

OCTOBER 2023

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owners at Lake Panorama

Lake Panorama TIMES

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STARK SHARES HER PASSION FOR
HORSES BY TEACHING OTHERS **PAGE 42**

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VITAL ROLE IN
LAKE PANORAMA
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HAWKEYE
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ON THE COVER: Participants in a group lesson at Stark's Performance Horses northeast of Panora. Submitted photo.



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BOATING SUPERSTITIONS

I recently learned that stirring your coffee with a fork is bad luck. Who knew? Check out a column I wrote in our Oct. 4 Daily Umbrella newsletter about superstitions at www.thedailyumbrella.com. While you are there, be sure to subscribe to receive this free weekday newsletter delivered to your email inbox each morning.

With Halloween just around the corner, I thought about that column and wondered if there are any boating superstitions that lake folks have. I looked around, and here are a few of the more entertaining ones I found, courtesy of discoverboating.com.

No redheads allowed onboard. Several cultures over the centuries believed redheads were unlucky, so this might be why sailors shunned them. Another possibility is that redheads were considered fiery personalities.

No women onboard. Women were considered to be too tempting to ancient

mariners. Women also were believed to make the water angry, resulting in dangerous voyages. Never mind the fact that boats were named after women and that female figureheads adorned the bow of many a vessel.

Bananas are banned. Bananas are favored hiding grounds for spiders, some of which have nasty (and occasionally deadly) bites. Centuries ago, ships transported bananas from tropical islands with these stowaways unbeknownst to the sailors until they discovered them the hard way.

Always step onto a boat with your right foot. Why the right? Your left foot brings bad luck for the journey ahead. This remains popular among plenty of old salts today.

No whistling. Putting your lips together



Shane Goodman

and blowing while you're standing on a boat will stir up the wind, and, therefore, the water.

Never change a boat's name. Never, ever, ever do this unless you want bad luck to follow you. There is hope, however, if you carefully follow each step of revered renaming rituals. Start by removing all (and we do mean all) physical traces of the name. For the rest of the steps, search for "Ceremony for Renaming Your Boat."

Don't say "goodbye" when departing. Ancient mariners believed uttering certain words, including this, automatically doomed the voyage, keeping the ship from returning to shore. It's still a popular belief among captains and fishermen today.

Cats are good omens. With apologies to all you dog lovers, cats reign supreme because they hunt rats. Rats invaded trading ships of old, attracted to the food cargo. They often carried disease and gnawed on ropes.

YES, MORE LAKE HUMOR

Three guys are on a boat and they have four cigarettes but nothing to light them with. What do they do? They throw one cigarette off the boat, and the whole boat becomes a cigarette lighter. ...

My cousin said he races boats. So I said, "Wow, you must be a fast swimmer!" ...

And finally, hundreds of people lined up for the paddle sale at the boat shop.

It was quite an oar deal.

Have a great October, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
Editor and Publisher
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WETLANDS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN LAKE PANORAMA WATER QUALITY

Three wetlands along streams that lead into Lake Panorama now are in place to help protect water quality in the lake.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Lake Panorama began to fill with water on June 8, 1970, when the gate for the newly built dam was closed. The lake mainly is fed by the Middle Raccoon River; there also are many small streams within Lake Panorama's 433-square-mile watershed that eventually drain into it.

An ongoing dredging program is the main line of defense that keeps Lake Panorama from filling with silt. In recent years, steps have been taken to slow the flow of sediment into the lake before it needs to be dredged out.

Three wetlands along streams that lead into Lake Panorama now are in place to help protect water quality in the lake. These sites are effective at reducing the movement of nitrogen but also have a pos-

itive impact on sediment and phosphorus, which fuels the blue green algae blooms that generally occur each summer.

The Helen's Cove wetland was built in 2016 and is on the east side of Sage Trail, northeast of the Lake Panorama Association (LPA) east campground. The Hughes Cove wetland was built in 2017 and is north of 200th Road, north of the Fin and Feather building. The Smith wetland was built in 2019 and is on the north side of 180th Street, north of Burchfield Cove.

"Certain native plants create an environment that reduces nutrients in the water," says Lane Rumelhart, LPA project manager. "The blue green algae blooms we see in the summer are a result of high concentrations of phosphorus in our lake. Reduction of these excess nutrients can really benefit the lake's water quality. Vegetation also helps stabilize the wetlands from any ero-



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The Helen's Cove wetland, built in 2016, is on the east side of Sage Trail, northeast of the LPA east campground. The water pool covers about 5 acres. Overflow from this wetland eventually makes its way into Helen's Cove.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This wetland was constructed in 2017 to reduce nutrients in water flowing into Hughes Cove. It covers 3.5 acres.

sion on large flow events."

Water levels are controlled by taking out or adding stop-logs in the outlet structure at each wetland.

"Each spring, I raise the pool level on all three wetlands to catch as much water and silt as possible," Rumelhart says. "I try to hold off raising the pool level until the exposed perimeter of the pool has a chance to establish some vegetation. In the fall, we lower the pool level to reduce risk of ice damage on the outlet structures."

Josh Gansen is a wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He serves nine counties, including Guthrie County. This summer, Rumelhart reviewed each of the three wetlands with Gansen and says he received some good management tips.

"One strategy I plan to use beginning next season will be periodic draw downs in the months of July and August to encourage more vegetative growth. The plan is to reduce the pool level by 6 inches every two weeks beginning in mid-July through mid-August. This will gradually lower the water level a couple of feet over the course of four to six weeks, allowing plants that need a saturated environment enough time to get established."



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The Hughes Cove wetland is north of 200th Road, near the Fin and Feather building. This sign near the road lists partners that assisted the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone with this project.

Rumelhart says this timeframe is outside of the typical high-flow parts of the



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The Smith wetland is the largest of the three existing wetlands. On the left side of this photo, the dam that was created to form the wetland can be seen, along with some of the aquatic plants that help reduce nutrients in downstream water.

year, putting the lake at less risk of taking on overflow sediment in the case of a big rain event. More cover around the edges of the wetland also helps keep more excess nutrients out of the lake, providing better water quality.

Is there a way to measure the effectiveness of the wetlands?

“We do not currently test nutrient levels coming in and out of the wetlands,” Rumelhart says. “We used to work with Iowa State University to track these numbers, but the process proved to be very time-consuming for LPA staff. We would welcome a conversation with anyone interested in volunteering to take on testing in one or all three wetlands.”

The Hughes Cove and Helen’s Cove wetlands have a sediment forebay. Water slows down as it flows into these wetland basins, allowing sand and silt to settle before making its way into the main wetland channel. These forebays allow sediment to be dug out periodically using a long-stick excavator.

Besides improving water quality for Lake Panorama, Rumelhart says the wetlands offer exceptional wildlife habitat for many creatures that would otherwise search for shelter in and around the lake itself.

“The buffer strips also provide excellent cover for pollinators to have pollen available on different spring, summer and fall forbs,” he says. “This allows the pollinator species to thrive throughout the year.”

Waterfowl and upland hunting are allowed at the Smith and Helen’s Cove wet-



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This sign listing the partners that helped make the Smith wetland possible can be seen north of 180th Street. During season, waterfowl and upland hunting are allowed at the Smith and Helen’s Cove wetlands. Hunting is not allowed at the Hughes Cove wetland.

lands. Hunters must read the signage at these locations for special regulations; for instance, no lead shot is allowed. All rules, regulations and seasons set by Iowa DNR are in effect for those who choose to hunt these areas. No hunting is allowed at the Hughes Cove wetland.

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

RIZ has funded all three of these wetlands. There have been partners along the way, such as Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality,



Meet Brandt Gebel, Financial Advisor

Brandt Gebel is our Financial Advisor with 6 years of experience in the financial sector. Brandt grew up in Charles City, Iowa, graduated from Loras College located in Dubuque, Iowa and is currently a licensed Series 7, and 66 professional. Brandt is responsible for advising, planning, and investing for Guthrie County State Bank Investment Center clients.

Brandt is passionate about what he does which includes helping people meet their goals financially, so they have more time to meet their personal and professional goals. In his free time Brandt enjoys playing golf, boating at the family cabin in the summer, riding his bike, and cheering for the Iowa State Cyclones, Green Bay Packers, and New York Yankees.



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The Smith wetland is on the north side of 180th Street, north of Burchfield Cove. This picture shows the small stream below the wetland dam that carries water from here into Burchfield Cove.

Agribusiness Association of Iowa, and the USDA.

RIZ has plans for two more wetlands. One would be directly north of the Smith wetland. The other will be located northwest of the West Burchfield Cove, between Rose Avenue and Panorama Drive. RIZ has acquired the land necessary for these projects but needs permits from the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE).

"USACE refuses to deem the drainages that run through these proposed wetlands as intermittent or seasonal streams and is requiring RIZ to increase construction costs 30-40% for mitigation credits," Rumelhart says. "This is

an ongoing issue that RIZ, Shive Hattery Engineers, and other partners continue to work through. These hurdles have set back RIZ's timeframe, and no date has been set to start these projects."

Rumelhart encourages LPA members to take a drive to visit any or all of the wetlands.

"These are very successful projects, have incredible wildlife, and, in my opinion, the month of October is the best time of year to view these areas," he says. "The weather tends to be cooler, the native grasses are in their fall color, and there are plenty of chances to see waterfowl, otters, muskrats and many other wildlife species." ■

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The Smith wetland was built in 2019. It has a water pool of 9 acres and is positioned so it helps protect water quality in Burchfield Cove.

Lake Panorama ASK TIMES

Submit your questions at
www.lakepanoramatimes.com
or email
shane@dmcityview.com.

Q: WHERE IS THE DEBRIS TRAP ON LAKE PANORAMA, AND HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

A: The Lake Panorama debris trap is located at the upper end of the lake's Upper Basin. It has been in service for nearly 15 years and is extremely effective, according to LPA General Manager John Rutledge. He says the debris trap has only failed twice. One failure occurred during a flow of 13,000 cubic feet per second, which he believes to be the third-highest flow recorded since the lake was built. The other failure also occurred during a high-flow period, at which time a large tree made a direct impact to the anchor point. Rutledge believes this debris trap has proven to be a very effective approach to containing debris to allow for a concentrated removal effort and to minimize the amount of debris that travels down the lake.

Q: WHO OWNS THE ROAD THAT GOES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SAINT THOMAS MORE CENTER? DOES THE LPA OR THE CAMP? AND WHO DECIDES WHEN IT IS OPEN OR CLOSED?

A: The property is owned by St. Thomas More with LPA holding a roadway easement. This is different than all other LPA roadways in the association. LPA has the right to use this roadway throughout the year but has a longstanding policy of allowing it to be closed during the St. Thomas More Center's peak season for campers. This decision was made to ensure the safety of their campers, most of whom are school-age children. The road

is generally closed from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with some adjustments being made annually between LPA and St. Thomas More.

Q: WHY ARE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ALLOTTED 10,000 GALLONS OF WATER? HOW DID THAT NUMBER COME ABOUT?

