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Lake Panorama TIMES

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PAGE 16

GCH FOUNDATION RAISES
\$22,000 FOR NURSING
PROGRAMS

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BEACH BALL EVENT ON
JUNE 16 FILLING UP QUICKLY

PAGE 10

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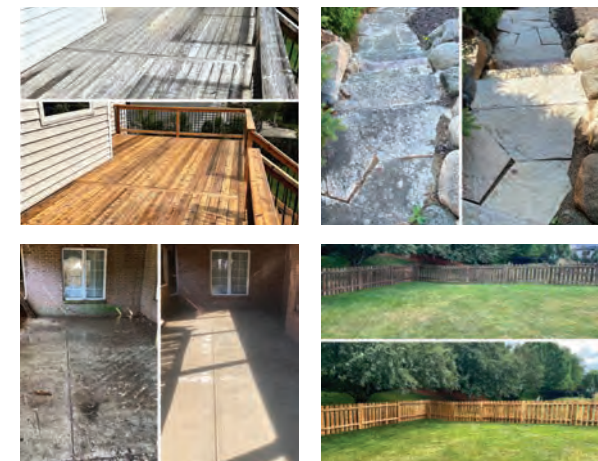
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ON THE LAKE

A NEW LOOK FOR YOUR LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Since you have made it to page 5, you have hopefully noticed a new look to your Lake Panorama Times. We decided to freshen up the design with a magazine style and convert to a tabloid format rather than the traditional newspaper broadsheet. We hope you find this easier to read and will refer back to it often throughout the month.

Those of you who have a home in the Des Moines suburbs are likely familiar with our Iowa Living magazines. My original intent when I bought the Lake Panorama Times a few years ago was to convert it to Lake Panorama Living magazine, much like the other 14 community magazines we publish. And although that may sound reasonably simple, it is more complicated than one might think — and more expensive to produce. The business models we created for each of our new publications have been centered around creating affordable and effective advertising solutions for local businesses, and we didn't want to stray from that. So we decided to be patient (which isn't easy for me) and proceed as normal with what had been done in the past by the prior owner.

And, for the most part, that is what we did. We added additional content and distribution, but we stuck with the same look and the broadsheet format.

Then, last July, I bought the Guthrie County Times Vedette, a traditional paid subscription weekly newspaper that some of you also subscribe to (thank you). The Times Vedette is also in a full broadsheet format, and our hopes were to package these publications together for easy advertising options and some shared editorial purposes. The Times Vedette is the only paid subscription newspaper we publish, as all our other publications are available for free. That packaging sounded logical, but it has not been effective for a number of reasons, so we are now working on new ideas that will incorporate much of what we have learned and had success with in the last two decades. It all starts with the redesign of the Lake Panorama Times, and I am



Shane Goodman

pleased to present our first issue. More to come soon.

Change is rarely easy, and this one involved many adaptations to make it happen. I want to thank Susan Thompson (who writes the bulk of the content), Michael Woody, Cheryl Temple and Trish Hart for their ongoing editorial contributions to this publication and Beckham Miller for designing it so nicely. I also want to express my appreciation to Kerry Jacobson and Jolene Goodman for working with area businesses and showing them how our readers can become their customers, and to Jayde Vogeler for designing the wonderful ads. As always, my many thanks go to our postal carriers who bring this to your homes and to Mike Chiston for delivering it to area businesses. And many other thanks go to all those who submit editorial items, ideas or contribute in other ways to make this all possible. But, most of all, I thank all of you for reading this publication and making it part of your lives.

As always, I appreciate your feedback, so shoot me a note and let me know what you think as we continue to work to provide news and information that is rel-



evant to you and provide advertising that will encourage you to buy your products and services locally.

Have a great May, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
Editor and Publisher
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HOSPITAL FOUNDATION RAISES \$22,000 FOR NURSING PROGRAMS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

An event hosted by the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation April 14 raised more than \$22,000. The Handbags & Bingo fundraiser at Lake Panorama National Resort was attended by nearly 240 women.

Dennis Flanery, foundation director, says he got the idea from a former co-worker who had heard about a fundraising event hosted by the City of Clive.

"Clive has been doing something similar for scholarships for their area high schools," Flanery says. "I thought this might work as a fundraiser for us. Clive officials were gracious and sent me information on the event."

Flanery put together a committee to help him plan the event, including foundation board members Maggie Armstrong and Mary Jane Carothers, and Guthrie County Hospital staff members Heather Martens and Emily Irwin.

"When we first started planning for the event, I was hoping for 120 women and thought that would be a great number," Flanery says. "We advertised by word of mouth and flyers for a few months. Once registration opened, we sold out in about 10 days. We were overwhelmed by the support and plan to make this an annual event."

A total of 22 handbag packages were donated or sponsored, each with a minimum value of \$150. Each bingo game winner received additional raffle tickets and a gift certificate from a local business, plus there were other ways to win raffle tickets. The women put their raffle tickets into boxes that corresponded with handbags they wanted to win. Tickets then were drawn to see who would take home each of the handbag packages.

"I knew nothing about handbag types or brands before planning this event," Flanery says. "I put together a team of handbag shoppers of all ages to ensure we had a nice selection. We had several from Kate Spade, Coach and Michael Kors. I also had one each from Saks Fifth Avenue, Fossil, Tory Burch, Dooney & Burke and Harley Davidson. In addition, local providers put together packages from Tribe, Pearls & Lace and Molly's."

Tickets cost \$45 per person or \$350 for



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Groups of women attending the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation fundraiser April 14 purchased tables for \$350 and were encouraged to decorate if interested. This group's theme was "Old Hags 'n' Old Bags." Pictured left to right, Hannah Ketcham, Nancy Loeck, Maureen Lubeck, JoAnn Johnson, Brenda Dinkla, Kelly Faga, Rose Grantham and Brenda Duree.

a table. A bingo card, meal and five raffle tickets were included with the registration fee. An additional bingo card and five more raffle tickets could be purchased for \$20. Money also was raised through the sale of GCH Foundation drink glasses, a dessert auction, two side games, a "bribe the bingo caller" auction and a mulligan auction.

The more than \$22,000 raised will benefit the Guthrie County Hospital nursing department and nursing programs at the hospital and area clinics.

"Nurses are the backbone of health-care; they make up the largest single profession within the industry and are a key trusted advocate between the patient and doctor," Flanery says. "There is a national shortage of nurses, and that trend looks to continue for some time. The GCH Foundation wants to support the Guthrie County Hospital and Clinics with attracting, retaining and supporting our quality nursing staff. We hope to build an endow-



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Tricia Steffen was a bingo game winner at the April 14 Bingo & Handbags event. Game winners received additional raffle tickets and a gift certificate from a local business.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Kirby Klinge, a member of the GCH Foundation board, collects money from women preparing to play in the heads/tails game.

ment that will assist the hospital for years to come.”

Two tables of nurses attended the event at no cost. These Daisy Award winners and Top 100 Iowa Nurse award winners were recognized by Flanery during the

program.

Flanery says he “caught some grief” because the event was advertised as a women-only event. Besides him, there were three other men in attendance. Mike Underwood, the Guthrie County Hospital




Dennis Flanery, GCH Foundation director, talks about how the funds raised will be used to support the nursing department. Lined up on the table near him are some of the 22 handbag packages donated for the event.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Nearly every woman in attendance paid \$5 to participate in the heads/tails game. Participants started by standing and choosing to put their hands on either their head or their “tail.” A coin was flipped and those who weren’t in the position that matched the coin sat down.



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of 529 plans may roll over up to \$35,000 during their lifetime to a Roth IRA. The rollovers will be subject to annual contribution limits and the 529 plan must have been open for more than 15 years.

The simple fact is the sooner you plan, the better. If you have not begun preparing, consider starting now. May 29th is 529 College Savings Day, a day to raise awareness about the value of planning and saving for higher education expenses with 529 plans.

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Linda Wendl, in the center, shows off her winning bingo card. Bingo winners received additional raffle tickets and a gift certificate from a local business.

Trustees Chair, was the evening's bingo caller. Steve Smith, GCH Foundation Chair, helped with registration and other tasks throughout the evening, as did Kirby Klinge, who is a foundation board member.

Key corporate sponsors were Peoples Bank, Guthrie County State Bank, Farmers State Bank, Iowa Trust & Savings, Panora Fiber and Rolling Hills Bank & Trust. Additional sponsors helped support the Bingo games, two other side games, and desserts. ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Shown are three of the 22 handbag packages that were raffled off at the Bingo & Handbags event April 14.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

These 13 women were still standing as the heads/tails game reduced the number of participants. Each received additional raffle tickets for reaching this point in the game.

