



A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION WWW.LAKEPANORAMATIMES.COM DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 53 | NUMBER 12

# WINTERIZING LAKE PANORAMA

Here's a look at what Lake Panorama Association employees do each fall to get ready for winter.



Two members of the LPA maintenance crew worked together Oct. 31 to remove the Sunset Beach docks from the lake. It's a slow process, which requires pulling up metal posts along the side of the dock that are buried in the lake bottom; removing the first section of dock; connecting a chain between the forklift and the front of the dock; and moving the forklift back to pull the dock out of the water until the wheels are resting on the shoreline.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

As the winter months approach, owners of homes, boats and cars prepare for cold temperatures and freezing precipitation. Outdoor furniture is covered or moved inside. Boats not in protected coves come off lifts, are winterized and placed in storage. Ice scrapers removed from vehicles in the spring are put back into trunks. Snowblowers get a tune up, or homeowners make arrangements to hire snow removal from

driveways and sidewalks.

Lake Panorama also requires winterization, and on a much grander scale. Following is a look at what Lake Panorama Association employees do each fall to get ready for winter.

First up is the lake itself. There are 80 buoys on Lake Panorama. LPA Security, led by Corey Larsen, works with the LPA maintenance crew, led by Mike Monthei, to spend at least a couple of days removing all the regulatory buoys from the lake and replacing those with smaller, winter buoys. The lake must be calm to get

this job done. The smaller buoys are put in to hold the location of each buoy, so the following spring the regular buoys can be placed back in the same spot. Once removed from the lake, the buoys are power washed so these will be ready for installation in the spring.

The maintenance crew removes the debris trap that is at the north end of the lake, an annual task that requires calm conditions and all-hands-on-deck. It takes a full day to pull the debris trap out of the lake, power wash it, and store it on racks

near the dredge dock. The debris trap is reinstalled in the spring, as soon as possible after ice leaves the lake.

The same crew spends a couple of days taking all the roll-off docks at the three beaches out of the water, which increases the life span of the docks. At the same time, the crew pulls in the ropes for the swim areas to avoid any harm from ice buildup. The swim ropes are left along each beach. Members are asked not to drive golf carts, snowmobiles or other recreational vehicles in these areas to avoid running over the ropes and

buoys.

Lake Panorama currently is protected by three wetlands that help improve overall water quality. The wetlands slow water moving towards the lake, allowing silt to settle out. Wetlands also reduce nitrogen and phosphorus levels and improve water quality. In the fall, Lane Rumelhart, LPA project manager, lowers the water level in each wetland 12 to 18 inches to make sure ice doesn't build up around the control structures.

WINTERIZATION, PAGE 4

## SUNSET BEACH SPORTS COURT COMPLETED

A total of \$17,500 from the Friends of Lake Panorama's 2022 Beach Ball was earmarked for this project.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

The new sports court at Sunset Beach was completed the last week in November. The Friends of Lake Panorama board of directors had discussed a basketball half-court at Sunset Beach for several years. The LPA board approved the project in June 2021.

The idea of expanding the basketball court to include pickleball was raised at a Friends informational meeting at Sunset Beach last summer. Adding an extra 10 feet to the original plan made it possible to accommodate both basket-

ball and pickleball.

A total of \$17,500 from the Friends of Lake Panorama's 2022 Beach Ball was earmarked for this project. Mark and Karen Einck donated \$25,000 for the court, with another \$5,500 received from other donors.

The 40-foot by 60-foot concrete pad was poured Oct. 26. Sport Construction Midwest employees installed a Goalsetter MVP hoop, placed sports court tile on the concrete and painted lines for both basketball and pickleball. An 8-foot fence with one gate surrounds the court.

Black paint shows the bas-

ketball free throw line, lane and three-point arc. The basketball lane is green tile. The regulation-sized pickleball court also is green tile, painted with white lines. The rest of the court is covered in blue tile.

A portable pickleball net on wheels has been purchased that can be stored along the fence when not in use and rolled into place when desired. It will be added to the court in the spring.

Also in the spring, the ground around the court

SPORTS COURT, PAGE 5

## CHILDHOOD SOUVENIRS LEAD TO LIFE-LONG HOBBY

Brenda Dinkla has about 350 spoons in her collection.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

For as long as Brenda Dinkla can remember, she's been interested in collecting spoons.

"I started when I was probably 10 years old," she says. "This was in the 1960s, and our family would take driving vacations to different places. Some places we visited would have a spoon you could buy as a souvenir. That's how I first got interested in spoons."