A: Utility fee structures frequently have a base charge for customers with a variable rate for use above the minimum allotted amount. LPA General Manager John Rutledge says this is a good strategy for LPA as the community's potable water usage varies dramatically from the peak season to the winter season. Although usage varies by season, LPA has fixed operational costs throughout all 12 months of the year. This minimum charge ensures LPA's fixed costs are covered despite the seasonal fluctuations in demand. The 10,000-gallon allotment is for three months of usage. ■

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PEOPLE



RICH WICKS | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Betty Minick, 92, climbs the bowling leader board.

MINICK, AGE 92, BOWLS A 197

Lake Panorama resident started bowling 61 years

BY RICH WICKS

For the Lake Panorama Times

Betty Minick of Lake Panorama bowls in the Monday Afternoon League at Incredi-Bowl in Guthrie Center. But she's not there just for her personality and winning smile. She knows how to knock the pins around, even at the age of 92.

In fact, on Sept. 25, Minick ended up with a single-game score of 197. When asked if that's her highest score ever, Minick said, "No, I've been over 200 a few times." Her 197 game included an impressive four strikes in a row, which is sometimes called a "four-bagger" or a "hambone." But that's something most bowlers never achieve.

"I started (bowling) about 61 years ago," Minick said.

Obviously, all that practice has paid

off, since Minick currently has the second-highest women's single-game score listed on the wall at Incredi-Bowl. The top score listed for this season is 213, just 16 points higher than Minick. Based on recent results, that position might be in jeopardy. ■



Betty Minick picks up the spare.

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"Dumb Money"



"Expend4bles"



"The Creator"



"Flora and Son"

"EXPEND4BLES"

(in theaters)

Few people go to a movie with a "4" in the title with high expectations, and this one lives up to that reputation. Jason Statham, 50 Cent, Dolph Lundgren, Sylvester Stallone and Andy Garcia tarnish their careers with this unnecessary fourth chapter. No Oscar nominations are expected.

Grade: D

"THE CREATOR"

(in theaters)

This visually stunning sci-fi film stars

John David Washington (Denzel's son), who is in love with a woman in a future world only to have her taken from him. He spends the film looking for her while protecting a robotic young boy who might know more than he leads on. If the story was as great as the visuals, this might've been truly special. Unfortunately, the story falls way short.

Grade: B

"FLORA AND SON"

(Apple TV)

An interesting movie about a woman caring for her teenage son, who is pretty

much a delinquent. When he refuses to care about a guitar she buys him, she takes it up thanks to online lessons with a stranger, played by the always fun Joseph Gordon-Levitt. She is played by Eve Hewson, the daughter of U2 lead singer Bono. Charming at times, and raunchy at other times, "Flora and Son" is a mixed bag with some fun moments.

Grade: B

As the actor's strike lingers on, we will have to wait longer for some of this fall's big movies, but there are still some interesting films in the pipeline including

another sequel to "The Exorcist," this one with the original star, Ellen Burstyn.

Until then, pass the popcorn. ■

Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986 and can be heard talking movies every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. on KXn0 106.3 with Keith Murphy and Andy Fales. You can also follow him on Twitter @MrMovieDSM. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Lake Panorama.



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EDUCATION

PANORAMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GROWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

First row: Marilyn Behr (PAA vice president), Cyndi (Deal) Atkins, Tammy Deal and Nancy Armstrong (Panora-Linden alumni). Second row: Kasey Huebner (PCSD superintendent), Ron Tryon (PAA board member), Dave Grove (Edward Jones representative), Chris Webner (PCSD guidance counselor), Andy Arganbright (PAA board member), Jerry Armstrong (PAA president), Mike Ketelsen (PAA board member) and Dave Biedelman (PAA board member).

Addition of nonprofit funds brings opportunity for more donations and scholarships for students.

BY SHANE GOODMAN

For Lake Panorama Times

The Guthrie County Community Foundation and the Panorama Alumni Association held a press conference at the Panorama High School Board Room on Oct. 1 at 4:30 p.m. to announce a \$270,000 gift from the Panorama Scholarship Foundation (PSF) to the Panorama Alumni Association. The PSF, founded by Bill and Pat Deal

in 1992, provided scholarships anonymously to Panorama High School graduates for more than 30 years. Students who received PSF scholarships could earn up to \$6,000 over four semesters if they met grade qualifications.

The Panorama Alumni Association scholarships program began when current alumni president Jerry Armstrong and his wife, Nancy, wanted to see the Panorama Alumni Association give back.

“We believed in the importance of supporting students who are graduating and attending college,” said Armstrong. They began an annual golf tournament to fund a Panorama Alumni Association scholarship program, which awarded \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Pan-

orama High School.

With the additional funds transferred from PSF, the Alumni Association will now have assets managed under the umbrella of the Guthrie County Community Foundation, which will provide the Panorama Alumni Association with 501(c)(3) status and allow for tax-deductible donations from others to the organization for scholarships.

"This is a dream come true," said Panorama Alumni Association board member Andy Arganbright. "With this generous gift from Tammy Deal and Cyndi (Deal) Atkins, we will be able to fund scholarships for many years to come. And this is just the beginning," said Arganbright, "as we will continue with our fundraising in other ways as well. Anyone interested in learning more about how to donate should contact the local Edward Jones representative, Dave Grove, who will service the Panorama Alumni Association scholarship account, or anyone on the Alumni Association board."

Association board members hope that additional donations from other alumni will grow the scholarship fund even larger for more students to benefit.

"We want to build on what the Deals created and continue to expand the scholarship fund," said Arganbright. Growth in the percentage of students who need financial help, coupled with changes to financial aid eligibility, make these scholarships ever more important.

"Our parents believed in the importance of education," said Tamara Deal, who also serves as the Guthrie County Community Foundation president. "And we are pleased to continue with that effort."

The Panorama Alumni Association is one of the longest running alumni groups in the State of Iowa going back to graduates of the original Guthrie County High. Started in the late 1800s, the Alumni Association has continued to meet annually in Panora over Panorama Days to honor the many students from Panora, Linden, Bagley, Jamaica and Yale who have become members of the association.

The Guthrie County Community Foundation has awarded \$1.6 million in total grants to 59 Guthrie County organizations since 2005. More than \$208,000 was awarded in 2023 alone. For more information, visit www.guthrie-county-community-foundation.org. ■

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- photo by Les Houser, Wright County Monitor

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EVENTS

ALZHEIMER'S WALK SURPASSES PARTICIPANT AND FUNDRAISING GOALS

There were 125 participants on 28 teams, and more than \$34,000 was raised.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The third annual Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's was held in Panora Sept. 16. There were 125 participants on 28 teams, and more than \$34,000 was raised. Participant and team numbers were higher than last year's, as was the amount of money raised.

The walk began at the Michael Mills Memorial Park. The two-mile route had



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Dave Grove was recognized during the opening ceremony by the Iowa Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year for Development.

walkers heading east from the park, north to the Raccoon River Valley Trail, and south on the trail before looping back to the park.

These Alzheimer's Association fundraising walks are held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide. There are 19 walks scheduled in Iowa this fall, with Panora being the smallest town to host one.

Alzheimer's kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. More than 6 million Americans are living with the disease. In 2023, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the United States \$345 billion, a number that is projected to rise to more than \$1 trillion in 2050.

Tom Reil of Guthrie Center, who said both his grandmother and his father Bob suffered from the disease, was the emcee for the opening ceremony.

Edward Jones is a national presenting sponsor of the Walk to End Alzheimer's, having raised more than \$5 million this year. Dave Grove, an Edward Jones financial advisor based in Panora, was instrumental in getting the local walk started.

During the opening ceremony, Dave Grove was recognized as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year for Development by the Iowa Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. After the event, Grove expressed his thanks.



DAVE GROVE | SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The two-mile walk began at Michael Mills Memorial Park and headed east toward the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

"It was a beautiful morning," he said. "We are so thankful for the support of walkers and local businesses that made this year a great success."

Spinning flowers in four colors were available for walk participants to place in a Promise Garden. Reil asked various people in the crowd to show each colored flower, and explained its meaning. Blue – someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Purple – someone who has lost someone to the disease. Yellow – a person currently supporting or caring

for someone living with Alzheimer's. Orange – a person who supports the cause and the Alzheimer's Association's vision of a world without the disease.

Leo and Norah Grove, whose parents are Dave and Sara Grove, displayed a white flower, which will represent the first survivor of Alzheimer's, once a cure is found. Sue Bump of Reshape Fitness Studio led walkers in warmup exercises before the two-mile walk.

The goal for this year's Raccoon River Valley Walk was \$30,000, which has been

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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

As the walk got underway, participants placed spinning flowers in a Promise Garden, with each of four colors representing the relationship the person has with Alzheimer's.

surpassed by \$4,000. However, donations can continue to be made online to the 2023 Raccoon River Valley Walk through Dec. 31, at act.alz.org/rrvwalk.

In addition to Edward Jones, sponsors of the local walk included Lakeside Village, New Homestead, Guthrie County State Bank, Care Initiatives, Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, Panora Fiber, Nutriom and Dallas County Hospital. At registration, Crafty's Coffee provided coffee, and Hy-Vee provided bananas and bottled water.

Committee members were Dave Grove, Mel Borgeson, Mary Jane Carothers and Bob Grove. Many other volunteers were present to help the day of the event, including members of the Panora Garden Club. Plans are in the works to hold a fourth Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's in fall 2024. ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

A total of 125 people participated in the Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's Sept. 16. Much of the 2-mile walk took place on the Raccoon River Valley Trail, with this sign pointing the way.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Participants gathered for an opening ceremony as part of the 2023 Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sept. 16.

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LAKE LUMBER EXPANSION UNDERWAY

The Hafners are in growth mode.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

It's been more than two years since Kelvin Hafner purchased Lake Lumber in Panora from the Neel family. The transfer of ownership was announced to Lake Lumber employees July 19, 2021, in a meeting that involved owners Tom and Sharon Neel and Hafner.

Today, the Neels continue to be part of the Lake Lumber team. Tom works remotely most days, and the couple's four-day work week allows them to enjoy more vacation time.

There are several new faces at Lake Lumber. Kelvin's wife, Stephanie Hafner, came on board in May 2022. She oversees the retail operation and manages the hardware line.

"We continue to expand the retail department to offer a greater selection to serve the community's needs," she says.

Ryan Wambold is the new construction blueprint designer and estimator. This is one of several expanding services Lake Lumber now offers to customers. Another new service includes pole

barn design provided by Lake Lumber team member Patrick Malloy, who has been with the company since 2020. Troy Bergeson is the company's new accounting manager.

The Hafners are in growth mode. "The pieces are coming together for growth," Kelvin says. "Two years ago, there were 13 employees here; now we have 19. As our customer base has grown, we have added the necessary staff and equipment to support the growth with a focus on efficiency and improving the environment for staff and customers. We expanded our storage options by adding new racking systems and leasing a nearby building. We cleaned out the basement and added racking to organize and stock our retail inventory."

Renovations on the building began a few months ago.

"We redesigned the existing footprint to offer employees more amenities and customers a more robust shopping experience. Our future growth plan includes adding another building with a dock to assist with receiving and deliveries," Hafner says.

The entrance on the west side of the building will provide direct access into the new design center and offices. The design center will include a larger



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This drawing shows the exterior changes that will be made to the main Lake Lumber building beginning in November. Interior renovations already are underway.

showroom for customer selections of Bertch and Waypoint cabinets, Marvin and ThermoTech windows, Therma Tru Doors, and other interior and exterior finishes. A new conference room for client selection meetings will enhance the customer experience. There also will be a new contractor and building material checkout area.