EVENTS

EVENT JUNE 4 TO PROMOTE PANORAMA WEST TRAIL

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

A special event to introduce more users to the Panorama West Nature Trail is planned for Sunday, June 4. Friends of Lake Panorama encourages LPA members and guests to “take a hike” on the trail during that day. Bottled water, coffee and cookies will be available in the Panorama West golf course clubhouse 1-3 p.m. Trail visitors are invited to stop in during those hours before or after their hike.

A total of \$5,000 from the 2021 Beach Ball was committed by the Friends of Lake Panorama board of directors to the Panorama West Nature Trail, plus some private donations were received. A volunteer task force identified portions of an existing trail being used by a limited number of people and the Panorama school’s cross-country track teams to create this designated nature trail.

In late October 2022, seven posts with directional signage and a trailhead sign were installed, plus two benches. Parking is in a cul-de-sac at the end of Nicholl Drive, which intersects with Panorama Road just south of the Panorama West clubhouse. Signs pointing to the trail were installed on the same post as



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Signs pointing to the Panorama West Nature Trail are located on Panorama Road on the same post as the Nicholl Drive signs.

the Nicholl Drive street sign.

The trailhead sign at the end of Nicholl Drive features a drawing of the trail. Users are encouraged to take a photo of the drawing to help guide them on the trail. Users also are encouraged to begin their hike at this location, rather than attempting to join the trail from the north, because no trail markers have been placed at previous access points.

At the three-quarters mile mark, there is an optional three-quarters of a mile loop. Those who use the official trail, plus the optional loop, will complete 2.25 miles. The trail winds through grassy open areas and timber and does not cross any portion of the golf course or roadways. For safety reasons, and in compliance with current LPA rules, users of the trail may include hikers, runners, cross-country skiers and dogwalkers, but no motorized vehicles.

By this fall, the Panorama Community Schools cross country team will be practicing and competing on a new trail on Lake Panorama’s south shore. The cross country trail will begin on school property, continue onto the south shore for much of the course, and loop back to end on school property. This will be part of a larger trail system that is in the works for the south shore. ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This is where users of the Panorama West Nature Trail start. Parking for several cars is available here in a graveled cul-de-sac.

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JUNE 16 BEACH BALL FUNDRAISER FILLING UP

All seating will be in the LPN banquet room.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The Friends of Lake Panorama's sixth Beach Ball fundraiser is Friday, June 16 at the Lake Panorama National event center. Twenty tables of eight now are filled with another five pending. Attendance will be capped at 240 people, so those interested are encouraged to finalize their plans by June 1.

All seating will be in the LPN banquet room, with tables tastefully decorated by volunteers using a common nautical theme. Registration will be at 4:30-5:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner served beginning at 6 p.m. The menu includes pork loin, chicken, Church Lady potatoes, garden salad, fresh mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, and peach cobbler with fresh whipped cream. Beverage service offering coffee, tea and water is included with the meal. There will be a cash bar.

There are several options for those interested in attending the event. Members of the Friends Beach Club provide additional financial support to Friends of Lake Panorama beyond the cost of the meal. Prices for Beach Club memberships are:

Friends Beach Club - Premier: \$700 — includes table sponsorship, eight dinner tick-

ets, name in the 2023 Beach Ball program; Friends Beach Club - Couple: \$250 — includes two dinner tickets, name in the 2023 Beach Ball program; and Friends Beach Club - Sponsor: \$150 — includes table sponsorship, name in the 2023 Beach Ball program.

There will be a limited number of individual meal tickets available for \$50 each. The 2023 Beach Ball will include a 50/50 raffle and both live and silent auctions.

A few items already committed for the live auction are a set of four passenger car tires for any vehicle, up to a \$1,400 value, donated by Scott Politte, president of Stivers Ford Lincoln of Waukee; a Cyclone football package for the Sept. 23 ISU vs. Oklahoma State game, which includes four tickets in the ISU Athletic Director Suite with Jamie Pollard, food and soft drinks during the game, and a parking pass; custom made pendant necklace donated by Ames Silver-smithing; football and basketball signed by ISU coaches and donated by Jay and Sue Merryman; and a six-course gourmet meal for six with wine pairings, prepared and donated by Bill and Karen Fitzgerald.

The silent auction will feature several gift baskets filled with local products and donated by local businesses; gift cards; three bottles of InGeniOz Vodka donated by Hans Van Leeuwen; set of custom WeatherTech floor mats, any make and model, donated by Stivers Ford Lincoln of Waukee; and two bluebird houses, one for Iowa State University fans and one for University of Iowa fans,



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

These bluebird houses were handcrafted and donated by Steve Brannan for the Beach Ball silent auction. There may be a competition involved to see which type of fan is the most loyal — Iowa or Iowa State?

handcrafted and donated by Steve Brannan.

Funds raised at this year's Beach Ball will support enhancements to a trail system on Lake Panorama's south shore. Funds also may be used for additional low-impact recreational amenities on the south shore, which are under discussion between Friends of Lake Panorama and the LPA board of directors.

For those who can't attend the Beach Ball, yet want to support recreational enhancements on the south shore, tax-deductible donations can be made by check payable to Friends of Lake Panorama, and mailed to Friends of Lake Panorama,



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This one-of-a-kind pendant was donated for the Beach Ball live auction by the Youngberg family, who own Ames Silversmithing and have a home on Horseshoe Cove. It was designed and created in 14K yellow gold, and centers on a stone called Regency Rose plume agate. The piece is accented with one round brilliant cut diamond and is finished with an 18-inch 14K yellow gold wheat chain.

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.

Additional items for both the live and silent auction are needed. As of May 1, reservations were at about two-thirds capacity, leaving room for perhaps 80 additional participants. Those interested in becoming a Friends Beach Club member, purchasing dinner tickets, or donating items for the live and silent auctions can contact Susan Thompson, thomcomm@netins.net, 515-240-6536. ■

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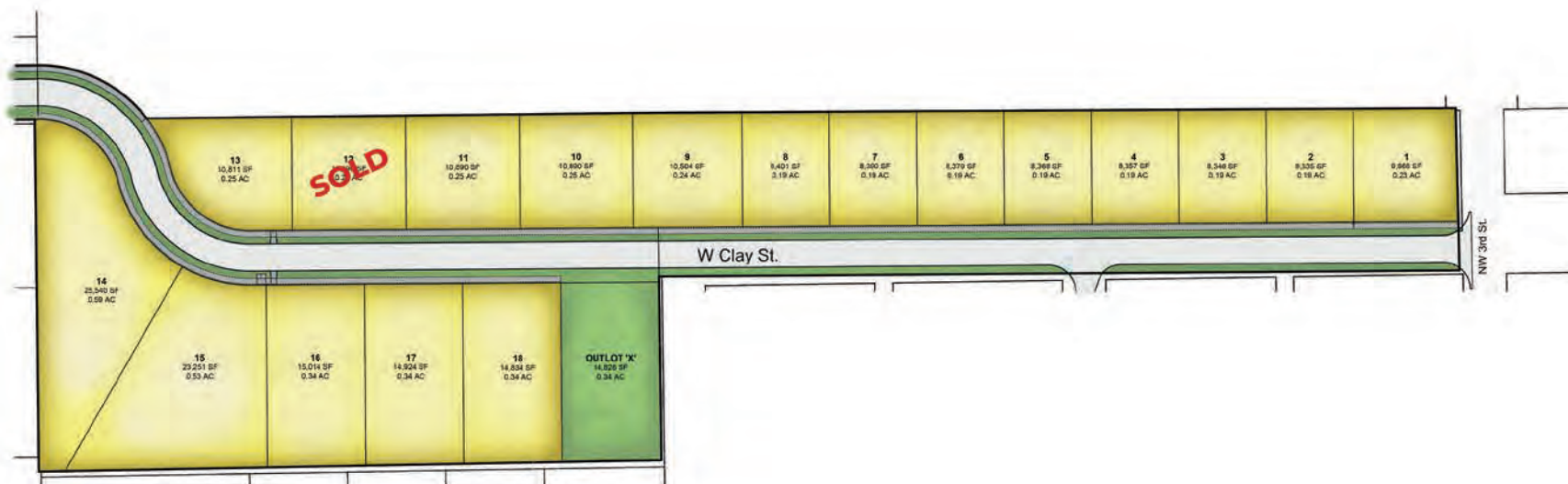
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MARIO, MARGARET, POPE, PAINT AND BIG GEORGE FOREMAN

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Lake Panorama Times

As busy as last month was, this month was super-thin in movies to see. Obviously, the calm is before the storm, as the summer movies are right around the corner.

