even a perfect water system will experience minor fluctuations in sediment when flushing or water main breaks occur. Members who have invested in whole-house filters rarely experience the challenges of those who do not have this simple filtering device.

Whole-house filters certainly aren't the longterm solution for LPA's iron and manganese challenges ... but they will protect laundry and plumbing fixtures in the short-term. Please consider this affordable and proven investment.

#### Q: How can LPA members stay up-to-speed on issues that impact them?

A: The best way for members to remain informed of LPA news is to subscribe to the Weekly Panorama Prompt email bulletin. LPA emails the Panorama Prompt every Wednesday to roughly 1,100 different email addresses. In addition, this is our first means of sharing emergency alerts with the membership. Apply for a login at lakepanorama. org. Feel free to contact the LPA office if you require technical assistance.

## **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY 2016 Relay**

## For Life of **Guthrie County** Kickoff

The American Cancer Society is recruiting teams and sponsors from local families, businesses, schools, places of worship, and the community "as a whole" to participate in the annual Relay For Life of Guthrie County on Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 4-10 p.m. at the Guthrie Center high school track.

Relay For Life teams and sponsors are committed to helping save more lives from cancer by raising funds for the Society. Teams, individuals and sponsors can learn more and sign up for the Relay For Life event by visiting relayforlife.org or www.relayforlife. org/guthriecountyia.

The 2016 Relay For Life of Guthrie County Kickoff was Saturday, March 12 at Incredibowl in Guthrie Center.

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 individuals camp out 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 four million participants in 6,000 events worldwide in 2015.

Last year, over 200 people participated in the Relay For Life of Guthrie County and raised over \$67,000.

Visit relayforlife.org or www. <u>relayforlife.org/guthriecoun-</u> tyia to learn more about the



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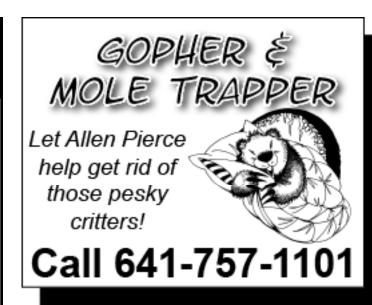


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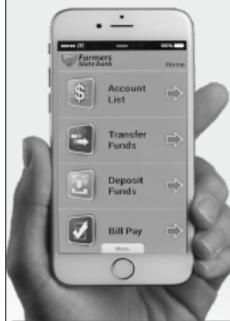
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#### **OUTDOORS**

## Fire helps manage Iowa's grasslands

Iowa DNR

The work to improve Iowa's prairies takes center stage each spring when agencies and private landowners use fire to manage their grasslands and improve their value for wildlife.

Burning as a management tool helps to fend off encroaching woody species and nonnative plants in an effort to promote diverse native grasses and wildflowers. Burning removes the accumulated thatch and reinvigorates native plants by simulating what occurred naturally for centuries.

But unlike Mother Nature, these burns must be well planned to maximize the benefits to the land and wildlife while minimizing the impact to neighbors.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources burns about 15 to 20,000 acres each year and each burn requires a plan, which includes fire breaks, notifying neighbors and contacting the local fire and rescue dispatch.

Smoke management is a big issue and wildlife biologists use spot weather forecasts to burn when the conditions are predicted to give the smoke a lift into the atmosphere or carry it away from nearby homes, roads or communities.

There are specific management goals for the area to be burned that is part of the long term management plan, said Scott Peterson, wildlife supervisor for central Iowa.

"Once the conditions allow, we will start carry-

"Once the conditions allow, we will start carrying out our burn plans across the state," Peterson said. "This is an effort to diversify the landscape as much as possible to create a stable environment. Prairie was a dominant landscape and by using fire, hopefully we can bring some of those grassland species back, like Henslow's sparrow, dickcissels, bobolinks and meadowlarks."

Removing the thatch allows ground nesting species including pheasants and quail to move through the area easier. Burned areas sprout new growth within a week and within a few weeks there will be little evidence that the area was burned.