"The items showcased in the design center are a huge part of our business," says Stephanie Hafner. "Our competitors have showrooms to help customers with the selection process; we want to provide our customers with a beautiful showroom to spotlight the products customers can select for their homes."

The renovation on the north end also allowed for an expanded breakroom with more space to accommodate the growing staff. One bathroom has been added, and two existing bathrooms will be remodeled.

Discussions about these recent renovations began last February, as the Hafners made the decision to switch from their current hardware supplier to Do it Best. Founded in 1945, Do it Best is the only U.S.-based, member-owned hardware, lumber and building materials buying cooperative in the home improvement industry.

"We made the decision to switch to Do it Best because their business model was more aligned with ours," Kelvin says.

"Currently, the hardware store is 10% and the lumberyard is 90% of Lake Lumber. Do it Best is 60% building materials and 40% hardware. Our new partnership with them, and the plans for growth we developed with them, led to the store redesign."

"Do it Best allows us to further expand the number of retail items available," Stephanie says. "It is customer-focused, proactive, and has insight into what products to offer. They are a national vendor with great volume discounts, which allows us to offer more competitive pricing to our customers."

In November, exterior updates to the main Lake Lumber building will be done with a new front entrance created. A new sign along Highway 4 will be installed.

To prepare for the new retail area, offices along the west wall will be removed, as will the current counter and checkout area. This work, combined with other renovations, will expand the retail space by about 600 square feet.

In January, a team of Do it Best employees will spend about three weeks resetting the retail area. Display areas will be stocked, lighting updated and new signage added. Two new, more traditional checkout lanes will be installed. There will be a new "Color Bar" in the paint department where direct purchases of paint and related items can be made. The store will remain open during the



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Current members of the Lake Lumber team pose for a photo on one of the company's delivery trucks. Recently, custom-designed Lake Lumber T-shirts were developed and now are provided to all team members.



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Former Lake Lumber owners Tom and Sharon Neel, on the left, with new owners Stephanie and Kelvin Hafner. The Neels continue to work as part of the Lake Lumber team.

reset.

“We know our customer base and know many live in the chaos of a remodel or new construction,” Stephanie says. “We’ll be doing the same thing, living through what may seem like chaos, but

our focus will remain the same: to provide our customers with quality customer service.”

By April, the Hafners expect to be settled in and plan to host some “reopening” events that target various segments



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Business growth at Lake Lumber dictated the need for additional rack storage for building materials. Future growth plans include adding another building with a dock to assist with receiving and deliveries.

of their customer base.

Hafner says his purchase of Lake Lumber has been everything he hoped for, and more.

“The transition with the Neels has been great,” he says. “Our business

growth has been consistent and strong. I’m excited where we are right now, and excited about the remodel and the new partnership with Do it Best. We look forward to serving our customers as we continue to grow.” ■



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MORE PERENNIALS FOR LAKE HOUSE LANDSCAPES

BY LYNN KUHN
Special to Lake Panorama Times

Last month, I offered three low-maintenance landscapes that have awesome lakeside appeal, and I have two more to share this month. What is “low maintenance”? For this list, I picked perennials that satisfy my definition of low maintenance and are attractive as well. The plants must check all boxes to make the list.

- little or no watering once established
- not picky about soil
- deer and rabbit resistant (most of the time)
- optional dead-heading
- not invasive
- long blooming
- good looking foliage

These additional ones are also tough, tried and true. I think you’ll love them.

SEDUM (RUSSIAN STONECROP)

Thunderhead (24-30”x24”) large fuchsia heads

Back in Black (20-24”x24-30”) striking dark foliage

Neon (12-18”x12-18”) chartreuse foliage, compact

Autumn Fire (18-24”x18”) long lasting crimson blooms

Kamtschaticum (4-6”x18”) perfect filler around other plants to discourage weeds, many varieties are available

Angelina (4-6” x 1-2’) chartreuse spiky leaves, apricot fall color, semi-evergreen

Dazzleberry (6-8”x12-18”) smoky blue-gray foliage with raspberry pink flowers

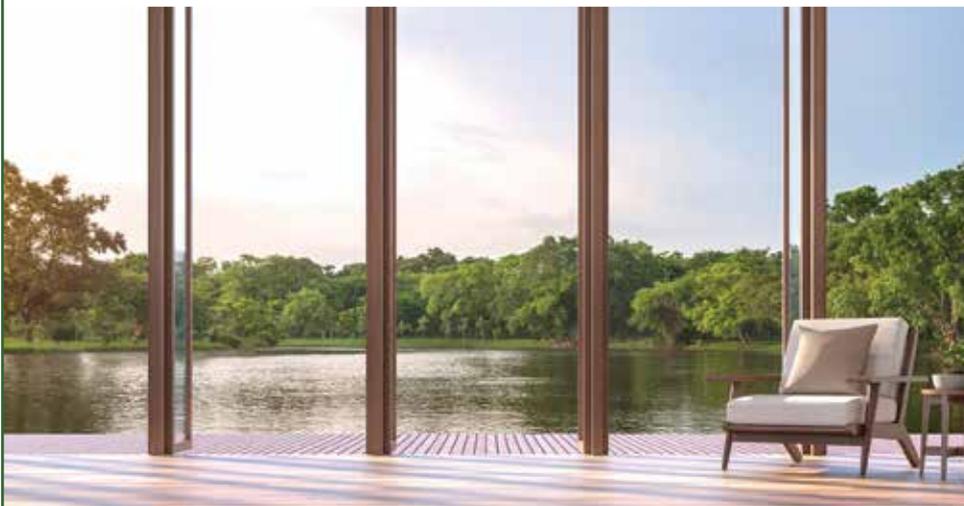


Sedum kamtschaticum



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There are 400 to 500 species in the sedum family, not to mention hundreds of cultivars within the species. There has been a flood of new cultivars introduced into the market in recent years. My list includes both new introductions and oldies that have been around forever.

Designer Tip: Use Sedum kamtschaticum around the base of taller cultivars. Put Angelina at the base of plants with burgundy or dark green foliage. Pair Dazzleberry with Standing Ovation Little Bluestem for a stunning tone-on-tone combo with contrasting texture and touches of burgundy.

STACHYS (BETONY, LAMB'S EAR)

Hummelo (18-24"x18") thrives in heat and poor soil

Big Ears (12"x24-36") larger leaves than traditional lamb's ear, pruning off blooms is optional based on personal preference

When you hear lamb's ear, you may envision small fuzzy gray low growing foliage. Big Ears is similar but with much larger leaves. Hummelo comes from a different species within the family and doesn't look anything like tra-

ditional lamb's ear. It's known for stunning pink spiky blooms and was selected as Perennial Plant of the Year in 2019. If you see one called Helen Von Stein, then buy it. It is identical to Big Ears.

Designer Tip: Use Hummelo as a substitute for the invasive and now illegal pink lythrum that used to be so popular. Yes, it's shorter, but you still get beautiful bright pink spiky blooms.

Give these a try at the lake house. ■

Written by Lynn Kuhn, author of "Conversation Gardens: Where Conversations Flow and Relationships Grow." She is a landscape architect, speaker and owner of Conversation Gardens (formerly Outdoor Transformations). You can reach Lynn at lynn@conversationgardens.com or www.conversationgardens.com.



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LOCAL ELECTIONS

PANORA MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE FORUM OCT. 17

A candidate forum for the upcoming election for Panora mayor and city council positions will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. at the City of Panora Community Building at 115 W. Main Street. The event is being held by the Panora and Lake Panorama Area Economic Development group and will be moderated by Big Green Umbrella Media publisher, Shane Goodman. It is open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The candidates for Panora mayor are Ryan Ketelsen and Curt Thornberry. Candidates for two, four-year term City Council seats are Tom Flanery, Shane Gliem and Mark Sheeder. Candidates for two, two-year term City Council seats (to fill vacancies) are Shannon Barber, Roger L. Dorr, Blake Michelsen and Justin Rockwell.

Each candidate will be introduced and asked four questions. Two min-



Ryan Ketelsen



Curt Thornberry

utes will be allowed for each answer. At the conclusion of the question and answer portion, each candidate will be allowed a one-minute closing statement.

The Panora and Lake Panorama Area Development Group reminds candidates and guests that this is a positive and informative event and to be respectful of all candidates, city staff, and other stakeholders. ■

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LOCAL ADOPTEE IS 2023 IOWA HAWKEYE KID CAPTAIN

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

This year marks the 14th season of the Iowa Hawkeyes Kid Captain program. It is a partnership between University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital and the Iowa Hawkeyes football program to honor pediatric patients with incredible stories. Twelve current and former patients are selected each year to have their stories highlighted throughout the football season.

Chloe Dinkla, adopted daughter of Alex and Megan Dinkla, is one of the 2023 Kid Captains. She and her family will be recognized at the Iowa vs. Rutgers football game Nov. 11. Chloe was born Oct. 12, 2012, in Pingliang City, China. In January 2014, she came home to Iowa and the Dinkla family.

"We adopted through the special needs program in China," says Megan Dinkla. "Chloe's diagnosis on her adoption file was single club foot. This was something we felt more than comfortable with. From what we could research, she would need some casting on her foot and then would go on to live a normal, healthy life. She was the first, and only, referral we saw from our adoption agency, and we instantly knew she was our daughter."

Chloe did have a club foot. She was seen by an orthopedic doctor in Des Moines in February 2014.

"We talked to our pediatrician after that appointment, and she referred us to Iowa City. Her first appointment in Iowa City was at the end of March. Everything went

quickly after they located the mass in her back," Megan says.

Once she was examined at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, she was diagnosed with several serious conditions. Chloe had scoliosis, a curvature of the spine; spina bifida, a birth defect in which there is incomplete closing of the spine; tethered spinal cord, when the spinal cord abnormally attaches to the wall of the spinal canal; and a bony mass that split her spinal cord. Her club foot was neurogenic and caused by her spine issues.

In April 2014, Chloe had an 11-hour neurosurgical procedure to repair her spinal cord. Other surgeries followed, in June 2014, December 2014, October 2018 and April 2022. One surgery involved the placement of MAGnetic Expansion Control TM (MAGEC) rods, to minimize the progression of scoliosis. Chloe also has been treated for an eye muscle disorder, and Duane syndrome, a congenital eye misalignment that causes difficulties in the eyes moving side to side.

Dr. Stuart Weinstein, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, is Chloe's primary doctor.

"There are different types of scoliosis, but this is called congenital because she was born with it," he says. "If she hadn't had the advantage of modern treatments, it would have affected her lung function and potentially her longevity. She also could have become quite deformed."

The MAGEC rods came on the market in 2014.

"The spine is not fused, so you can



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Chloe Dinkla is shown Aug. 12 in the Iowa Hawkeye football locker room. She is one of 12 Kid Captains being honored during the 2023 Hawkeye football season.

stretch it," Dr. Weinstein says. "We are able to take an externally applied device, which spins a magnet in the rod, and as it spins the rod, the rod gets longer. Before these rods, we'd have to take the patient back to the operating room every six months and make it longer to keep up with growth. Now the kids come to clinic three times a year, we apply the magnet and the rod lengthens."