“SUPER MARIO BROTHERS”
(in theaters)

Huge month in the theaters for those less than 3 foot tall. “Super Mario Brothers” opened in early May and has dominated the box office every week since. As I write this, the movie has made \$434 million dollars. If only it had been good. The film wasn’t made for me, so I’ll give it a pass this time. Obviously, its target audience loved it. Grade: C+

“THE POPE’S EXORCIST”



“Super Mario Brothers”

(headed for streaming soon)

Russell Crowe, at one point, was one of our finest actors. With movies like “Mystery Alaska,” “The Insider,” “A Beautiful Mind,” “Les Misérables” and one of my all-time favorites, “Gladiator,” Crowe’s movies were must-sees. Not so much anymore. “Unhinged,” “Thor: Love and Thunder” and “The Pope’s Exorcist” all represent a miserable time in a movie the-



“The Pope’s Exorcist”

ater. I thought it had great potential, but, alas, I was wrong — and badly wrong. It has a strong, rue story, but the movie wanders around too long and then turns into a special effects mess of an ending. Grade: C-

“GUY RITCHIE’S THE COVENANT”
(in theaters)

With “Operation Fortune” a couple of



“Guy Ritchie’s The Covenant”

months ago, “Guy Ritchie” has turned in two of the most enjoyable movies of the year to date. This one follows an American soldier in Afghanistan who is injured and flown home to recuperate. When he finds that his former Afghan translator is in hiding and being hunted, he takes it upon himself to go back and save him. Jake Gyllenhaal brilliantly plays this soldier, and the movie is really emotional and enter-

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"Chevalier"



"Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret"



"Big George Foreman"

taining. It is a really strong story about two men thrown together by fate. Grade: A-

"PAINT"

(headed for streaming soon)

Owen Wilson plays Carl Nargle, Vermont's No. 1 public television painter. Think Bob Ross, but you will see why his estate probably squashed that idea. The highlight of the film (and there are only a few) is seeing Wilson in the Ross afro. After that, the movie slides downhill fast. Wilson plays this character as a serial philanderer and not a very bright man. I think this could have been really good, but it's not even close. Grade: C-

"CHEVALIER"

(in theaters)

I'm still confused on whether this story

is true or not, but Chevalier is a young black man in pre-revolutionary Paris. He is also a violin virtuoso, even taking down a man named Mozart in a "Devil Went Down to Georgia"-like competition. It's a wonderful story. If it is true, I'm not sure why history has kept it under wraps. Grade: B+

"ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET"

(in theaters)

Judy Blume's classic book about a young girl's trauma about leaving New York City for New Jersey, dealing with boys and the start of puberty. I was one of two men in a very crowded theater. The girls (and some moms) loved the movie. The cast is great with Rachel McAdams playing Margaret's mom, and Kathy Bates

playing her grandma. Let's face it, this couldn't be further from my kind of movie, but for what it was, it's a good solid B. The rest of the audience I'm sure gave it an A. Grade: B

"BIG GEORGE FOREMAN"

(in theaters)

This is a B-level film that takes on a big story about a big man and does it well. Khris Davis plays the legendary boxer, and Forest Whitaker plays a boxing trainer who pulls this young but promising boxer up by his bootstraps and helps him become the heavyweight champion of the world — twice! I'm sure some of the warts were left out of the story, but it was an entertaining film without really reaching for greatness. Grade: B

Next month we will start to see the big summer movies starting with "Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3," "Fast X" and "Spider-Man" heading back into the multi-verse. I'll be back next month with reviews of the first wave of summer blockbusters.

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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WSO WOMEN HOST PANORAMA SENIOR GIRLS

Emma Johnston offers advice to graduating seniors.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

On April 19, members of the Panora Women's Service Organization (WSO) descended on the Panora Church of the Brethren armed with totes and boxes of white tablecloths, cups, saucers, plates, tiered serving plates and teapots. Within an hour, they had transformed the Fellowship Hall into an inviting tearoom.

The WSO women reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to arrange an assortment of small tea sandwiches, cookies and mints on the servers. Then it was time to welcome the Panorama Community Schools senior girls, plus their mothers and grandmothers.

Everyone gathered in the sanctuary and was welcomed by WSO President Toni Wright. Michelle Leonard, pastor of the Brethren church, welcomed and congratulated the girls, shared a few words of wisdom, and then a prayer to bless the occasion.

Wright asked each senior to stand, introduce herself and her guests, and tell something about her future plans. Wright then introduced Emma Johnston, a 2021 Panorama graduate who missed out on her class senior tea, which had to be canceled because of the COVID pandemic.

Johnston offered five pieces of advice to the graduating seniors. The first was to make the most of their final weeks at Panorama. Second was to "stay true to who you are and don't change for anyone. After graduation, you will begin a new chapter in your life," Johnston said. "Do what you want to do and what you're passionate about. One of the nice things about graduating and having this transition period is that you have a clean slate."

Johnston's third piece of advice was to get out of their comfort zone, something she said she did in the last three months



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Emma Johnston, a 2021 Panorama graduate, was the guest speaker at the WSO senior tea April 19. She's shown seated with her grandmother, Nancy Johnston, and with her mother, Danielle Johnston Kenworthy, behind her.

as she participated in a college study abroad program in Greece. "I was so nervous because leaving home and living out of the country for three months with people I didn't know was totally out of my comfort zone," she said. "And yet, it was truly one of the best decisions I have ever made."

Her fourth piece of advice was on a related topic, and that was to "explore the world and travel." Finally, Johnston encouraged the senior girls to write thank-you cards to people in their family and at the school who have impacted their lives.

Following Johnston's speech, the group moved to the reception area for a group photo, then to the Fellowship Hall for tea sandwiches, cookies, tea and lemonade.

As guests departed, each senior girl selected a small glass basket and a white tulip, which is the designated class flower for the 2023 Panorama graduating class, as mementos of the occasion. ■



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Young women in the 2023 Panorama Community Schools graduating class had the chance to gather for a special event April 19. This annual afternoon tea is hosted by the Panora Women's Service Organization. Participating students were, from the left, seated: Emily Lutz, Georgia Sheehy, Keira Simmons, Hannah Malloy. Standing: Ella Knapp, Caitlyn Sloss, Evie Greenlee, Jazmyn Sellers, Justice Sheeder, Kylie Doran, Jaiden Love, Willow Buttler, Lindsey Meyer, Haley Malloy, Katrina Sanders, McKenna Burns, Kaidyn Dencklau.



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Twenty WSO members helped plan and host an event April 19 for girls in the Panorama Community Schools senior class. Pictured front row, left to right, Carolyn England, Connie Ridgley, Deb DeBruin, Marianne Petersen, Toni Wright, Mary Beidelman, Barb Halupnick, Karla Weigel, Jody Muench and Mary Kay Hamilton. Back row, Sue Coles, Linda Dahl, Patsy Goss, Lori Hammer, Linda Roe, Nancy Loeck, Sue Hendricks, MJ Brown, Amy Johnson and Paulette Chambers.

ASK THE *Lake Panorama* TIMES

Q: WHY DOES THE NOON WHISTLE GO OFF AT 12:04 P.M.?

A: That whistle is actually a siren, and it has been a symbol to people for decades that it is time for lunch. Some cities also see this as a way to regularly test their siren system. But why at 12:04 p.m. exactly? We reached out to Lisa Grossman, city administrator for Panora, with this question and were expecting some specific reason why the siren goes off exactly four minutes after noon. Her answer was quite simple: "I am guessing the timer got off, as it should be going off at noon. I will see about it getting reset."

Q: I JUST BOUGHT A NEW BOAT. DO I NEED TO REGISTER IT WITH THE LPA?

A: Yes, you do. All vessels operating on Lake Panorama must display a current Lake Panorama Association sticker and the appropriate invasive species inspection sticker, according to Section 5.5 of LPA Rules & Regulations. Contact the LPA office at 641-755-2301 for specific de-

tails.

Q: ARE GOLF CARTS LEGAL TO DRIVE ON LPA ROADS AT NIGHT?

A: Section 4.5 of LPA Rules & Regulations states that golf carts may be operated on LPA roadways during daylight hours, and that golf carts with proper vehicle lighting (as for automobiles) may be operated on LPA roadways outside of daylight hours.

Q: WHAT ARE THE RULES ON LIFE JACKETS ON BOATS?

Section 5.1 (q) of the LPA Rules and Regulations states that all persons operating or riding on a personal watercraft, or being towed behind a vessel on skis or other object, must wear a personal flotation device. All passengers under the age of 13 must wear a personal flotation device when the vessel is underway. It also states that all vessels as defined must have personal flotation devices appropriate for each passenger and operator with the vessel at all times. ■

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PANORAMA GARDENS HAS LONG HISTORY, BUSY DAYS

Dave and Ilene Olson have been married 45 years and owned the business about the same length of time.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

The business slogan for Panorama Gardens is “serving greater Guthrie County since 1956.” Current owners Dave and Ilene Olson have been married for 45 years and owned the business about the same number of years. Dave’s parents, George and Harriett Olson, started the business, which is located on the east edge of Panora on Highway 44.