Dinkla doesn't know where those early spoons ended up, but she distinctly remembers when she became a true collector.

"I enjoyed going to auctions. I was 14 years old and at an auction of items owned by Fletcher Hunt, who was at the auction," she says. "I was looking at things coming up for sale and found seven or eight spoons. The handles were very ornate, and some had engraving in the bowl of the spoon."

She doesn't remember where she got the money to buy the spoons, or how much she



This spoon is just 2 inches long. It's made of sterling silver and is topped with what looks to be a government building. There is no wording or date to help identify its origin, yet it's one of Brenda Dinkla's favorites because of its size and the mystery behind it.

paid, but she does remember being the winning bidder.

"That was the start of me searching for spoons that were older and with images and

SPOONS, PAGE 8

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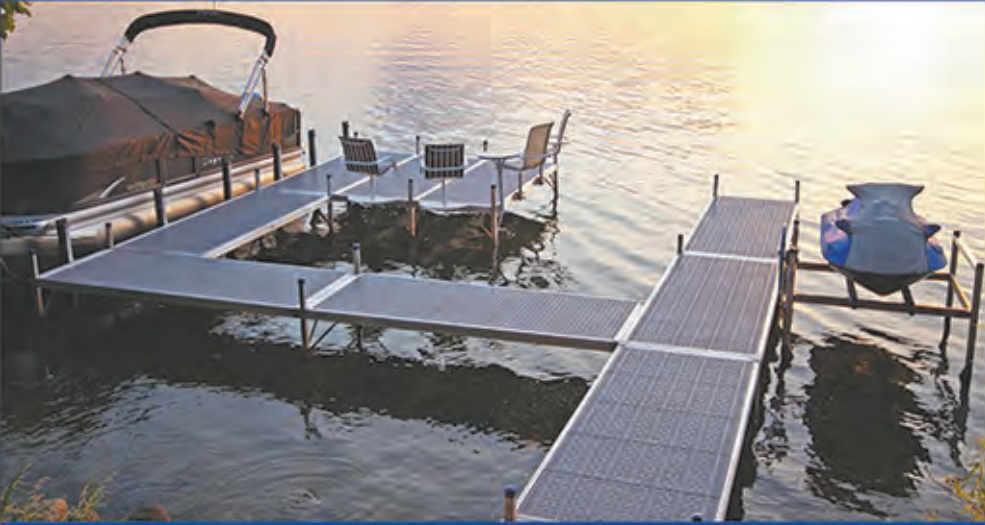


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ON THE LAKE

A TIME TO GET LIT?

BY SHANE GOODMAN  
Editor and Publisher

With only a few years under my belt as a homeowner at Lake Panorama, I am still learning the ropes. Maybe you are, too. Some are lessons learned the hard way; others are just simple things I happen to notice. This month's lesson fits in the latter category.

Of course, I am not cruising the boat around the lake in December, but in driving the roads of the LPA, I noticed that not many homeowners choose to put up Christmas lights outside. Yes, there are a few Clark Griswolds — and you know who they are — but, by and large, lake property owners don't go crazy with holiday lights.

Take a drive through our rural and suburban communities, and you will see quite the opposite. Santas. Snowmen. Reindeer. All 10 feet tall and inflatable (most of the time) with enough flashing lights for a Vegas show. Some even have light patterns set to music. I love the enthusiasm, and I thoroughly enjoy the Christmas spirit, but my retinas need a break from time to time.

At Lake Panorama, the holiday decorations seem to be different, less flashy, more subtle. The inside of homes may look like Santa's workshop, but the exteriors tend to appear much like they do during other parts of the year. Maybe it's because these aren't the permanent homes for many property owners, and they don't want the hassle of lighting up two places. Maybe it's because the deer eat the light cords (that actually happened to me in the past). Or maybe it's an appreciation for the natural scenery that has drawn so many of us to the lake to begin with.

Our youngest daughter, Abby, thought we should have at least one string of lights out. So she pulled a set out of the box, tested the lights to make sure they worked, and set them out for me to install. On the coldest day of the year, I untangled the mess and then carefully wrapped them around the deck posts, making sure the bulbs were distanced equally and pleasing to the eye. Then, when I plugged

the strand in — you guessed it — nothing. I decided to wait for a warmer day to deal with it. I am still waiting.

"Honey, do you honestly think I would check thousands of tiny little lights if I didn't make sure the extension cord was plugged in?" — Clark Griswold

Yes, I checked the extension cord.