Chloe will have at least one more spinal surgery, to remove the MAGEC rods and replace those with permanent rods.

"We keep the movable rods in place until children get through the majority of their spine growth and allow their lungs to develop more normally," Dr. Weinstein says.

Megan Dinkla says because of Chloe's physical limitations, there is a lot she can't do.

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SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Nick Dejong, a senior from Pella for the Iowa Hawkeyes, holds the hand of Chloe Dinkla as they enter Kinnick Stadium Aug. 12 for the annual Kids' Day at Kinnick.

"No sports, dance, gymnastics. When we heard about the Kid Captain program during a visit to Stead Hospital, Chloe was instantly interested," she says. "Her words? 'Then I'll be famous like Taylor Swift!' She asked every day if we had heard from them. We were all shocked when we got the call that she had been selected."

The University of Iowa football team hosted its annual Kids' Day at Kinnick Aug. 12. There was an open practice at noon, with pre-practice activities in the Krause Family Plaza. The 2023 Kid Captains joined the players on the field for photos following an exclusive inside look at Kinnick Stadium.

On Nov. 11, Chloe and her family will go onto the field during pregame as her story is shared. Chloe also gets to pick the song to play that day during the Hawkeye Wave. At the end of the first quarter, football fans turn to the children's hospital to wave to the pediatric patients and their families watching the game. This is the second year the Kid Captains have been asked to help select a song to accompany the Hawkeye Wave.

Alex Dinkla was born and raised in Guthrie Center, the adopted son of Dwight and Brenda Dinkla. Megan lived in Menlo.

"We were high school sweethearts and lived in Guthrie Center from 2000 to 2003,"



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Joe Evans, a senior from Ames for the Iowa Hawkeyes, talks with Chloe Dinkla in the Hawkeye locker room, before signing a football for her.



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SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Members of the Alex and Megan Dinkla family are, back row, left to right, son Brayden, Megan, Alex, sons Carsen and Landen. Front row, daughters Chloe and Molly.

Megan says. "We moved when Alex got a job as a police officer in Panora. Later he was hired by the Adair County Sheriff's office, before joining the Iowa State Patrol in 2007. In 2008, he was able to get transferred to his home area, and we moved back to Guthrie Center."

Megan says because Alex was adopted as a newborn, adoption was always on their hearts.

"Although I never guessed we would adopt from China," she says. "I had a third-

grader in my classroom one year who was adopted from China, and her family was in the process of adopting another child from China. Something about her story and how amazing she was made us look into adoptions from China."

Megan says having Chloe's file state her only health issue was a club foot turned out to be a blessing.

"We know we would never have been presented her file if her paperwork had the correct information on it," she says. "Thank



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Chloe Dinkla had just turned 2 years old when this photo was taken of her using a walker. This was about four months after her first major surgery at the University of Iowa Stead Children's Hospital.

goodness the paperwork was wrong. We would have missed out on having the opportunity to raise one of the most brave, resilient and beautiful girls we know."

Once Chloe joined the Dinkla family, Megan started advocating for other children in China still waiting for a family, specifically those with spina bifida.

"That's how we saw our sweet Molly for



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Chloe Dinkla, on the right, was adopted from China in January 2014 by Alex and Megan Dinkla. She's shown with her sister Molly, who also was adopted by the Dinklas in June 2016. Both girls are 10 years old.

the first time. We never planned to adopt a second child from China, but after Molly's first adoption family backed out, we knew she was ours, and nothing would stop us from bringing her home," Megan says. Molly joined the Dinkla family in June 2016. She has spina bifida and hydrocephalus but has not required any major surgeries.

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SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Chloe Dinkla is shown inside the University of Iowa Stead Children's Hospital, with Kinnick Stadium in the background. Dinkla had her first surgery at the hospital in April 2014, and continues as a patient there.

The Dinkla family moved from Guthrie Center to Winterset in May 2015. Alex is a sergeant with the Iowa State Patrol, and Megan continues as a third-grade teacher. Megan also continues to advocate for special needs children in China who need a family.

"Since we moved to Winterset and ad-

opted Molly, eight other children have been adopted by local families in Winterset. It's been such a beautiful thing to be a part of," she says. "People tell us all the time that Chloe and Molly are so lucky we adopted them. We completely disagree; we are the lucky ones to have the blessing of them in our family." ■

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SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

PANORAMA HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING COURT: The 2023 Panorama High School Homecoming Court was announced at the conclusion of the Iron Games. The candidates were: Front row, Tyme Boettcher, Mia Waddle, Zoey Hambleton, Taylor Kunze and Meredith Woodworth. Back row, Weston Ploeger, Braylon Dawes, Ryan Cogil, Cayden VanMeer and Michael Martinez. The theme was "Panorama Story '23," and the King and Queen Braylon Dawes and Mia Waddle were announced during halftime of the football game.



CHERYL CASTILE | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP: Members of the Panora and Lake Panorama Economic Development group met with members of the Greater Des Moines Partnership on Sept. 8. Pictured are, front row: John Rutledge, Julie Dent-Zajicek, Tiffany Tauschek (president, CEO, Greater Des Moines Partnership), Courtney Shaw (senior vice president of communications, Greater Des Moines Partnership), Curtis Thornberry, Chris Arganbright and Andy Randol. Back row, Maggie Armstrong, Lisa Grossman, Mike Swesey (executive vice president of economic development, Greater Des Moines Partnership) and Mark Cates. The meeting was organized to discuss ways that the Greater Des Moines Partnership could assist and work with local economic development efforts in Panora and Guthrie County in the coming year. The two groups meet each year to strengthen the relationship to the Partnership, which oversees development efforts in central Iowa counties, of which Guthrie County is one.



SHANE GOODMAN | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

AN OFFICIAL WELCOME: Guthrie County Hospital CEO Chris Stipe and Panorama Community School District Superintendent Kasey Huebner were introduced at the Panora and Lake Panorama economic development meeting at Twin Vines on Sept. 13.



KEVIN FISTER | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

POLDBERG BRINGS HOME A MEDAL AT ACGC: Junior Noah Poldberg placed sixth at the ACGC Charger invitational Sept. 21.



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

FLYING HIGH AT FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL: The Panora football cheer squad catches freshman cheerleader Natalie Waltz.



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

VANMEER PASSES PANORAMA THROUGH SOUTHWEST VALLEY: Offensive lineman Cristian Monrroy-Nunez (No. 53) prepares to block for senior quarterback Cayden Vanmeer (No. 6) as he looks to make a pass. Vanmeer passed a total of 237 yards in a Sept. 22 game against Southwest Valley.



SHANE GOODMAN | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

GRAPE-STOMPING FUN AT TWIN VINES: Twin Vines Winery in Panora held a Wine Walk on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 2-6 p.m. Attendees were able to walk around the countryside, listen to live music, enjoy wine samples and participate in fun activities including grape stomping. Women of all ages were giving it a shot while the men stood by and watched. ■



BETTY COOPER | SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

PANORAMA NETTERS TASTE VICTORY: Team members Jessi Randol, Zoey Hambleton, Maddy Mincy, Cayden Iredale, Hallie Arganbright and Faith Recker celebrate scoring during their games vs. Madrid.



KEVIN FISTER | SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

PANTHER GIRLS GETTING STRONGER AS SEASON PROGRESSES: Freshman Kylie Rochholz (148) took runner-up at the ACGC invite on Sept. 21. Laicey Lutz (145) took 14th. Panorama finished third with 92 points.

FOCUS IS ON PEOPLE FOR NEW PANORAMA SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

Panorama Community Schools serves 800 students in kindergarten through 12th grade from the communities of Panora, Yale, Jamaica, Bagley and Linden, including the Lake Panorama area. On July 3, Kasey Huebner began work as the new Panorama superintendent of schools. In this month's Q&A, Huebner talks about his background, plans for the new school year, and why he was interested in applying for this position.

Q. Let's start with some background; where are you from, where did you attend high school and college, and what education positions have you held before coming to Panorama?

A. I was raised in Sioux Rapids and completed my high school education at Sioux Central High School. After graduating, I attended the University of Northern Iowa where I obtained my elementary teaching and coaching degree. I began my teaching career at Midwest Christian Services in Peterson, where I taught grades 3-11 special education. After one year, I took a position as a fourth-grade teacher at Spirit Lake, where my family and I have been the last 12 years. I was the elementary principal for the Spirit Lake School district the past seven years.

Q. Tell us about your family.

A. I met my wife, Terri, while we were students at UNI. She is the Mortgage Loan Processing Manager for Central Bank, which has branches in Des Moines, Okoboji, Spirit Lake, Storm Lake, Cherokee, Sioux

City and Sioux Falls. We have two boys, both at Panorama Elementary. Kedrick is in third grade, and Karter is in preschool. Karter also spends some time at Little Panther Daycare.

Q. What is the Panorama Schools mission statement, and how does that translate into serving students?

A. Our district's mission statement is "Developing a community of learners who are responsible, motivated citizens with academic, career and volunteer experiences that prepare them for life's next step." In today's rapidly changing world, students must possess critical thinking skills to effectively solve problems. It is essential that we approach problem-solving creatively and ensure students have ample opportunities to practice these skills during their education in Panorama. It's estimated about 62% of Iowa high school students went to college last year, so we aren't just preparing students to go to college. We also need to get them ready for the workforce. I think many leaders in our community would say critical thinking and creativity is something that should be a focus.

Q. What have you been doing since your first day on the job July 3?

A. I have been getting to know people and trying to remember names. Developing relationships and understanding what Panorama is all about. I appreciate everyone's help throughout this transition. Everyone seems passionate about Panorama and that excites me even more as I get into the school year. My focus is on people, and I don't see that changing anytime soon. My

hope is to be led by people's needs and to resort to policy only when necessary. We now are diving into the day-to-day operations, which is exciting for me as it means we can finally start doing some important work. My ultimate goal is to create a fun and memorable culture for everyone. I always consider the purpose behind our decisions, and that purpose should be driven by our students. When making decisions, if it has a positive impact, then the answer is clear.



Kasey Huebner

Q. Your family now has a home at Lake Panorama. Are you enjoying the lake community?

A. We are officially settled into our new home and definitely enjoying the area. The peaceful surroundings, trees, animal life and the feeling of being in nature have been very relaxing. We have used the beach multiple times, played pickleball on a few occasions, and spent a lot of time on evening walks.

Q. What are some things that prompted you to apply for this position?

A. One of the main reasons for my interest in Panorama is the alignment between their core values and my personal ones. Currently, the stated values for Panorama Schools are "Integrity, Perseverance, Growth." The only one I would add is "Relationships." During my application process, we did a lot of research on this Panorama community. I have noticed a strong sense of pride, close relationships, and numerous opportunities for families and kids, which only confirmed our decision to pursue this opportunity.