“My parents lived on West Lane in Panora,” Dave says. “They had a small greenhouse and a bunch of outside cold frames where they could start plants. In 1956, they bought the Panora Greenhouse from Edgar and Mary Thorpe. The original building was east of our current location, at the top of the hill. They bought this land and moved the building here.”

The couple named their new business Panorama Gardens. It was another 10

years before the same name was chosen for the nearby lake.

Dave Olson was a 1-year-old when his parents started their new business.

“My playpen was a flower box,” he says. “In the beginning, their business was mostly floral. In 1960, they joined FTD, the Florists’ Telegraph Delivery, which made it possible for customers to send flowers anywhere by using florists in the FTD network. That increased their business, and we still are FTD members today.”

Ilene grew up on a farm north of Panora and was two years behind Dave in school. They both were born at the Guthrie County Hospital. During high school, Ilene worked a couple of summers at Panorama Gardens, but the two weren’t interested in each other.

“She thought I was an obnoxious twit, and she was probably right,” Dave says.

After high school, Dave attended Des Moines Area Community College in horticulture. After graduation, he worked at Boesen’s Greenhouse in Boone and Bach Wholesale in Des Moines before returning to Panorama Gardens.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

JoAnn Johnson is at Panorama Gardens for a few hours most days during the busy season. Here she is transplanting tiny marigold plants that started in the greenhouse as seeds. “I come for the fun,” she says. “This is my therapy.”



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The original Panorama Gardens building on the left was moved to this location in 1956 and greenhouses added to the north of it. In the fall of 2000, the original building was renovated, and the Garden Center building and a new greenhouse were added.

“I always knew I would buy the family business eventually,” he says. “I grew up in it; I didn’t know anything else.”

When Ilene graduated from high school, she attended floriculture school at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. A requirement before she could graduate was to work two rotations in floral shops. One was at Beckers Flowers in Fort Dodge.

Dave picks up the story. “She was the valedictorian, first in her class at Kirkwood. Her advisor wanted her to work in a big city and found her lots of opportunities,” he says. “But for some reason, she decided to come back to Panora for her second rotation and work for my parents. In 1978, I was beginning the process of buying my parents out. She and I started to talk more, found we had common interests, and the rest is history. I say I married my greatest asset.”

Dave’s parents had been running Panorama Gardens for many years as a husband-and-wife team.

“Ilene and I decided we wanted to do the same thing,” he says. “Against my mother’s advice, we jumped in.”

Olson says as people started to build homes at Lake Panorama, it changed the business.

“We used to run wholesale routes, selling plants to retail operations in Des Moines and many smaller communities across central Iowa. As both Lake Panorama and our business grew, we were able to stop the wholesale routes. Now almost all of our sales are done through our own retail outlet, and we rely on people throughout Guthrie County, and into Dallas County, for our customer base,” he says.

Panorama Gardens grows and sells live plants and has a fresh flower shop. In the past, they raised cut flowers and perennials, but they couldn’t keep up with demand. Now they purchase cut flowers and perennials from suppliers, while still growing most of the annual vegetable plants and flowers they sell. They have



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Geraniums in a multitude of colors fill a long table in one of the Panorama Gardens greenhouses.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Five large displays of vegetable seed packets are housed in the Garden Center building.

seven employees, with most being part-time during the busiest times.

The busy summer season starts in late March, when customers are looking for onion sets, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and seed potatoes. The business offers

a large selection of both bulk and packet seeds for both vegetable gardens and flower pots and beds. Also available are grass seed, fertilizer, mulch, soil and a wide selection of garden tools and pots.

The average central Iowa frost date is



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Ilene Olson puts the finishing touches on a vase of fresh flowers, while Dee Smith, who has worked for the Olsons for 23 years, sorts a recent delivery of cut flowers.

May 15, so Dave tells customers it's usually safe to plant frost-sensitive plants such as tomatoes, peppers and flowers around Mother's Day. Business hours expand to seven days a week in May.

"We do more business in six weeks each

spring than we do the rest of the year," he says.

The fresh flower business is year-round, with an uptick on holidays and special occasions.

"We're always busy, and we don't have

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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Ilene and Dave Olson, owners of Panorama Gardens, are shown in one of their greenhouses filled with bright summer flowers waiting for new homes.

set hours for ourselves," Dave says. "If there is a funeral on Monday, we're working on Sunday."

Both Dave and Ilene say one thing they've enjoyed about the past 45 years at Panorama Gardens is having their business in a rural community.

"We've seen people born, married and pass away, and we've provided flowers for all those occasions," Dave says. "We had a mother come in with a photo of the bridal bouquet we did for her, because she wanted us to recreate it for her daughter when

she was getting married."

"Being in a small town has allowed us to get to know at least a couple of generations in many families," Ilene says. "There are lots of good people here. We've been able to learn what our customers like and what they don't like, so we're more prepared to help them when they come in or call."

The Olsons are well-known in the community for their civic mindedness. They donate garden items and plants for numerous fundraisers and give deep dis-



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This large greenhouse is attached to the Garden Center building at Panorama Gardens. Here customers can find many types of annual and perennial flowers in hanging baskets, ornamental pots, and small plastic containers ready to transplant to bigger pots.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The Garden Center building on the east side of the complex is filled with bulk seed, potting soil, garden soil, fertilizer, garden hoses and tools, and much, much more.

counts on plants used to spruce up the community. One example is the large pots filled with pink petunias that will be seen around Panora again this year.

The couple has two children and four grandchildren. All of them grew up working in the business when extra hands were needed, yet none has an interest in continuing the family business.

"We've had the business for sale for a while," Dave says. "We're not getting any younger, and we'd like to retire. But we're not going anywhere. We plan to stay in the community, and we'll keep the business going until it sells."

When the day does come to turn over the business keys to someone else, what will they miss? Ilene says it will be the greenhouses that are filled with light and where there is always something growing.

"We don't get the winter blues here," she says.

Dave says he'll miss the relationships they've built over the past four decades, and counting. "We've been really blessed," he says. "Plus, I'll miss growing baby plants." ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

In some of the older greenhouses at Panorama Gardens, walking spaces are narrow and the number of plants is overwhelming.

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



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HAMBURGER VEGETABLE SOUP AND PUMPKIN BREAD

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Lake Panorama Times

A few weekends ago when it was dreadfully cold and flurries frustrated us occasionally, the weather put us in the mood for soup. One of my favorite soup recipes comes from an old church cookbook, hamburger vegetable soup. The church that published this 40 years ago is, ironically, the church we now belong to and attend today, St. Cecelia Catholic Church in Panora. I didn't grow up Catholic. I converted before Shane and I married 28 years ago. My mother received the cookbook as a gift from a family friend in the early 1980s. My folks bought their first lot at Lake Panorama in 1971 and owned a few different properties until they retired, permanently, to Arizona in 2000. My cherished cookbook is tattered, splattered, written in and well used, with the cover accidentally torn off many years ago. The illustrations were drawn by Debbie Moylan, and I share two here along with the recipe for Hamburger Vegetable Soup submitted by Norene Abrahamson and Lillian Carlson, and a recipe for pumpkin bread submitted by Mildred Matern. ■

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



Jolene Goodman

HAMBURGER
VEGETABLE SOUP
*(Norene Abrahamson
and Lillian Carlson)*

- 1 lb. ground beef, browned
- 1 T. salt
- 1 c. chopped onion
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 3 c. water
- ¼ tsp. thyme
- 1 c. sliced carrots
- ¼ tsp. basil
- 1 c. diced potatoes
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 c. cabbage
- 1 c. celery
- 1 can tomatoes

Simmer a long time, 2 hours on the stove top or 5 hours in crockpot. Enjoy and thanks for reading.

PUMPKIN BREAD
(Mildred Matern)

- 3 ½ c. flour
- 1 c. Vegetable oil
- 2 tsp. soda
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 2/3 c. water
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 can pumpkin
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 c. chopped nuts
- 2 or 3 c. sugar
- 1 c. raisins

Mix until smooth. Stir in nuts and raisins. Divide into two loaf pans or 3 muffin tins which have been greased and floured. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 10 minutes for loaf pans or 30 minutes for muffins. This freezes well.

Illustrations by
Deb Moylan



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EVENTS

GARDEN TOUR BY BOAT JUNE 21

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

For the second year, the Panora Garden Club is providing an opportunity for people interested to see featured landscaping and gardens along Lake Panorama's shoreline. The event is planned for Wednesday, June 21. The club hosted this fundraiser for the first time in 2022 and now plans to make it an annual event.