Shane Goodman

**Christmas humor**

Christmas is a time to enjoy family and friends and, hopefully, remember the reason for the season. It is also a time to smile and laugh, so try these Christmas jokes out around the tree this year.

Here's one for you World Cup fans. What did the naughty soccer announcer get from Santa Claus? COOOAAAALLLLLL!!

And one for you musicians. What is the best possible holiday present? A broken drum. You just can't beat it.

And for you online shoppers. Did you hear that Amazon is giving away dead batteries for the holiday? They're free of charge.

And for those of us who are follicly challenged. What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? "I'll never part with it."

And, finally, one for all of us... What did one snowman say to the other? "Is it just me, or do you smell carrots?"

I wish you all a merry Christmas, and I thank you for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
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**Correction:** The Home Improvement Guide included in the November Lake Panorama Times incorrectly identified JRL Builders in the article about the Petersons' new house. We apologize for the error.

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

BANSHEES, BLACK PANTHER, SPIELBERG AND THE BEST MOVIE YOU WON'T SEE THIS YEAR

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

The typical movie hits and misses are here again in November, but you can also see several of the year's best movies. I have given more A grades in these reviews than I earned in high school and college combined! Let's get after it.

**"Armageddon Time"** (probably heading to streaming by now)



The latest from writer/director James Gray ("Ad Astra" and "The Lost City of Z") with a wonderful cast (Anne Hathaway, Jeremy Strong and Anthony Hopkins) about a young boy growing up in the big city. This is clearly autobiographical, but it moves from comedy to drama awkwardly and ends up falling short of expectations. Probably worth catching when it hits the streaming services, though. **Grade: B-**

**"The Banshees of Inisherin"** (in theaters)



What happens if you give a movie a weird title? Many people will never even think about seeing it. The handful of those who do will spend the next two to three weeks telling their friends what a great, great movie it is. If you saw "In Bruges" in 2008 with Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, you know what excitement a re-teaming of those two actors would create. They do not let us down. Written and directed by Martin McDonagh (who also wrote/directed "In Bruges"), it is the tale of two old friends on a small island

off the coast of Ireland. One of them (Gleeson) decides he is tired of their friendship and, for no apparent reason, ends it. Farrell's character can't understand or accept this decision. Many funny, and unfunny, things happen from there. This will surely be on my top 10 list — and probably top 5. **Grade: A**

**"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"** (in theaters)



Arguably the most anticipated movie of the year, the weight of those expectations allowed filmmakers to deliver a film with a running time of 2:41 and a story that runs out in half of that time. Sue and I were in agreement that this was nearly three hours we will never get back. It involves characters we didn't know or care about and a story that meandered all over the place until I didn't really care. **Grade: C-**

**"All Quiet on the Western Front"** (on Netflix)



This is a remake of the 1930 Best Picture of the Year but from the German side of the story. Like the original, it follows a group of young, enthusiastic men ready to fight for their country. They soon lose their enthusiasm as they (and we) discover that war is indeed hell. It is a long film, for sure, and at times tough to watch, but really, really well done. **Grade: A-**

**"She Said"** (in theaters)

Probably the best movie you won't see this year. For some reason, very few people are going to this movie. A largely unknown (but



very recognizable) and talented cast presents the story of the two women who broke the Harvey Weinstein sexual assault case in the New York Times and lit the fire for the "Me Too" movement. An admittedly tough subject matter, but the acting, storytelling and filmmaking are fabulous. One of the year's best. **Grade: B+**

**"The Menu"** (in theaters)



Another great film that many people aren't seeing. Ralph Fiennes and Anya Taylor-Joy lead a cast in this wild film about a group of people who receive invitations for dinner at one of the most exclusive restaurants in the world. One by one, we see the onion peeled and why each person was invited. At times very violent but never boring. The movie takes you in directions you could never see coming. That originality serves it well. **Grade: A-**

**"Strange World"** (in theaters)



Our annual holiday animated film from the folks at Disney, this one was marketed in such a weird way that you had no idea what it was

about, or, frankly, why you should see it. It was surprising to me, after that early marketing push, to find a well-made, straight-forward family film. Without giving anything away, the "strange world" isn't really that strange after all, and this turns out to be a well-meaning film about family and following your dreams. **Grade: B+**

**"The Fablemans"** (in theaters)



I have deliberately left the best for last. Director Steven Spielberg gives us his most personal film with a look at a young man in a dysfunctional family who dreams of being a filmmaker. The cast is top-notch with Michelle Williams, Paul Dano, Seth Rogan and an outstanding young man named Gabriel LaBelle. The movie is full of angst but also full of great heart and promise. At this point, it is the best movie I've seen this year. Charming and truly magical. **Grade: A.**

This is one of the best Novembers I can remember. So get out of the house and see a movie... maybe three. If you are full-time at the lake, the theater in Stuart is great fun. You can buy two beers and leave one in the fridge for later. You are also only 30 miles from The Palms in Waukeg, which is, hands down, the best theater in the state.