Q. Have you established some goals for the 2023/2024 school year?

A. In August, the school board and administration had a work session to establish our priorities in the areas of academic excellence, district culture and district operations. We're making great efforts to ensure that our daily work is aligned with these priorities. Our focus on academic excellence goes beyond state assessment

scores. It also means preparing our students for life after Panorama by putting a focus on life development. We want to create a culture of servant leadership under the district culture priority, setting a standard of service and leading by example. District operations are a priority as we aim to use resources efficiently and effectively while maintaining fiscal responsibility. We want to provide our staff and students with the necessary resources for success. Having a clear direction and purpose is crucial as it guides us towards making improvements each day. I firmly believe that, without a vision or purpose, there is no room for growth.

Q. Panorama Schools has three cross country meets on the 2023 schedule using a new course that begins and ends on school property, with most of the course on Lake Panorama's south shore. What's your take on this new partnership between Panorama and the Lake Panorama Association?

A. This partnership has opened up a unique opportunity for our students and community. The addition of the cross-country course has been an incredible experience for our runners, and we are excited to host three meets with over 20 teams participating. Other districts have shown an excitement in having their student-athletes compete in this type of environment. The athletic unions both jumped at the idea of having the state-qualifying meet on this course. I am truly appreciative of the hard work put in by the staff at Panorama Schools and LPA, and I hope we continue to work together for the benefit of our community. We are stronger when we work together.

Q. Any closing thoughts?

A. I want to say my family and I are excited to be in the Panorama area. The values and dedication to academic excellence are truly exciting, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this community. I am looking forward to working with staff, students and community members to create a culture of growth and success. We have had a great start to this school year because of the administration and staff, and most importantly, our students. My door is always open, so I invite anyone to come in and have a conversation anytime. ■

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ASSOCIATION UPDATES AT GM COFFEE

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

About 40 LPA members attended the Sept. 22 GM Coffee to hear updates from John Rutledge, Lake Panorama Association (LPA) general manager. Rutledge started by providing some history on his various roles at Lake Panorama National Resort.

Rutledge was hired in 2007 as the LPA general manager, which also included him having a lead role with the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ). He became LPN director of operations in December 2018.

“Doing all three proved to be too much for one person, but transition during the pandemic wasn’t practical,” he said.

Rutledge said Royce Shaffer, who has been LPN operations manager for nearly five years, was appointed LPN director of operations Sept. 1.

“I remain involved from a financial standpoint, as LPN is one of LPA’s most substantial and important assets,” Rutledge said. “But I have stepped back entirely from day-to-day activities. This is a move that was recommended by me and Royce, and which was fully supported by the LPN board of managers and the LPA board of directors.”

Shaffer introduced himself, saying he had been with the LPN/LPA organization in various roles since 2003, with the exception of a year-and-a-half beginning in 2006 when he managed the Majestic Hills golf course in Denison.

Shaffer reported 2023 was busy for both the Lake Panorama National and Panorama West golf courses. Through August, LPN paid rounds of golf were up 26% over 2022, with paid golf rounds at Panorama West up 21% over last year.

“Fall turf maintenance has begun,” he said. “Aerification has been completed at both courses, with fall chemical sprays and fall fertilization next. Also, this time of year we struggle with raccoons and skunks digging for grubs. Grub control is sprayed with our summer fertilizer application. Unfortunately, this is not 100% effective. The turf team is looking into alternate grub control options for 2024.”

Shaffer talked about a membership survey underway to gather input on The Links restaurant operation. Information gathered from this survey, plus a second one designed specifically for golf outing coordinators, will be reviewed with the

LPN food and beverage task force, and shared with Nick and Lynn Kuhn, 2023 food and beverage tenants.

Shaffer closed his report by encouraging anyone not receiving the LPN Resort Weekly email to get signed up. This newsletter typically is sent each Monday and highlights upcoming LPN events and other information. To sign up, go to the LPN website, lakepanoramational.com, scroll down to the “Get the Latest News” section, and enter an email address.

Turning to RIZ, Rutledge said the 2023-24 fiscal year began July 1. Projected tax increment financing revenues for this fiscal year are \$2.94 million.

Expansion of the old CIPCO sediment basin, which has been renamed the 180th Trail Basin, continues. The project is expected to exceed \$4 million in total cost once completed. This basin will be used for dredging spoils once the current basin is full.

RIZ operated a pilot program for cover crop incentives in 2022, working with two neighboring landowners in the Lake Panorama watershed.

“We are expanding this effort with other local producers this fall,” Rutledge said. “Cover crops address erosion vulnerability and nutrient runoff during the period between fall harvest and spring planting and crop emergence.”

Rutledge said dredging is ongoing above the debris trap.

“We traditionally relocate below the debris trap after Labor Day, but will remain upstream this year as we are in a productive area,” he said.

RIZ continues to work on mid-term and long-term plans. “Replacement of the dredge soon will be a topic for the budget,” Rutledge said. “Although the physical equipment itself has a long lifespan, the technology does not.”

Rutledge said RIZ is planning to issue \$9.9 million in debt certificates this fall.

“The public notice will list \$14 million of authority, but the intent is to pursue \$9.9 million. This is contrary to the way we would run a business or our personal finances, but TIF (tax increment financing) requires indebtedness to ensure full use of funding,” he said. “Please know Lake Panorama RIZ’s financial health is very strong; debt issuance is simply how Iowa’s TIF works.”

The FY 2022-23 RIZ audit is complete.

“It was a clean audit with no audit comments,” Rutledge said. “We work very



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Coulter’s Panorama Marine has been purchased by Phil Watson Jr., with possession changing hands at the end of this year. On Sept. 26, the LPA board of directors approved a 2024-2028 lease between LPA and Watson for operation of the LPA-owned marina.

LPA STATEMENT ON TRANSITION OF PANORAMA MARINA OWNERSHIP

Lyn Coulter, owner of Coulter’s Panorama Marine, and Phil Watson Jr. have entered into a written agreement for Watson to purchase Coulter’s Panorama Marine. Watson is developing a boat sales, service and storage facility north of Lakeside Village, on the west side of Highway 4.

This was a voluntary sale that Coulter and Watson negotiated privately. LPA’s role is to consent to the new marina tenant. On Sept. 26, the LPA board of directors approved a 2024-2028 lease between LPA and Watson for operation of the LPA-owned ma-

rina.

LPA management is pleased to report Watson and Coulter are focused on ensuring a smooth transition for both the LPA membership and Coulter’s staff. Boat lines currently carried by Coulter’s will continue to be carried by Watson, and Coulter’s staff will have the opportunity to work for Watson’s organization.

The transition will occur in the off-season. Coulter’s will continue to provide service through the end of this year, including their normal winterization and storage services. ■

hard to ensure accuracy and transparency, and I want to compliment all of our team members for doing a great job.”

Rutledge said legislative issues remain a top priority.

“Property tax reform was one of the hot issues for 2023, and there is discussion the Iowa Legislature will revisit that with another round of property tax reforms,” he said. “TIF reform would impact RIZ; we’ve already been involved with key legislators and Gov. Reynold’s office to set a foundation for future discussions and input to protect RIZ.”

The LPA Water Safety committee met Sept. 19.

“We received requests to add more no-wake areas or to consider reducing some

speed limits from 10 mph to 5 mph. The concern is a two-part concern, about both speed and wake,” Rutledge said.

“Boats can go 10 mph or less and still create a measurable wake. After discussion, the committee recommended no changes to the 2024 buoy map. They believe expanding the no-wake zones would push more traffic into a tighter portion of the lake, creating larger safety concerns for the main channel,” he said. “This is a tough issue as our lake is limited in size. We recommend members be courteous about creating large wakes in coves.” (Note: At its Sept. 26 meeting, the LPA board approved the committee recommendation of no changes to the 2024 buoy map.)

Another topic discussed at the water safety committee was boats that cause larger wakes.

"Wakeboats and surfboats continue to generate a lot of discussion, with some members being strong advocates for these and some being strong advocates against," Rutledge said. "We will revisit our 2020 survey to determine if more education or a follow-up survey is needed to help balance these competing member concerns and interests."

Sta-Bilt completed 7.5 miles of seal coat on LPA roads this year.

"We're pleased with the results, although the price continues to ratchet upwards. This year the cost was about \$30,000 per mile," Rutledge said.

Rutledge shared a reminder about LPA's rules regarding home rentals.

"Members are able to rent their home once every four weeks. This can be for the entire four-week period or just a couple of days," he said. "The rules try to balance what is best for the neighborhood with the desire of members to rent their home for some occasional income."

The LPA deer hunting program was finalized in July, and remains much the same as the last several years. The only notable change is the south shore is off limits until Nov. 1 to allow for recreational and Panorama Schools cross country use of the property.

Rutledge said the LPA annual contract with the U.S. Geological Survey that renewed Oct. 1 cost \$28,970. The contract allows the LPA to receive information from river gauges to help staff understand incoming and outgoing flow, and to make adjustments to the dam based on that information.

"It also provides LPA with an independent and trusted recordkeeper," he said. "The information we gain from these river gauges is very important for us, but this is an example of how expensive some things are in our budget," he said.

Rutledge said work is underway on the

2024 LPA budget. He said the membership can expect a 5% dues increase and a potential ballot measure in the coming year about dues restructuring.

Other topics covered:

LPA tests annually for zebra mussel veligers, which are an early warning sign this invasive species could become established. No veligers were present in this year's testing.

A new policy is in place that LPA Security officers will not tow boats unless there is an immediate health emergency or a life-or-death situation. Those who need a boat towed should call Coulter Marine. Rates are Main Basin to Shady Beach, \$100; Shady Beach to Burchfield Cove, \$150; and Burchfield Cove to North Basin, \$200.

The planned Chimra water main replacement is complete. Restoration work will be done in the spring, once the backfill has settled.

Guthrie County Public Health inspects septic systems at Lake Panorama every four years. In the past, an \$80 invoice was sent to property owners the year of inspection. Now \$20 invoices will be sent annually, with inspections continuing every four years. ■



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DISC GOLF COURSE TAKING SHAPE ON SOUTH SHORE

Two more components of the Friends of Lake Panorama plans for low-impact recreational amenities on the south shore are benches and birdhouses.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Construction of a nine-hole disc golf course on Lake Panorama's south shore began in early October. The course is one part of a package of low-impact recreational amenities developed by Friends of Lake Panorama and approved by the LPA board of directors at its July 25 meeting.

John Worth, an LPA member who in 2019 volunteered to design a disc golf course at Lake Panorama, is working with LPA and Friends staff on this project. He designed the course to fit on land that is nestled between two sections of the Lake Panorama walking trails system.

"Due to the type of area the course is being built on, all pretty deep woods, this will be a bit of a non-typical course," Worth says. "First, all the holes are shorter than probably an average course. The

guideline is 200 to 400 feet, but the holes on this course run from 150 to 300 feet. This type of course is called a 'technical' course, which means distances aren't as long, and fairways are tighter, so your aim needs to be good."

Each hole will include a concrete tee pad and chained basket target. Participants will bring their own discs. A sign near the first tee will include a course map, rules and other details.

To help finance the disc golf course, tee box sponsorships are available for a one-time donation of \$1,000. Colored tee signs are 9 inches by 12 inches and will include the hole number, distance between the tee pad and basket, and a graphic of the fairway between those two points. Tee box sponsor signs will be 9 inches by 4 inches and mounted on the same metal posts as the tee signs.