Funds raised will be used to continue the many projects club members conduct to beautify the community. Final details are being worked out, including ticket pricing and how to purchase. More details will be available by late May.

Guests will remain onboard for a lake tour that will begin at the Boulder Beach docks. Food trucks and other refreshments will be available, plus some vendors present for participants to visit before and after their boat tour.

A member of the Panora Garden Club will be on board each pontoon to answer questions and point out highlights throughout the tour. Planners say the 2023 tours will be longer than last year so those participating will have a more leisurely ride. The number of passengers on each pontoon also will be smaller than in 2022 to make the ride more comfortable.

Signs along the tour route will highlight



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

In June 2022, more than 240 people toured Lake Panorama by pontoon, as part of a new Panora Garden Club fundraiser. Because of the success of last year's event, the club has decided to make the pontoon tour an annual event. This year's fundraiser is set for Wednesday, June 21.

the gardens and landscaping of Panora Garden Club members. Maps marking the coves will be distributed.

A rain date of Wednesday, June 28 has been set. If the tour needs to be moved to that day, tour times will remain as originally set. If weather prevents this event, money paid for tickets will be a tax-exempt charitable donation to the Panora Garden Club. ■

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE FOR THE LINKS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

Gift cards now can be purchased for use at The Links Lounge at Lake Panorama National Resort. Nick and Lynn Kuhn are operating The Links and managing events at the LPN through 2023. They have developed gift cards specifically for use in The Links when customers order using the QR code on tables or when ordering at the bar. The cards can be purchased from the bartender in any

denomination during normal business hours. All cards purchased before Memorial Day will receive a 10% savings at the time of purchase. For now, the cards can only be used in The Links, not at Spikes or the bar carts. That option may be added at a later time. The cards also cannot be used to give tips.

Hours for The Links in May remain the same as in April. The Links is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The kitchen closes at 9 p.m. ■



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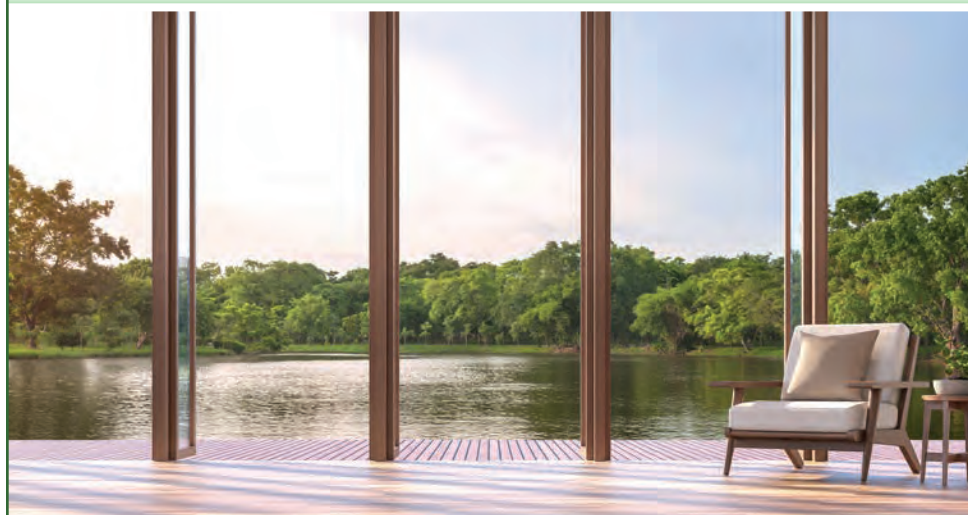
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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

PELICANS PAUSE AT LAKE PANORAMA

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

For the last few years, the number of American white pelicans visiting Lake Panorama each spring and fall has increased. In early April, a flock of these big birds spent a few days on the water retention pond near the mouth of Jones Cove. American white pelicans pass through Iowa in April on their migration to northern Minnesota and Canada. A few months later, usually mid-August through September, they migrate south to spend winter along the Gulf Coast, California and Mexico. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources says white pelicans have al-

ways migrated through Iowa, but until the late 1980s, they were usually seen only in the western counties. Pelican populations were killed off in the mid-1900s by chemicals found in the fish the pelicans ate, thus poisoning the birds. Since those chemicals have been eliminated, pelican populations are increasing. The American white pelican is the biggest bird in Iowa, weighing 20 pounds and having a nine-foot wingspan. The birds are pure white except for black flight feathers on their wings. The American white pelican is the only species of pelican to migrate through the Midwest. Brown pelicans are the other major pelican species in North America, but they live along the Atlantic Coast. ■



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

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GUTHRIE COUNTY OFFERS WEALTH OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

GCCB Director Brad Halterman shares amenities that exist in Guthrie County beyond Lake Panorama.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

Brad Halterman has been the Guthrie County Conservation Board (GCCB) director for three-and-a-half years. Prior to that, he spent three years as the Lake Panorama Association project manager. In this month's Q&A, we catch up with Halterman to learn more about his position and what recreational opportunities exist in Guthrie County, beyond Lake Panorama.

Q. GIVE US A SENSE OF YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. I really enjoy the diversity of the GCCB director position and meeting and talking to new people, as well as the regulars who use our areas. I manage all aspects of GCCB operations, supervise the department staff and work performed in all county parks, recreational areas and wildlife areas. I also plan and administer the department budget, which is done in conjunction with both the Guthrie County Conservation Board and the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors.

I coordinate, plan and administer conservation and recreational programs in the county, at the discretion of the conservation board. That also covers the planning, development, acquisition, and management of county parks, recreational areas, wildlife habitats, and department programs and services.

Q. TELL US MORE ABOUT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD.

A. The GCCB members are appointed by the county board of supervisors to five-year, staggered terms. They are volunteers, and monthly meetings are held. The board is a decision-making and policy-making body. The board's authority includes the acquisition and development of land, adoption of rules and regulations, comprehensive planning of an overall county conservation board program, and specific site plans for individual areas.

Other functions of the board include hiring an executive director, developing a budget, and working with other governmental subdivisions to provide programs for the public. The primary consideration of the GCCB is to provide a balanced conservation, recreation and education program to the citizens of the county through proper planning and identification of needs and demands. The board is the primary county

agency dealing with natural resource issues in Guthrie County.

Q. WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS PLACES WITHIN GUTHRIE COUNTY THAT ARE MANAGED BY GCCB, AND HOW MANY STAFF PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED?

A. We operate, manage and take care of many diverse areas. These include 22 miles of the Raccoon River Valley Trail, the Guthrie County Historical Village and Museum in Panorama, Nations Bridge Park and campground, Lenon Mill Park and campground, four river accesses, two prairie areas, and wildlife areas totaling 650 acres.

Besides me, there are three additional full-time staff members. Ted Schuermann is our maintenance technician, Tylor Nelson is the county natural resource manager, and Kristine Jorgensen is the Guthrie County Historical Village curator. We also fill one seasonal position each summer.

Ted, Kristine and Tylor are very talented, dedicated and hard-working employees. They put the public first and make sure Guthrie County conservation and recreation areas are taken care of for all to enjoy.

Q. THERE ARE TWO COUNTY PARKS THAT OFFER CAMPING AND OTHER AMENITIES; TELL US ABOUT LENON MILL AND NATIONS BRIDGE.

A. Lenon Mill Park sits along the scenic Middle Raccoon River on the south side of Panorama and is the original site of the old Lenon Mill, built in 1863. The mill no longer stands, but visitors can view the one grindstone that remains to mark the historic spot, or sit by the river and watch the river flow over the old dam.

Lenon Mill Park features primitive camping, RV camping with electric hookup, water, bathrooms, a shelter house, swing set, horseshoe pit, picnic tables, the first point of access on the Middle Raccoon River Water Trail Route A for canoes and kayaks, and excellent fishing. Species of fish commonly caught at Lenon Mill include both smallmouth and largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, walleye, channel catfish and an occasional northern pike.

Nations Bridge Park north of Stuart features primitive camping, RV camping with 45 electrical hookups, modern showers, water, flush bathrooms, a dump station, two shelter houses, playground, disc golf course, horseshoe pit, grills and picnic tables, a canoe access, and excellent fishing.

The park has a total of 81 acres. Wildlife is abundant, with deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, quail, raccoons, coyotes, and a variety of songbirds often seen. Nature trails can be found throughout the park and a self-



Brad Halterman

guided interpretive nature trail is located on the east side of the park.

Q. SHARE SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE GUTHRIE COUNTY HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND MUSEUM.

A. The Historical Village is located on a 4-acre complex on the southwest side of Panorama near the Middle Raccoon River and Lenon Mill Park. It features 10 buildings, numerous exhibits and thousands of artifacts that explore the history of Guthrie County from 1850 to the early-20th Century. The majority of the collection has been donated by families and friends in the surrounding communities.