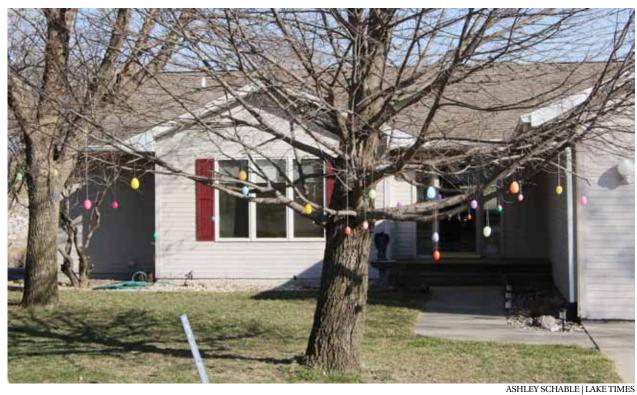
"Our grassland wildlife are among our most quickly disappearing species," said Bill Ohde, wildlife supervisor for the DNR in southeast Iowa. "Prairie systems are extremely complex and as our knowledge base continues to grow, we will adapt our management of those areas.

"The timing of the burn will determine how the prairie responds to it. You may see us burning in the summer or in the fall to encourage wildflowers, which are important to attract insects, a vital food for young birds," Ohde said.

One of the complaints they often hear, Ohde said, is that burning destroys all the ground nests. While some nests are lost with the spring burns, the loss is only in the short term, and most birds will re-nest.

"We try to impact the nests as little as possible, but for the long term health and productivity of the grasslands and wildlife, fire is a tremendous management tool," Ohde said.

## WELCOME SPRING



ABOVE: Spring is in the air at Lake Panorama. Several homes on Panorama Drive have decorated trees and bushes with colorful eggs, which are known to spread happiness and goodwill among everyone during Easter celebrations. RIGHT: Boats lifts sit empty at Coulter's Panorama Marine in Panora this March, but with spring and summer just around the corner, it won't be long until this site gets very busy. BELOW: The ice has moved out and now the mix of sun and warm temperatures have brought with it a surge of renewal for the warmer seasons ahead.





#### Bennie F. Hall Scholarship deadline Apr. 18

Prairie Woodland Conservation Foundation announces applications are available for the 2016 Bennie F. Hall Scholarship. Bennie Hall was a lifelong Guthrie County resident and well-known hunter and trapper. Bennie loved wildlife and conservation land management and understood the value of further education for motivated students. Bennie's generosity and forward thinking allows the Prairie Woodland Conservation Foundation to offer a \$500 scholarship to Guthrie County resident high school senior students that are interested in studying conservation, ecology or outdoor recreation related majors or to current college students that have completed at least two years of study in a conservation major. Applications are available at all county high school guidance offices and at the Guthrie County Conservation Office, 206W. South St., Panora, IA 50216.

Applications must be returned to the Guthrie County Conservation Office by April 18, 2016.

Water summary update: Iowa remains drought-free

Iowa DNR

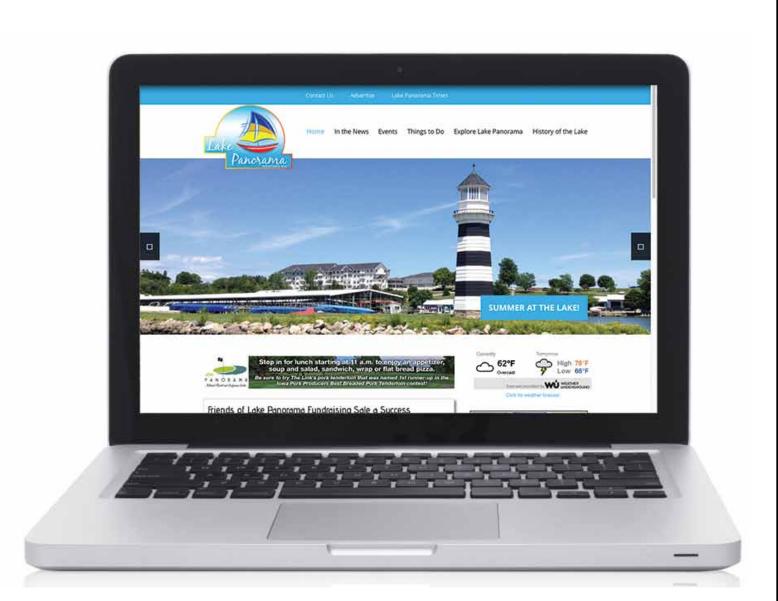
All of Iowa remains drought free, according to the National Drought Monitor, and stream flows remain normal to above normal for about half of the state.

February precipitation was above normal in the northwest half of Iowa, and well below normal across east central Iowa and the far southwest sections of the state. Statewide, average precipitation fell at 0.92 inches, which is 0.13 inches less than normal.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate.