Tee box sponsorships will go to the first nine businesses, families or individuals



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Work is underway to fence each side of a road into the south shore recreation area. The entrance is at the south end of Chimra road. Wooden fencing is used at the entrance, and also surrounds the parking area. There will be a walk-through gate in the parking lot; no private motorized vehicles will be allowed on the south shore beyond the parking lot. Once the fencing is complete, the metal gate now at the entrance will be removed. There will be a gate at the end of the fenced area to provide LPA maintenance access. There also will be a gate near the entrance to provide access by Lake Panorama ski team members.

who agree to make a \$1,000 donation by Dec. 31, 2023. Those interested in being a tee box sponsor can make arrangements by contacting Susan Thompson, 515-240-6536 or thomcomm@netins.net.

LAKE PANORAMA TRAIL SYSTEM

Construction on a fence that leads to a fenced parking lot was completed in early October. Wood was used at the entrance and surrounds the parking lot, with barbless wire used along the road to the parking lot. There is a walk-through gate to enter the recreation area. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the south shore beyond the parking lot. A gate at the west end of the road allows access by LPA staff.

As users enter the recreation area from the parking lot, there will be a single picnic table on a concrete slab, plus a small shelter with four corner posts and metal roof. A welcome sign will be at this location and include general rules, a list of south shore donors who give \$500 or more, and directional arrows to the disc golf course, which will be to the right,

and the beginning of the Lake Panorama trail system, which will be to the left.

A sign at the Lake Panorama trailhead will include specific information about the trail options and trail markers, plus a map. Visitors will be encouraged to snap a photo of the map to help them stay on the trail.

Those who do the full loop down to the shoreline and back up through the meadow area to return to the parking lot will have walked 2 miles. In addition, four places where the riprap contractor widened existing trails to get to the shoreline will be offered as trail options.

People who start at the trailhead and choose the first option will walk six-tenths of a mile. The other three options offer distances of 1.1 miles, 1.6 miles, and 2 miles. This final loop results in walking the same distance as the original loop, but the terrain and views provide a different experience.

Brown fiberglass trail markers will be installed at each "junction" of the trail system, along with arrows and distances



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This photo shows junior high cross country runners on Panorama School property, approaching the entrance to the Lake Panorama south shore. Spectators attending the Sept. 14 cross country meet were able to stand along the trail here to see runners take off and also return. The blue trail marker in the picture shows where returning runners turn to go down the hill and end at the school track in front of the bleachers.

back to the trailhead. It's hoped these trail markers can be installed yet this fall. The larger metal signs planned for the shelter and starting points for disc golf and the trails will be finalized over the winter.

PANORAMA CROSS COUNTRY TRAILS

The Panorama Schools cross country trails use some of the same sections as the Lake Panorama trail system, so blue fiberglass trail markers can be seen in some areas. The cross country trails begin and end on school property with all bus and spectator parking and bathroom facilities on school property. For the middle school, a distance of 2 miles has been mapped. For the high school, the trail is 3.1 miles.

On Sept. 14, Panorama Schools hosted its first cross country meet on the new trail with 23 schools and 650 runners involved. Greg Thompson is the Panorama Schools head cross country coach.

"We received many compliments on the scenery the course provides. Many runners appreciated having boats out on the lake and supporting them by honking their horns and ringing cowbells," Thompson says. "Very few cross country courses are near a body of water; those that are near water are usually a small pond or river. The lake shore also made it much cooler for the runners."

Thompson says the course had some rough spots and washouts from rain earlier in the summer on the parts that don't have much grass growing yet.

"The dry, hot weather took a toll on the grass and made the ground very hard," he says. "We feel we can improve those areas over the next year or so with some landscaping work and more moisture. There are going to be growing pains



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

High school boys participating in the Sept. 14 Panorama Schools cross country invitational can be seen running down a hill on the south shore near the Lake Panorama dam to continue along the lake's shoreline. The high school trail is 3.1 miles with about one mile of the trail along the shore.

when developing a new cross country course, but this was a very positive, initial meet."

Thompson says the combination of the trails for the runners and the Lake Panorama trails that go to the lake shore worked well together.

"I saw spectators on the shore by each of the side trails," he says. "I think as we work together to develop the trail systems, this will be a premiere hiking destination for LPA members, and teams will want to come compete in our meets."

BENCHES AND BIRDHOUSES

Two more components of the Friends of Lake Panorama plans for low-impact recreational amenities on the south shore are benches and birdhouses. Four backless benches will be placed along the Lake Panorama trail system. Two will be tucked into the timber along the shoreline section of the walking trail to provide lake views. Another two benches will be placed along the open sections of the trail system above the lake. These will provide views of the Lake Panorama dam and the native plants that cover 30 acres of land enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

Fifteen bluebird houses have been built and donated by Steve Brannan to be placed along trails on the south shore. Mark Dorhout, Panorama Schools science teacher, has agreed to help choose locations for the birdhouses and may get his middle school students involved in additional birdhouse placements.

HOW TO DONATE

The estimated cost of these recreational amenities — Lake Panorama trail system, disc golf course, fencing and parking, four benches, birdhouses, small picnic shelter, signage — is \$35,000. Over the past two years, Friends of Lake Panorama has received \$11,000 in private donations for projects on the south shore. Some funds also are available from the 2023 Beach Ball.

Additional donations for these south shore amenities are being sought. While donations of all sizes are appreciated, those who give \$500 or more by Dec. 31, 2023, will be recognized on the welcome sign on the south shore.

Tax-deductible donations to support recreational enhancements on the south shore can be made by check payable to Friends of Lake Panorama, and mailed to Friends of Lake Panorama, P.O. Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216. Donations also can be made through Venmo @Panorama-Friends, or by credit card on the Friends website at friendsoflakepanorama.org. ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

A portion of the Panorama Schools cross country trails for both junior high and high school runners is along a meadow area of native plants that cover 30 acres of land in the Conservation Reserve Program Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

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RECIPE

ENTERTAIN IN STYLE WITH BEEF AND BLUE CHEESE-STUFFED MUSHROOMS

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

Lake Panorama Times

With the holiday season quickly approaching, you may be searching for delicious hors d'oeuvres to make your guests feel right at home. I am sharing a wonderful recipe from Family Features that will help you beef up the menu with a tasty appetizer that's as easy to make as it is to enjoy. This recipe will pleasantly surprise even those who are not mushroom fans, as my husband will attest to.

Loaded with savory flavor and perfect for feeding a crowd, these beef and blue cheese-stuffed mushrooms from Beef Loving Texans offer a simple yet mouthwatering way to entertain in style. Just prepare button mushrooms by removing the stems, then fill the caps with a ground beef-based mixture of minced mushroom stems, blue cheese, breadcrumbs, green onions and steak seasoning for a party-worthy platter.

Visit BeefLovingTexans.com to find more recipes. ■

Jolene Goodman is the advertising director for Lake Panorama Times and vice president of Big Green Umbrella Media.



Jolene Goodman

BEEF AND BLUE CHEESE-STUFFED MUSHROOMS

Recipe courtesy of Beef Loving Texans

Total time: 50 minutes

Servings: 40

2 packages (8 ounces each) button mushrooms
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 pound ground beef
1/3 cup blue cheese
1/4 cup whole-wheat breadcrumbs
3 tablespoons green onions
1/2 teaspoon steak seasoning blend
chives (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Remove stems from mushrooms; reserve. Season mushroom caps with salt; set aside. Mince stems to yield 1/2 cup; discard remaining stems.

Combine ground beef, minced stems, blue



cheese, breadcrumbs, green onions and steak seasoning. Spoon beef mixture evenly into mushrooms.

Place stuffed mushrooms on rack in broiler pan. Bake 15-20 minutes. Sprinkle with chives, if desired. ■

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LAKE DOG

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | *Lake Panorama Times*



Name: Honey
Age: 5 years old
Breed: Labrador Retriever
Owners: Eric, Kelly, Isabelle, Evelyn and Avery Soult
 Honey has four kitty brothers that live in

Grimes. They don't come to the lake. Honey loves swimming and retrieving tennis balls. Honey wears a life jacket when she swims. Otherwise, she would swim until she sinks. Honey is a great protector; she keeps her family safe from the big scary deer. ■

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COVE CAT

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | *Lake Panorama Times*



Name: Aloeis (AKA Aloe)

Age: 2-3-years old

Available for adoption at: Panora Pets

Aloe is a 2- to 3-year-old that came to Panora Pets with several other kitties from a situation where the owner had far too many kitties and was not able to take proper care of them. All were thin, covered in fleas and had various upper respiratory and teeth issues. Some died almost immediately. Fortunately, Aloe was one of the healthiest and friendliest of the group.

Aloe adapted rather quickly to the shelter and definitely has some of the famous "tortitude" that goes along with her tortoiseshell coat. She's a nosy one and has to have her nose in everyone's business all the time. She recently earned the coveted spot in one of the front picture windows at Panora Pets to watch the happenings on Main Street. She is curious, playful and energetic but does not like other kitties. Aloe prefers human attention and interaction. ■

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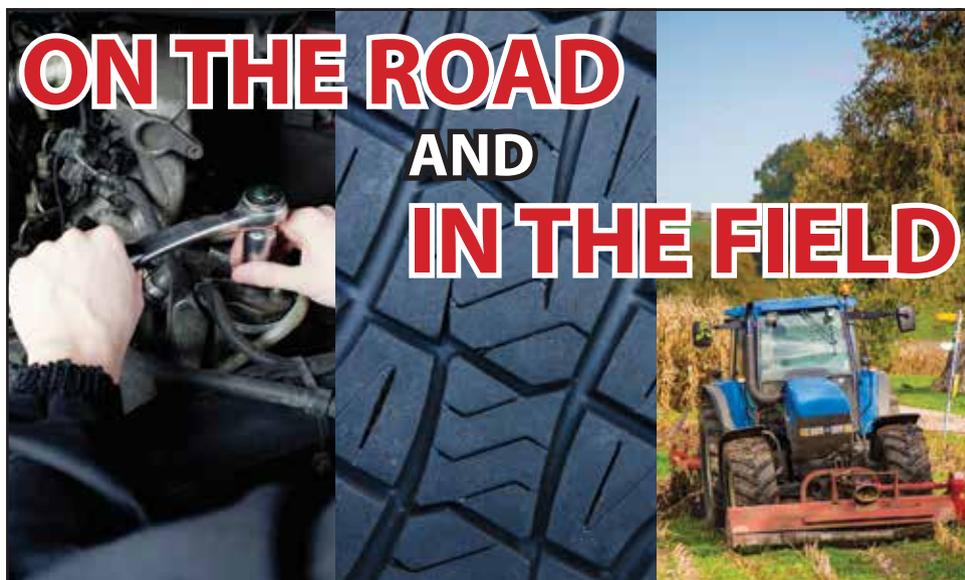
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Featuring local artist

ROGER ZIRKLE

Roger is retired and lives in rural Panora. He is self-taught and claims it is due to his childhood. As a young boy, his family was poor and didn't buy lots of toys. He learned to entertain himself making his own toys, carvings and drawings. At the age of 60, he started crafting as a hobby. He is known for his ducks, bears and owls.

You can find his amazing work for sale at craft shows and Art on State in Guthrie Center.