The museum started in 1968 with the acquisition of the Panorama Depot from the Milwaukee Railroad. The depot was moved 10 blocks to its current location. Since then, the Village has grown from one building staffed only by volunteers to a countywide museum featuring buildings from all over Guthrie County that have been carefully restored. We still have volunteers, but Kristine Jorgensen, the museum curator, is in charge of all projects and programs, new exhibits, and the gardens.

Current projects include the continuing restoration of the 1910 Marchant House. The Village Foundation purchased the Marchant House from the Marchant Family in 2014 and has been restoring the house to its early Victorian glory in phases. By the fall of 2022, the exterior was almost complete and now work is starting on the inside.

In 2022, the Youtz Carriage House was gifted to the Foundation by the current owners of the property at 117 N. First St. The brick home at that location was built by the Youtz Family in 1913 and was used as both a residence and a store for the Youtz Millinery. The carriage house will be relocated and placed behind the Marchant Home.

The Village is a 2023 "Paint Iowa Beautiful" award recipient. The paint will be used for the exterior of the main museum building, which will be a welcome improvement to the overall appearance of the Village. This work is planned for this summer.

The Historical Village opened May 1 and will close for the season Oct. 15. It is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. Saturdays and some holidays. It is closed Sundays and Mondays. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 6 to 17, and free for children 5 and younger.

Q. TELL US ABOUT THE RACCOON RIVER VALLEY TRAIL.

A. The Raccoon River Valley Trail is an 89-mile, paved, multi-use recreational trail that extends from Clive to Jefferson. The 33-mile "North Loop" was completed in 2013, making this trail one of the longest in the United States. The trail is built on the former

Milwaukee Railroad track and is owned by the Dallas, Greene and Guthrie county conservation boards.

The trail winds its way through the Middle and North Raccoon River corridors with areas of prairie and canopies of timber that remind us of what Iowa was like in the 1870s. Common uses for the multi-recreational trail are hiking, biking, walking, in-line skating, jogging, bird watching, plus in the winter, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

We spend a lot of time on the trail mowing, trimming trees, performing bridge and trail surface upkeep and repairs, and doing general maintenance work.

Q. HOW DO YOU THINK THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GUTHRIE COUNTY STACK UP AGAINST OTHERS?

My wife and I both were raised in Guthrie County and chose to raise our family here. We have been to all 99 counties in Iowa, and each has some fantastic things to see and do. The Iowa County Conservation System is a pioneer system that many states have used as a template.

I would put the recreational opportunities in Guthrie County up against any other county in our state. Guthrie County offers both state and county-owned public ground. Parks, recreational trails, water trails, wildlife areas, two unique river systems, wetlands, prairies, rolling hills, flatlands, timber, scenic roadways, farmland, historic towns and friendly, welcoming people and businesses. Who would want to live anywhere else? ■

To find more information on Guthrie County conservation areas and programs, visit: guthriecounty.gov/government/county-offices/conservation

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LPN SWIMMING POOL TO OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Lake Panorama National Resort is targeting a Memorial Day weekend opening for its 1,500-square-foot heated swimming pool and eight-person spa. Once open, public swimming will be available starting at 10:30 a.m. seven days a week. Plans are to have the pool remain open until Sept. 30.

All members and guests of the swimming pool must check-in at the LPN pro shop counter where they will sign in and pay a daily fee of \$5, unless they have purchased an annual pool pass. After checking in, everyone will be given a wristband to wear in the pool area.

A variety of annual pass categories are available including single, couple, family and grandparent. Passes are available to LPA property owners starting at \$125 for a single, \$150 for a couple and \$175 for a family. A fourth category is available to adults 55 and older with grandchildren up to the age of 12.



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The swimming pool and spa at the Lake Panorama National Resort is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. Four types of annual passes are available for purchase, or users can pay a daily fee of \$5.

Grandparent memberships are \$225.

Non-LPA members also can purchase annual pool passes in the same categories for an additional \$15 for any of the four options.

The pool membership form is available online and can be mailed or dropped off with payment to the LPN. The form is here: <https://lpnresort.com/3VnsMfk> ■

PUBLICATION PROTOTYPES UNVEILED



The Lake Panorama Times hosted a Summer Kick-off Party for the business community on Friday, May 5 at The Links. Publisher Shane Goodman shared details on the new look of the Lake Panorama Times. He and his wife, Jolene Goodman, who serves as the company's advertising director, unveiled a prototype of a cover as well as prototypes of two new publications the company will be launching soon. The event was co-hosted by the Panora Chamber of Commerce and The Links.



Ron Masek and Kristen Crouthamel



Barry Monaghan



Royce Shaffer and Lynn Kuhn



Larry Babcock and Susan Thompson



Brenda Dudley and Jolene Goodman



Sue Bump and Kerry Jacobsen ■

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RETIREMENT PLANNING

Debt ceiling, bank crisis, and your retirement

If you follow the news, something is constantly threatening the economy. In the last few years, COVID, the supply chain, interest rates and inflation have grabbed the headlines. Recently, the debt ceiling limit and banking crisis are stealing the show.

Despite all these things you can't control, you still want to retire or stay retired, but how? Perspective and a plan.

Recently, three U.S. banks failed, lawmakers took emergency action, and there were more central bank rate hikes. Here's some perspective. Bank failures are fairly common. Since Oct. 1, 2000, there have been 565 bank failures, according to the FDIC. They just don't get as



Loren Merkle
CFP®, RICP®,
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much press as the bank failures of 2023. The latest bank failures don't feel like the start of another 2008, but there could still be some aftershocks, including the possibility of increased volatility in the market.

As for the debt ceiling, the conversation has turned to Social Security and Medicare cuts as a solution — not what anyone retired or thinking about retirement wants to hear. While that grabs the headlines, lawmakers will more likely raise taxes to lower the federal debt. Taxes are currently at historic lows, with the top tax bracket at 37%. It was just 42 years ago when the top bracket was 70%.

Now that we've discussed history, let's look to the future. You still want to retire or stay retired, despite all of this. And, so far, the families and individuals we work with have done just that, even during market downturns, despite inflation, and in the middle of a pandemic. How?

They have a customized retirement plan that was built with retirement risk in mind. We can't predict a banking crisis or COVID, but a retirement plan can account for risks like market volatility, taxes and legislation. A customized retirement plan has action steps we can take when the market is down, such as dollar-cost-averaging or Roth conversions. It also includes a long-term tax plan. We help families and individuals build retirement strategies with the possibility of higher future tax rates in mind and talk about what we can do now to take advantage of taxes being on sale.

History has taught us that there is always a risk that can threaten your retirement. It's good to be aware but not scared of these risks. A customized plan allows you to take control of your retirement. Then when you see the headlines, you don't have to worry because you are still on track to live out your retirement vision.

Information provided by Loren Merkle CFP®, RICP®, Certified Financial Fiduciary®, Merkle Retirement Planning, 1860 S.E. Princeton Drive, Grimes, 515-278-1006.
Source: [fdic.gov/resources/resolutions/bank-failures/failed-bank-list/](https://www.fdic.gov/resources/resolutions/bank-failures/failed-bank-list/) "Failed Bank List"; <https://www.fdic.gov/resources/resolutions/bank-failures/failed-bank-list/>

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EVENTS

SPRING CLEANING AT PANORAMA WEST

Panora Garden Club members spent two hours cleaning several landscape beds that surround the Panorama West clubhouse.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Fifteen members of the Panora Garden Club gathered at the Panorama West golf course April 10. Armed with rakes, clipper, leaf blowers and hedge trimmers, they spent two hours cleaning several landscape beds that surround the Pan-orama West clubhouse.

Club members cleared leaves and dead foliage from the rain garden along the southeast corner of the clubhouse parking lot. The rain garden, a project led by Friends of Lake Panorama, was installed in June 2017.

At that time, members of the Pano-ra Garden Club and other volunteers helped plant about 170 native plants, fea-turing a dozen different varieties of flow-ering plants and grasses. The rain gar-den captures water runoff from the park-ing lot, which the plants and mulch filter before the water travels into a drainage tile.

At this year's spring cleanup, club mem-bers also removed leaves and dead foliage from landscaped beds that surround the clubhouse, the flagpole and the outdoor kiosk. They also trimmed evergreen trees, shrubs and roses near the Panorama West signs and clubhouse. ■



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Some members of the Panora Garden Club who helped with the April 10 cleanup at Panorama West are shown with a trailer load of leaves and sticks ready to be taken to the LPA's brush and compost site. Front row, from the left, Karla Bristle and Paulette Chambers. Second row, Connie Ridgely, Nancy Clawson, Paula Wachholtz. Third row, Donna Smith, Cindy Nelson, JoAnn Johnson, Cathy Godwin, Jackie Marckres, Lori Hammer and Coop Rickert.