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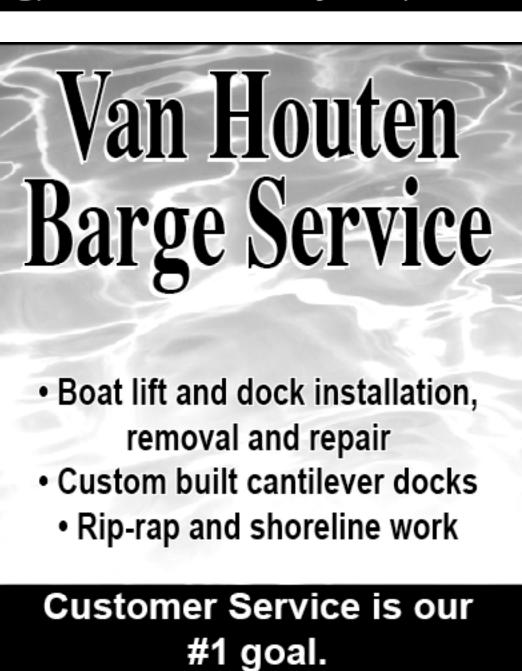
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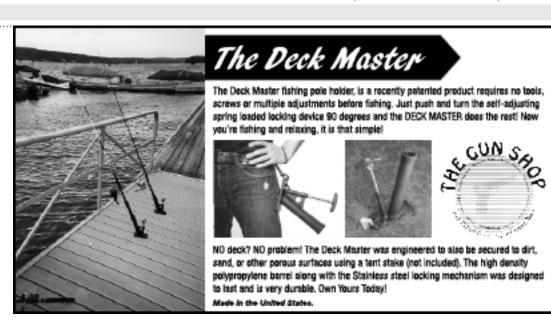


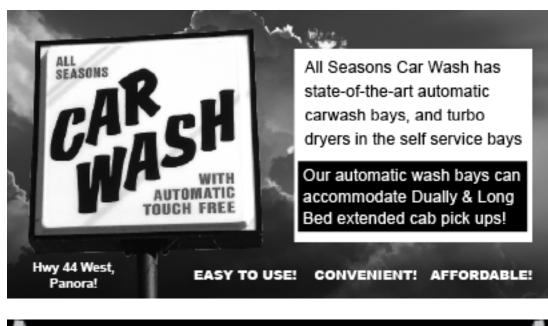
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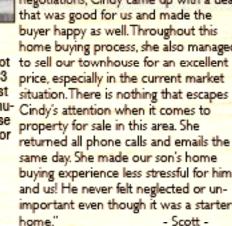
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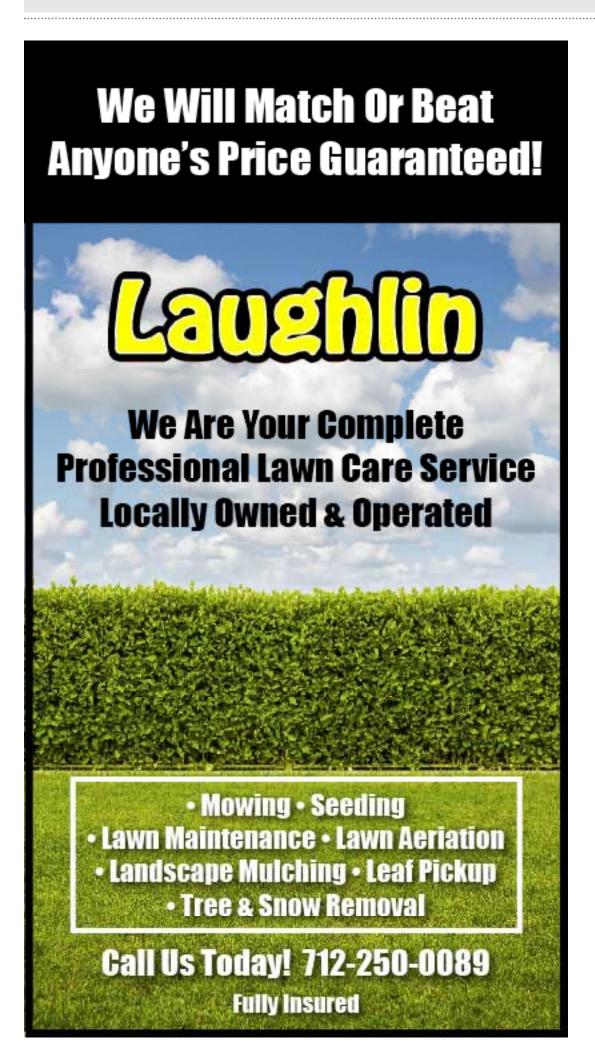
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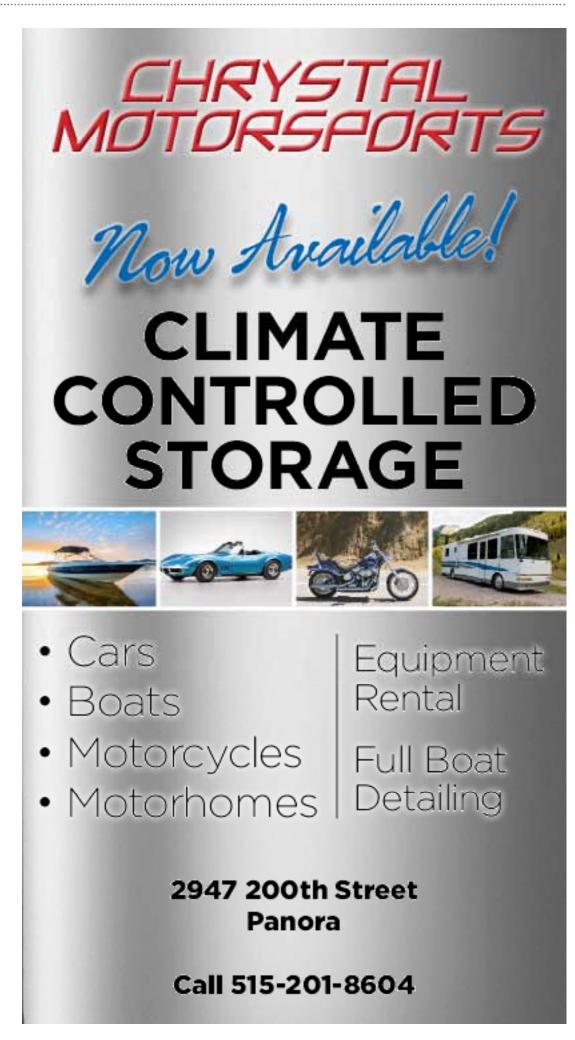