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COMMUNITY

TEN SQUARED GIVES 100%

Barry Monaghan shares details on the creation of the group and how it helps local nonprofit organizations.

BY RICH WICKS

For Lake Panorama Times

What is Ten Squared? The short answer is one hundred. The longer answer follows.

Ten Squared is the name of two groups in Guthrie County that have made local charitable giving simple and fun. Barry Monaghan serves as the head of the local men's Ten Squared group, and he agreed to share a little about the group and his involvement. Look for a similar story on the women's group in weeks ahead.

Monaghan, who works at Guthrie County State Bank, said, "Back in 2016, I had seen a report on a TV station in Des Moines that there was a group of 100-plus men that had been organized in Des Moines, and they had purchased football equipment for Des Moines North High School. It kind of intrigued me."

Monaghan wasn't sure he could find 100 or more to join in one town, so he expanded it to membership from throughout the county.

"I picked out 10 men in the county that I knew fairly well and asked them if they would each invite 10 men, and that's kind of how we got started," Monaghan said. "We had an informational meeting and looked at the format of how we wanted to do it. I have no idea where this concept began, but the following summer we were in the Cayman Islands, and there was a 100-plus men's group in the Cayman Islands."

Regarding the local group's boundaries, Monaghan said, "We made a determination that our geographical locale would be based on the school districts, rather than just on the borders of Guthrie County. For example, Panora has Linden as part of their school district, and that streams over into Dallas County."

The group initially discussed whether or not to allow women in the group, but the members chose not to.

"So later on," Monaghan said, "I did a radio interview shortly after we got started, and I kind of threw a challenge out to the women in Guthrie County, and that

came together. So now we have a men's group and a women's group."

The basic design of the meetings is that each member pitches in \$100 at each meeting, and members are welcome to

nominate a nonprofit in the area. The members who nominated the three finalists are allowed

up to five minutes to explain why their nominated organization should receive the funds. No audio-visual equipment or handouts are allowed. After three pitches have been made (one for each of the three nominated finalists, which are randomly drawn from among all causes nominated by members for that particular meeting), the members vote on which cause they prefer. The cause that gets the most votes receives all of the money raised via member contributions.

"The whole idea is for people within the organization to nominate nonprofits, charities, whatever. It can't be anything national," Monaghan said. "The money all has to be spent in Guthrie County. It can't be political."

The Guthrie County Ten Squared Men's group holds three meetings per year. Monaghan said the meetings are usually in or around April, July and November. He also stressed that there is no over-head, so 100% of the dues goes to the winning cause.

The group initially was formed with a goal of 100 members, but Monaghan said, "I just try to constantly encourage people to bring a friend, because the only qualification is that you pay \$100 each time. And you don't have to live in Guthrie County. We have several people who don't, but they have ties to Guthrie County."

The local group has grown to roughly 200 members, which means the winning cause now receives nearly \$20,000. Monaghan explained that the group strives to never split the gift among multiple recipients, so that the check will make a truly significant impact.

Regarding the layout of an average meeting, Monaghan said he or a member provide a keg of beer, and members spend the first 30 minutes socializing. Immediately after that, the group hears a brief (five minutes or less) appeal from whoever nominated each of the three cause finalists, followed by a brief opportunity for members to ask questions



Barry Monaghan

about each cause. Then, votes are cast and counted.

Because Monaghan is a banker, he says he is in an ideal position to handle the financial dealing of the Ten Squared group. He said some members pay their \$100 dues via check, some by cash, and some through Venmo or other electronic means. He uses an oversized novelty "check" for publicity purposes and sends

the funds to the recipient organization as they are received from members.

Monaghan said he likes the simplicity of Ten Squared.

"It's just a group of men coming together to make significant donations to help local charitable groups, without red tape or cumbersome rules."

Based on the growth of the group, others feel the same. ■

BUSINESS

PANORA BUSINESSES TO COMPETE IN COIN WAR TO RAISE MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

October is breast cancer awareness month, and Restore Wellness Studio is challenging Panora Chamber businesses to a Coin War. Each participating business is to decorate a basket, a box or a piggy bank and set it out for the public to drop their extra change to participate in the coin war. Friday, Nov. 3 will be the of-

ficial last day of the coin war, and boxes will be collected on this day. Each business can promote this challenge with their customers/clients and incentivize them however they would like. If you own or manage a business and plan to participate, email restorewellnessstudioia@gmail.com. ■



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PANORA WOMAN SHARES HER PASSION FOR HORSES BY TEACHING OTHERS

Dana Stark built a 60-foot by 81-foot barn that includes seven horse stalls and a large indoor riding arena and tack room.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

Dana Stark's mother jokes she was born on the back of a horse.

"I grew up in a small town in northwest Indiana," Stark says. "She rode throughout her pregnancy and has owned horses most of her life. I remember getting involved with horses when I was about 5 years old. I could not wait until I was old enough to be in the 4-H horse and pony club."

Stark started her first horse "under saddle" at the age of 12, which means she trained the horse to be ridden and was the first person to ride that horse. Soon she was helping other youth as an experienced youth herself.

Dana's husband, Dan Stark, grew up in Panora. The pair met online when they were both 16 years old and had a long-distance relationship for four years.

"Dan never really liked horses, but they grew on him when he realized I was not going to give them up," Stark says. "We were high school sweethearts, and he was more than happy to help me with them and learn."

Dana moved to Iowa in 2007, and the couple married in 2008. They purchased a farmhouse acreage northeast of Panora, and Stark's Performance Horses LLC was born.

"In the spring of 2009, I started training horses and giving lessons. I gave lessons both from our farm and the barn I was working out of until fall of 2015," she says. "Then I took a break to start our family. While we were not actively pursuing our business for a few years, our original youth, who now are adults, were still going to shows, and we were helping out any way we could."

The Starks now have two girls, who Dana describes as "horse crazy." Rylee is 5 years old, and Emilee is 2.

"Now that my girls are getting bigger, I knew it was time to get back to my passion. Helping youth learn about horses is just what I'm supposed to do," Dana says.

"I put an interest post on the local Panora mom's page. With the response I received, I knew we needed to get our barn up and running."

There already was an outdoor riding arena from earlier years. In March 2023, that became a staging area for all the materials needed to build a 60-foot by 81-foot barn. The building includes seven horse stalls and a large indoor riding arena. A 29-foot by 16-foot feed and tack room is attached to the front. Saddles of various sizes to accommodate all ages hang on one wall. Saddle pads, bridles, halters and other equipment fill other walls.

"This project isn't yet finished, but we are up and running and making leaps forward each week," Stark says. "The feed and tack room eventually will be climate controlled, and some work still is needed on some of the stalls. We currently board three horses, but once the stalls are finished, we hope to board five total. And the outdoor arena now is available again."

Dan Stark works for a company called Vencomatic, where he's a project manager for cage-free poultry systems. In his free time, he runs a mechanic business, which Dana says is his true passion.

Each weekday, Dana drives to Des Moines where she works at the Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy on Ingersoll from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. She offers riding lessons Monday through Thursday, usually from 4-6 p.m. Most are group lessons and cost \$35 each. Private lessons also are available at \$45.

Each month, it takes 20 lessons to pay for the grain for the six lesson horses, and 16 lessons to pay for the needed hay.

"It's important for my clients to know what a horse costs each month," Stark says. "Horses are a labor of love — a love I wouldn't trade for the world but nonetheless still a labor of love. Horses are just as much of a sport as baseball, basketball and soccer, but we don't get to put down our bat or ball. We continually have to care for our horses."

Stark has six horses and one miniature



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Dana Stark is shown with her daughters, Rylee, age 5, and Emilee, age 2. T.J. is one of the six horses Stark uses for riding lessons. Both Western and English lessons are available.

horse with all six full-sized horses used for lessons.

"I describe our lesson program as a 'how-to.' You will learn how to catch a horse, how to lead a horse, how to groom a horse, how to saddle a horse, how to feed a horse and more," she says. "My end goal is that clients learn how to ride and properly take care of a horse in case they decide horse ownership is for them."

Stark encourages those who take lessons from her to participate in horse shows.

"What makes us unique is even if you don't own a horse, we allow weekly lesson kids to take our horses to local shows and gain show experience," she says. "I have a few families who own their own horses and take them to shows, but mostly my lesson families are using our horses."

Indoor horse shows are held February through April with outdoor shows beginning in May and continuing into early fall. Dana and her students, with help from Dan, participate in at least two shows each month.

"Showing is how you show off what you

are learning," she says. "I don't have any rules where you have to show if you take lessons, but I encourage it. Horseback riding is similar to other sports. In basketball you practice, then have a game. You practice horseback riding, then have a show. Coaching for shows is my passion."

This year, the age range for lessons was 3 to 65.

"Most of my regular weekly kids are 6 to 12 years old," Stark says. "There has been a huge spike in the equine industry, and I'm extremely thankful I get to not only be a part of it but contribute in our community to the kids who want to learn to ride."

Sometimes Stark has a horse available for lease.

"Leasing is a great next step when you think you are ready for horse ownership," she says. "You get the ownership feel without all the responsibilities. Leasing a horse is a set fee and includes one lesson per week, all tack equipment, and care for the horse."

Leased horses can be ridden whenever the client wants. If the horse is being



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Emilee Stark, age 2, and Rylee Stark, age 5, are shown riding family horses in the outdoor arena.

leased for a young person, either a parent needs to be present or contact made with Stark to make sure she will be home.

The new barn makes it possible for Stark to offer riding lessons nearly year-round. Next spring, she plans to offer horse parties and will involve her miniature horse in the fun.

"It takes a special horse to be a lesson horse," Stark says. "Our horses enjoy being ridden and come running for lessons when they are called."

Stark says horses are good for the soul. "I've had many parents tell me how much their kids have changed for the better since starting lessons. They are learning life lessons. One of my favorite things is watching the parents learn right alongside their kids. Often the parents don't know much more than the kids, but they watch and learn. They are always lending



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

A climate-controlled feed and tack room is attached to the front of the new barn. Saddles of various sizes hang on one wall.

a hand and helping me reinforce our lessons."

To learn more, visit Stark's Performance Horses LLC on Facebook, or call/text Dana Stark at 219-613-0651. ■



SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Here Dana Stark is holding a showmanship clinic, teaching students how to present their horses to a judge and being scored on how well they handle their horses.



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TRISH HART'S NATURE PHOTO OF THE MONTH

SUPER BLUE MOON SHOWS ITS FACE AT LAKE PANORAMA

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

Photographer Trish Hart lives full-time at Lake Panorama with her husband, Scott. When a super blue moon rose in the eastern sky Aug. 30, just after sunset in the western sky, Hart was ready with her camera.

A blue moon is the term used when there is a second full moon in a single month. The moon's cycle is 29.5 days, shorter than the average length of a calendar month. Eventually that gap results in a full moon happening at the beginning of a month, with enough days left for a second full moon later in the month.

The Aug. 30 blue moon also was called a "super moon." Because the moon's orbit is oval-shaped, there are times when it is closer to Earth than others. When the moon is at or near its closest point to Earth at the same time it is full, it appears especially large and bright in the sky; thus, the name super moon.

If you missed the Aug. 30 super blue moon, mark your calendar for 14 years into the future. The next super blue moons will occur in a pair, in January and March 2037.