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Cindy Nelson and Rhoda Williams rake leaves near the front of the Panorama West clubhouse. They were among 15 members of the Panora Garden Club who participated in a cleanup day April 10.



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Fifteen members of the Panora Garden Club participated in a cleanup day at Panorama West golf course April 10. Here they clear debris from the rain garden on the southeast corner of the parking lot.



SPECIAL TO THE LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

JoAnn Johnson trims bushes near the outdoor kiosk at the Panorama West golf course.

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LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

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LPA BOARD MINUTES

LAKE PANORAMA ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 28, 2023

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met March 28, 2023, at 5 p.m. at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members in attendance were Mary Jane Carothers, Emily Donovan, David Finneseth, Dennis Flanery, Mark Jorgensen, Rich Schumacher and Dirk Westercamp.

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

Visitors in attendance: Shawn Foy and Sherry Ruge, LPA Members Tim Schafer and Sue Thompson BOD Candidates.

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

AGENDA ITEM 1 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donovan 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

Shawn Foy spoke to the Board regarding his professional background and experience, and offered to assist the association regarding the purchase and financing of equipment for the golf course. The board thanked him for his offer.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Carothers 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 12.13.2022 LPA Board Meeting
- c) Acceptance of the 02.28.2023 LPA LPN Consolidated Financial Statement
- d) Set date for next board meeting, 4.25.2023
- e) Accept minutes from 12.13.2022 LPN LLC Board of Managers Meeting
- f) Accept minutes from 03.13.2023 Building Codes Committee Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 4 – REPORT FROM TREASURER

Flanery reported he met with Krambeer and reviewed the Financial Statements and various account items; all was in order.

AGENDA ITEM 5A – MINOR LAND TRANSACTION WITH GLADE AND ANDERSEN ON REDWOOD ROAD TO ACCOMMODATE LPA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

Rutledge presented a proposed agreement between LPA, Duane Andersen and Randy and Dixie Glade which would be mutually beneficial to all parties regarding an LPA-owned air relief valve related to the LPA water plant. A minor transaction involving .062 acres m/l would be required to facilitate this agreement. Rutledge asked the board to formally authorize execution of all related documents.

Carothers moved to authorize LPA Board Officers to execute all documents related to the land transaction between LPA, Randal & Dixie Glade, and Duane Andersen involving .062 acres m/l. Documents to

be prepared by LPA attorney. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5B – SALE PRICE ON LOTS 421 & 2881 AND DISCUSSION OF LPA LOT SALE MINIMUM FOR REMAINING WATERFRONT PROPERTY.

Land Sales Committee reviewed offer received for \$120,000 for lots 421 & 2881 in the amount of \$120,000 from Kirk and Jillian Harris. LSC noted lot 421 is a waterfront lot with lot 2881 across the road for lateral field. The current waterfront sale prices supports a higher value than the offer and recommend \$325,000 for these lots.

Flanery moved to approve the counter price of \$325,000 for lots 421 & 2881. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Finneseth moved future waterfront lots will be minimally priced at \$3,000 per waterfront foot. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Note - Buyers did reject the counteroffer of \$325,000 for the two lots.

AGENDA ITEM 5C – SALE OF LOT 2027.

LPA received offer from Kyle and Sherry Ruge for purchase of lot 2027. Offer was in the amount of \$27,000, no contingencies. LSC reviewed the offer and agreed on a counteroffer of \$40,000, as the lot has easy access, is flat, is buildable and is in the SPSP. The buyer has accepted the counter price.

Donovan moved to accept the offer for lot 2027 for sale price of \$40,000 from Kyle and Sherry Ruge. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5D – SALE OF LOTS 3409 & 3410.

LSC reviewed offer received from Chuck & Kim Truka for purchase of lots 3409 & 3410. Offer was in the amount of \$40,000, total for the 2 lots together, lots would be combined, contingent on acceptable perc test. LSC noted the lots are in an area that requires capital improvements for infrastructure. Based on a previous decision not to sell waterfront lots in this area, LSC recommends the lots not be sold at this time, rejecting the current offer. Board discussed and agree with LSC recommendation.

Westercamp moved to reject offer on lots 3409 & 3410 made by Chuck & Kim Truka. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5E – SALE OF LOTS 6442 & 6443.

LSC reviewed offer from Robert & Peggy Carr for purchase of lots 6442 & 6443. Offer was in the amount of \$42,000 for the two lots, contingent on acceptable perc test and the lots would be combined at closing. LSC agreed on a counteroffer of \$60,000 for the two lots, lots to be combined and contingent on acceptable perc.

Donovan moved to approve the counteroffer price of \$60,000 for lots 6442 & 6443 to be recorded in the minutes. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Note - Buyers rejected the counteroffer of \$60,000 for the two lots.

AGENDA ITEM 5F – LPA LOT SALE MINIMUM PRICE INCREASE FROM \$20,000 TO \$25,000

LSC recommends the board increase the minimum lot sale price from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Flanery moved to approve the minimum lot sale price for LPA lots to be increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5G – BUILDING CODE CHANGE 2101.26. INCREASE VARIANCE FEE FROM \$35 TO \$100.

Building Codes committee recommends variance fee increase from \$35 to \$100 per variance request.

Westercamp moved to approve building code change to 2101.26: 2101.26 A variance request processing fee is \$35-\$100 and must be filed-paid prior to obtaining a hearing. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5H – BUILDING CODE CHANGE 2403.5. NO DEMOLITION IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH (TO PROTECT ROADS)

Building Codes committee recommends no demolition may take place during the months of February and March without written permission from LPA management, to protect roads.

Carothers moved to approve the following addition to building codes: 2403.5 No demolition may take place during the months of February and March without written permission from LPA management. Motion seconded, carried. Donovan abstained from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM 5I – BUILDING CODE CHANGE 2810.572. ONLY ONE DWELLING SEPTIC SYSTEM PER LOT.

Building Codes committee recommends only one dwelling septic system may be located on a lot.

Finneseth moved to approve the following addition to building codes: 2810.572 Only one dwelling septic system may be located on a lot. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5J – BUILDING CODE CHANGE 2902.31 & 2902.32. ADJUSTMENT OF PIPE AND VALVE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE WATER LINE.

Building Codes committee recommends the change to 2902.31 and 2902.32 for clarification of the codes.

Westercamp moved to approve the change to codes 2902.31 and 2902.32: 2902.31 Copper or 200 psi PEP, with tracer wire, shall be buried a minimum of 5 foot deep. ~~Schedule 40 plastic should be pipe a minimum of 5 foot deep with tracer wire.~~

2902.32 A 3/4"-1" ball valve must be installed inside in a horizontal position to enable meter placement. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5K – BUILDING CODE CHANGE 2902.35 & 2902.36. BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENT FOR POOLS.

All pools must be routed through the LPA water meter and hooked up with an approved backflow system. The Building Codes committee recommends the change to 2902.35 and the addition of 2902.36 and 2802.37.

Flanery moved to approve the change to codes 2902.35 and addition of 2902.36 and 2902.37: 2902.35 Yard hydrants and inground pools must be connected to

routed through the house meter.

2902.36 All permanently installed underground irrigation systems and inground pools shall contain an approved, testable, backflow prevention assembly at the water service designed to prevent backflow to the LPA Water distribution system.

2902.37 Members shall be responsible for testing each backflow prevention assembly annually by a backflow prevention technician registered with the Iowa Department of Health. Such test shall be due on June 1 of every year. A report of each annual test shall be submitted to the LPA Office by June 1 each year. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5L – BUILDING CODE CHANGE 3204. BACKFLOW PREVENTION FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS THAT USE LPA POTABLE WATER.

All irrigation systems that use LPA potable water must be routed through the LPA water meter and hooked up with an approved backflow system. The Building Codes committee recommends the addition of 3204 Irrigation requirements 3204.01.

Finneseth moved to approve the addition of 3204 Irrigation Requirements 3204.1: 3204.1 All homes that irrigate with water from Lake Panorama's potable water system must install an LPA approved backflow prevention system between the water tap and irrigation system. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5M – FIREPLACE HEIGHT VARIANCE REQUEST – LOTS 2956 & 2957 COMBINED.

Jason and Lisa Grossman, 6505 Oak Tree Cove, Lots 2956 & 2957, presented a variance request for a fireplace roughly four inches taller than the codes allow. The Building Codes committee advised the board of directors the location and design of this fireplace will result in a finished product that meets the spirit of LPA's rules on fireplace construction.

Donovan moved to approve a variance for fireplace height to Jason and Lisa Grossman, 6505 Oak Tree Cove, Lots 2956 & 2957. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5N – ROOF PITCH VARIANCE REQUEST – LOT 495

Roof pitch variance request for Justin Frampton, Frampton Homes, Inc., 4601 Panorama Drive, Lot 495, for 3/12 roof pitch.