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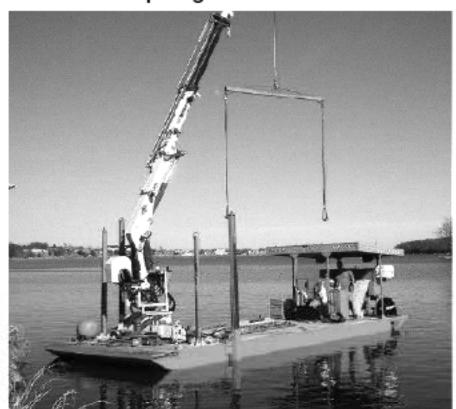


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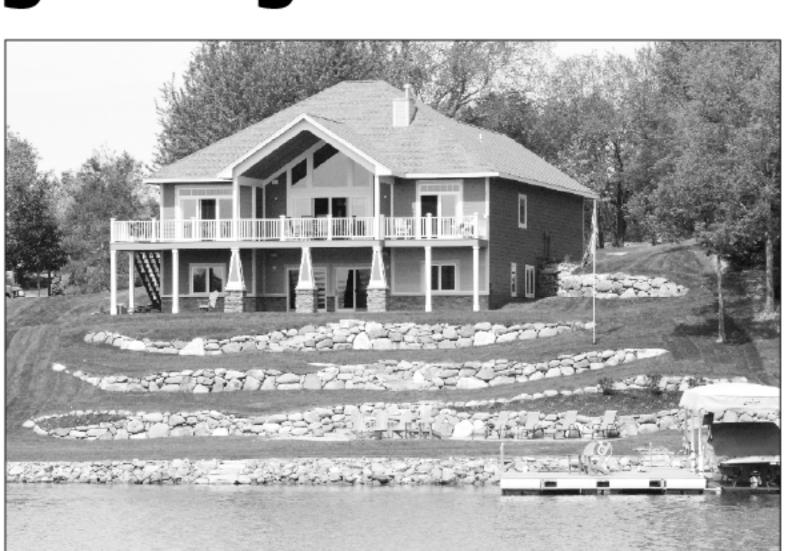




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