Trish Hart offers custom prints of her photos on canvas, paper, metal and glass. Learn more by visiting Nature's Canvas Photography on Facebook. ■



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LPA BOARD MINUTES

LAKE PANORAMA ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUG. 29, 2023

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met Aug. 29, 2023, at 5 p.m. at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members in attendance were Emily Donovan, David Finneseth, Dennis Flanery, Mark Jorgensen, Rich Schumacher, Sue Thompson and Dirk Westercamp.

LPA Staff in attendance: Danna Krambeer, Lane Rumelhart and John Rutledge.

Visitors in attendance: Nathan Rolfes and Luke Wanninger, LPA Members

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

Agenda Item 1 - Approval of the Agenda

Thompson moved to approve the

agenda. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed by the Board of Directors regarding agenda items.

Agenda Item 2 - Open Forum

Luke Wanninger requested the board consider allowing the un-combination of two lots, 3621 and 3622, combined June 13, 2023.

Nathan Rolfes requested the board to approve easement of lot 1453 - item 5a below.

Agenda Item 3 - Consent Agenda

Finneseth moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Consent agenda to include:

- a) LPA General Manager's Report
- b) Approval of minutes from 07.25.2023 LPA Board Meeting

c) Acceptance of the 07.31.2023 LPA LPN Consolidated Financial Statement

d) Set date for next board meeting 09.26.2023

e) Accept minutes from 07.24.2023 LPN LLC Board of Managers Meeting

f) Accept minutes from 08.15.2023 Building Codes Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 4a - Report from Treasurer

Flanery reported he met with Krambeer and reviewed financial items. There are no concerns to report.

Agenda Item 4b - Roof Pitch Variance, Lot 3134

Roof pitch request from Ken and Lori Reed for 3/12 roof pitch on new home construction on

lot 3134, 4204 Panorama Drive. The Building Codes Committee reviewed the request and recommended it be accepted, per the plans provided.

Finneseth moved to approve variance for 3/12 roof pitch for new home construction on lot 3134, 4204 Panorama Drive, per the plans submitted for construction. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4c - Sale of LPA lots 47 and 48

LPA received an offer from Toby and Stephanie Geiger for purchase of lots 47 and 48, Land Sales Committee and buyer have agreed on price of \$75,000.

Flanery moved to accept the offer for lots 47 and 48 for sale price of \$75,000 from Toby and Stephanie Geiger, lots to be combined at

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closing. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4d - Approval of LPA counteroffer on lot 3018

LPA received an offer for purchase of lot 3018. The offer was in the amount of \$25,000, no contingencies. LSC reviewed the offer and agreed on a counteroffer of \$50,000, the lot has easy access, is flat, and buildable. The buyer has rejected the counter price.

Westercamp moved to approve the counteroffer for lot 3018 for the sale price of \$50,000. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5a - Lot 1453 - Request by Nathan Rolfes for easement on adjacent LPA owned property.

Nathan Rolfes requested the previously rejected septic easement be reconsidered.

Flanery moved to deny the request for septic easement for lot 1453 on LPA owned golf course surrounding land. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 6a - Strategic Planning - Ongoing development and review of LPA's strategic plan

Board members presented a recap on the topics and the meetings held during the last month on the various planning topics.

Agenda Item 7 - Closed Session

The board entered closed session at 5:38 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Board exited closed session at 6:34 p.m.

Schumacher moved to approve subsidiary LPN, LLC, to enter into real estate contracts and financing. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Schumacher moved to deny Wanninger's request to uncombine lots 3621 and 3622. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Flanery moved to appoint Royce Shaffer as interim Director of Operations of LPN, LLC, effective Sept. 1, 2023. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Adjourn - With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. ■

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- 9 Spell Bar - Self Love Kit
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- 23 Closed. Happy Thanksgiving!
- 24 Black Friday
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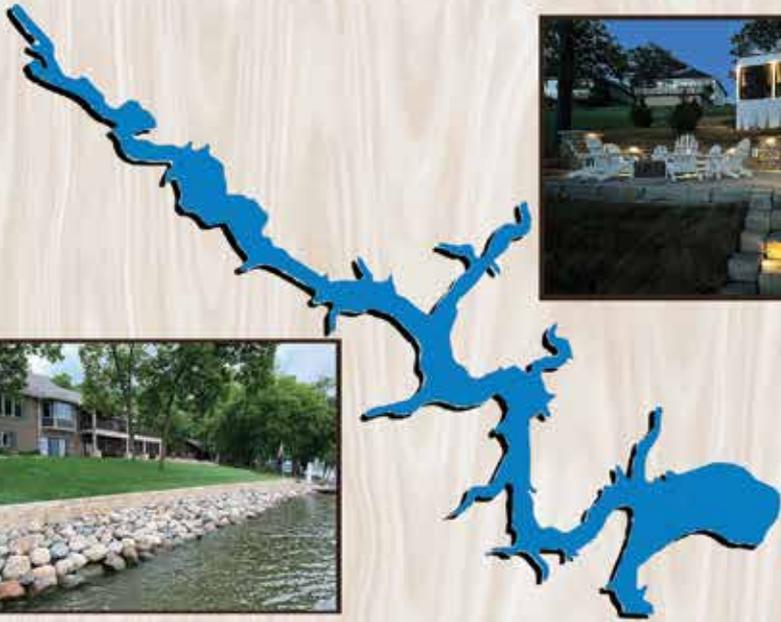
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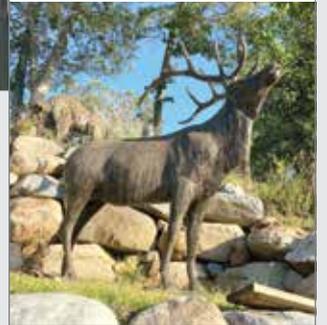


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WHERE IS IT?



LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



The image from last month's "Where Is It?" is an elk statue seen on the lakeside property of Brian and Becky Peppmeier in Jones Cove. Tom Schaefer was the first person with the correct answer. Have a guess on where this month's image is located? Have a photo to submit for future issues? Send to shane@dmcityview.com. ■

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HOCHREITER ENJOYS HER LIFELONG LOVE OF MUSCLE CARS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

Janis Hochreiter is a self-described gearhead.

“Growing up, I was a tomboy. Most of my friends were boys. I got interested in cars and have been a car freak ever since high school,” she says. “My first car was a 1969 Pontiac GTO that my boyfriend and I rebuilt in his uncle’s body shop.”

The Pontiac GTO was one of the first to earn the “muscle car” term coined in the mid-1960s to describe American-made two-door sports coupes with powerful engines. Hochreiter’s GTO was the first in a string of muscle cars she has owned.

Janis and Dale Hochreiter have lived at Lake Panorama since 1993. She works from home as a risk-control specialist for an insurance company with a territory that covers much of southwest Iowa. He owns and operates Cyclone Pest Management.

Janis grew up in the Des Moines area. After high school graduation, she attended Central Missouri State University, earning a degree in industrial safety. While she was in college, her Pontiac GTO was taking up space in a garage at her parents’ house.

“I was feeling guilty about that and finally decided to sell it,” Hochreiter says.

“But not long after I graduated, I found a 1972 Corvette I loved and bought it. Then I had a friend who had a 1969 Corvette he needed to sell. My dad really liked that I was interested in cars. So, I talked to him, and, with his help, I purchased my friend’s 1969 Corvette. Later I sold the 1972 Corvette and kept the 1969.”

When the Hochreiters moved to Lake Panorama, that 1969 Corvette came with them.

“After a while, I started to think I should grow up and find something nice to drive,” Hochreiter says. “I sold the Corvette and bought a 2001 BMW Z-3 convertible, which I had for 17 years.”

Hochreiter says after so many years as the owner of that BMW, it was difficult to sell.

“But I wasn’t driving it much, and the time seemed right. I sold it to a man in Kansas City, who planned to give it to his father as a gift,” she says.

It didn’t take long before Hochreiter was thinking about her next car.

“There was that empty spot in the garage,” she says. “During my adult life, I’d never been without a toy, a car I could just jump into and take a cruise.”

A year ago, Hochreiter saw an online post by Nostalgic Enterprises in West Des Moines. It was a 1969 Corvette, bright yellow with black trim and details.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Janis Hochreiter sits in her 1969 Corvette. The exterior of the car was in great shape when she purchased it in October 2022, but the interior needed work. She redid the console area, all the gauges, fiber optics, and gave it an interior facelift.

“The post had gone up just 30 minutes earlier,” she says. “I called right away and asked if I could see the car. I was the first to respond, and I bought it that day.”

That 1969 Corvette now lives in a climate-controlled garage attached to the Hochreiter home. When in the garage, it’s protected by a custom-made cover.

“The body was just as it is now; it was in great shape,” Hochreiter says. “But the interior was bad. My brother also has a 1969 Corvette, and he helped me with the interior. We redid the console area, all the gauges, fiber optics, and basically gave it an interior facelift.”

Other aesthetic updates have been new visors, mirrors and chrome. Practical updates include a new Centerforce dual friction clutch, new Hays flywheel, PerTronix ignition, new vacuum lines and rear shocks.

“I’m not trying to make money on this car,” Hochreiter says. “I just want to be able to drive it without worrying about it breaking down.”

Hochreiter lists some features of her 1969 Corvette that she says other “gearheads” will understand. The car is numbered 1302, which means it was the

1,302nd one of these cars to come off the assembly line. More important, the numbers match key components of the car, including the block, heads, intake, transmission and differential.

“You don’t always find that,” she says. “Also, this car isn’t a base model, but rather an L-46. That means it has the 350 motor with the 350 horsepower. I also like the special options it came with, including power steering, electric windows, air conditioning and a manual Hurst shifter.”

Hochreiter chose YLJACIT (yellow jacket) for her car’s vanity license plate. She also had special license plates for some of her earlier cars. For her first car, the 1969 Pontiac GTO, the plates were LIL GTO, inspired by the Beach Boys song of the same name. Her first 1969 Corvette sported plates with this — CNTBWRG — which stood for Can’t Be Wrong. She later moved those plates to the BMW she owned for 17 years.

Janis enjoys taking the Corvette to car meets and shows, and Dale usually goes along.

“He likes cars, but he doesn’t love them like me,” she says. “At shows, car own-



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Janis Hochreiter stands beside her 1969 Corvette, parked in the driveway of the Lake Panorama home she shares with her husband Dale and their three dogs. She enjoys taking the Corvette to car shows and meets, where she usually wears her “I’m Not Old, I’m Classic” T-shirt.

ers often sit nearby in a couple of folding chairs. When people come by and start to ask questions or make comments about my car, they assume he's the primary owner. He just points at me and says I'm the one they need to talk to; he doesn't talk cars."

When asked if Dale gets to drive the Corvette, Janis smiles.

"No one has ever driven it but me," she says. "I'm territorial with my toys. I probably would let him if he asked. But he usually does most of the driving for us. I think when it comes to this, he enjoys being a passenger." ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Janis Hochreiter chose YLJACIT (yellow jacket) for her car's vanity license plate. She has a stuffed yellow jacket wasp that sits on the back of the Corvette at car shows.

"It's been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk."



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