Finneseth moved to approve a variance for 3/12 roof pitch, per the plans, for Justin Frampton, Frampton Homes, Inc., 4601 Panorama Drive, Lot 495. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

AGENDA 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

Rutledge announced GM Coffee will be held April 7, at LPN, LLC at 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – CLOSED SESSION

The board entered closed session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Board exited closed session at 7:30 p.m.

Adjourn - With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. ■

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GUTHRIE COUNTY UPDATE PROVIDED AT OPEN FORUM

Board of Supervisors Chairman Brian Johnson hosted event at Panorama West Clubhouse on April 8

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

About 35 people attended an open forum April 8 at the Panorama West clubhouse, hosted by Brian Johnson, who lives at Lake Panorama. Johnson was one of three new members elected to the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors last November and now is the board chairman. The other two new board members elected were Maggie Armstrong, who lives south of Panora, and Steve Smith, who lives in Guthrie Center.

Johnson opened the meeting with comments about the current work of the board. He said the board was putting final touches on the 2023-2024 fiscal year Guthrie County budget and that the county levy rate would not increase with the new budget.

The new county law enforcement center was another point of interest.

"We're now about 18 months past the expected opening of this new jail," Johnson said. "Many things have caused delays, with the latest being trouble with the elevator panel and the wrong type of windows being installed. The replacement windows should be in place by the end of April."

An open house for the facility has been

set for June 10-11.

"I hope you'll all plan to attend the open house to see this new facility," Johnson said. "It's going to be a huge improvement. The state was going to shut down our old jail if we didn't build a new one. Even though the project hasn't gone as planned, at least we're almost to the finish line."

The board of supervisors is studying options for county-wide EMS. Last November, the supervisors approved a resolution declaring Emergency Medical Services an essential service in Guthrie County, plus the creation of a Guthrie County EMS system advisory council.

"We need to have reliable ambulance services, and that's more difficult to do in a rural county like Guthrie," he said. "The advisory council and the board of supervisors are looking at the possibility of a countywide vote in November on a funding proposal. This could involve the use of property taxes or income taxes or a combination of the two. I urge you to continue to follow this important discussion."

Recent property value assessments that are significantly higher than a year earlier were discussed. Johnson said higher assessments are the result of higher sale prices being paid for homes and lots.

"The whole process is in the Iowa



SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Brian Johnson and Maggie Armstrong listen to comments by a person attending an open forum April 8 at the Panorama West clubhouse. Both Johnson and Armstrong were elected to the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors in November. Johnson now is the board chair. He organized the forum to share information about current county projects and take comments and questions from those in attendance.

Code," he said. "This is not the fault of Realtors, and it's not the assessor's fault. There are provisions in the Iowa Code that will keep property tax increases to about 3%, despite the high increases in property values."

Several people in attendance raised concerns about the condition of Sage Trail on the east side of Lake Panorama. Johnson said he understands the concerns about that road, but he also has concerns about 200th Road and Redwood Road, which are the two main arteries into the Lake Panorama development.

"Maggie, Steve and I started meeting with department heads last fall to get up to speed on county issues," Johnson said. "We want to make the county's roads, bridges and culverts a priority, but there isn't nearly enough money available to do what needs to be done. Roads and bridges are costly. One thing I do know is that the county engineer is committed to making future decisions on road improvements based on car counts."

Maggie Armstrong joined the meeting during the Sage Trail discussion.

"I grew up driving Sage Trail, so I know this topic well," she said. "I can't promise we can do anything about this in the

near future. But we now have three new people on the board of supervisors. We may not be able to find an easy solution, but at least we're willing to look at issues that have been pushed to the back burner in the past."

Armstrong said one of her personal priorities is economic development.

"We don't have the kind of industries in Guthrie County that help provide money to pave more roads," she said. "If we had more paved roads, more people would move here."

Johnson agreed, saying the population in Guthrie County dropped by 500 people between the last two censuses.

"We need to find ways to grow, both with new businesses and new housing for the workforce that new businesses would attract," he said.

Johnson thanked those in attendance for their interest and support, and encouraged them to contact him directly with concerns or suggestions.

"County government isn't a private poker game," he said. "I urge you to get involved. I'm committed to making sure Guthrie County residents have opportunities to stay informed about what's happening in county government." ■

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LAKE DOGS & COVE CAT

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | *Lake Panorama Times*



LAKE DOGS

Names: Sam (brown and white) and Louie (black and white)

Breed: 6-year-old Havanese.

Owners: Kurt and Jana Schade

From Jana Schade: "Sam and Louie are brothers. When we looked at the dogs, there were three pups with the mom — a girl and two boys. We asked our vet what he thought of us getting the two boys, leaving the baby girl to remain with her mother. He thought that would be perfect! The boys play and love hanging out together. Oftentimes they are piled on one another. They love coming to the lake and hanging out in their dog bed by the window, on the deck where they can see through the glass railing and on the pontoon where they can be spotted standing at the helm, like Rose, in the movie 'Titanic.' "

The Schades have six grandchildren ranging in age from 3 through 8. They all love coming to the lake and playing with the dogs. The Schades have lived on the lake since 2018. ■



COVE CAT

Name: Traci

Age: 3 years old

Available for adoption at: Panora Pets

Traci was part of an outside cat colony. The owner was working to have the entire colony altered, and Traci was one of the friendliest of the group. She has been at the shelter for more than two years and is still waiting to find her forever home.

Traci loves the laser light and spring toys. She taught herself to run on the shelter's big exercise wheel. Traci does well with other kitties and roams freely throughout the shelter, spreading her happiness and joy. She enjoys nothing more than attention from the volunteers and anyone who walks into the shelter (including delivery people and the mail carrier). She immediately makes friends with everyone, and it is difficult not to fall in love with her. However, her habit of swiping with her paw or lightly biting at human hands when she wants more attention has caused her to be passed over by potential adopters. While she is a darling kitty, she may not be the best fit for young children. ■

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TRISH HART'S NATURE PHOTO OF THE MONTH

BABY SQUIRRELS PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Trish Hart snaps photos of Lake Panorama's wild-life and beauty at many locations around the lake community. This spring, two adult squirrels made their nest inside a hole in a shagbark hickory tree next to the firepit she and her husband Scott enjoy near the water. The result? Baby squirrels entertaining the couple with their antics.

"These energetic, cute little critters are fun to watch running around the limbs and playing with each other," Hart says.

There are 280 different species in the squirrel family that live throughout the world, 40 of which are tree squirrels. The most common tree squirrels in the Lake Panorama area are fox squirrels, named because of their coloration similar to red foxes.

According to the Iowa DNR, squirrel paws are hand-like, with little primitive thumbs and strong claws for grasping at tree bark. These features, combined with a squirrel's ability to rotate its hind feet 180 degrees, allow the animal to descend head-first from a tree.

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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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Rob Riggins, LPN head golf pro, worked with junior golfers on the putting green during the 2022 LPN Junior Golf School. Here he listens as one of the students explains how he thinks the ball will roll to the hole when he putts it. Riggins asked each junior golfer to look at the target and think about what they needed to do before putting.

TWO SESSIONS FOR 2023 JUNIOR GOLF SCHOOL

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Registration for the 26th annual Lake Panorama National Junior golf clinics is open. Young people ages 5 to 17 are eligible to attend. Two sessions are offered with a limit of 24 students per session.

All dates are on a Wednesday and run for one-and-a-half hours, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Session One dates are June 7, 14 and 21 with a registration deadline of May 26. Session Two dates are July 12, 19 and 26 with a registration deadline of June 29. The registration fee is \$55 per junior golfer.

For the first two days of each session, the junior golfers will meet near the LPN pro shop, where they will divide into age groups and walk to the LPN practice areas with instructors. The groups will rotate between the driving range, chipping area and the putting green. At the end of each day, the golfers can go to Spikes and pick out a drink and snack.

The third day of each session will be

held at the Panorama West golf course. There the students will play a few holes on the golf course with instructors helping them implement what they learned the first two days. After golf, pizza and drinks will be available in the community room.

Rob Riggins, LPN head golf professional, says he and his staff are dedicated to growing the game of golf for juniors.

"Our junior golf clinics are conducted in a way that improves the skills of junior golfers along with their life skills," he says. "And while we will be focusing on fundamentals of the game, we also will be moving more toward getting kids ready to play the game."

The LPN Junior golf clinics have two long-time sponsors — Lake Panorama Association and Guthrie County State Bank. For more information, call the LPN pro shop at 641-755-2024. To register, complete an entry form that is available in both the pro shop and online, then return to the LPN pro shop with payment. ■

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