I hope your Thanksgiving was blessed and that your family time was wonderful. See you next month to assess the holiday movie season. ■

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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WINTERIZATION

FROM PAGE 1



Ross Norem, who joined the LPA water department staff in late October, and Lane Rumelhart, LPA project manager, removed the cover to the control structure at the Helen’s Cove wetland Nov. 1. Stop logs inside the structure control how much water flows from the wetland downstream into Helen’s Cove. To lower the wetland for the winter, Norem and Rumelhart used metal poles with hooks on the end to remove some of the 6-inch stop logs. They then replaced and locked the cover. This process will be reversed in the spring, so the wetland holds more water through the summer months.

“This also helps keep ice from damaging the wetland shorelines,” Rumelhart says. “In the spring, I reverse the process, raising the pool levels to contain as much water as possible so silt can settle out from nearby farm fields. There is visible silt in all the wetlands, so we know they are doing their job.”

Mike Gliem, who heads the LPA water department, keeps a close eye on fall weather forecasts. Right before cold weather arrives, he and his crew go to all three beach restrooms, both campground restrooms, and the restrooms on both golf courses, to shut off the water. The crew then blows out whatever water is left in the pipes to ensure no water is in the system that could freeze pipes. Gliem also winterizes the dog park water features and blows out the water lines at the LPN swimming pool.

Monthei’s maintenance crew works ahead to get sand and salt mixes ready to be applied for the first snowfalls of winter. The crew is able to mix a brine (saltwater) to apply to roads ahead of forecasted snow. It’s possible to store 3,000 gallons of brine at the LPA maintenance facility, which is how much is needed to

apply one layer to all of LPA’s roads one time. The crew also prepares a sand/salt mix to put down on the roads after these have been plowed.

Throughout the winter, the maintenance department runs five snowplow trucks on four routes and parking lots. The crew works to remove snow early in the morning before normal working hours. There are 35 miles, which translates into 70 miles for both lanes, of LPA roads that get cleared. The crew will work until 6-7 p.m. either plowing snow or putting down brine to help melt snowfall, so residents who commute can travel home safely. The same crew members then turn around and return early the next morning, around 5 a.m.

Finally, members may have noticed LPA employees in late fall pulling vegetation out alongside the roads, which is done to help improve winter road conditions. As days get shorter, LPA needs to maximize the amount of sunlight that hits the road surface. Most of what is pulled out are invasive honeysuckle and autumn olive plants, or noxious cedar trees. Clearing these areas also make the roads safer because of increased visibility for motorists. ■



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SPORTS COURT  
FROM PAGE 1



A Goalsetter MVP basketball post, backboard and hoop is centered in the middle of the north side of the court, giving basketball enthusiasts a great lake view while they play the game.

that was disturbed during construction will be seeded to grass, and white gravel will be added around the perimeter of the fence to act as a weed barrier and fill in the small gap between the fence

and the court. Two signs will be added to the fence. One will recognize donors who gave \$500 or more to the sports court project. The other will state dogs are not allowed on the court. ■



The basketball lane is made of green tile. Black paint shows the basketball free throw line, lane and three-point arc. The regulation-sized pickleball court also is green tile, painted with white lines. The rest of the court is covered in blue tile.

DOG PARK ADDITIONS, NEW BENCH AT BOULDER BEACH

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Two other smaller Friends of Lake Panorama projects also are complete. In October, Larry Isom with Isom Tree Farm planted four Autumn Blaze Maple trees at the Lake Panorama dog park. The trees were purchased by Friends, while Isom volunteered to plant the trees, plus water as needed. The Friends board used \$4,500 from the 2022 Beach Ball profits to purchase the four trees, plus two benches that will be secured to concrete pads. The concrete pads were poured in October. The two benches have arrived and will be assembled and installed in December. A new memorial bench has been added to the Boulder Beach playground. The bench was ordered more than a year ago, but material shortages and manufacturing delays meant it wasn't delivered and installed until mid-November. Funds donated to Friends of Lake Panorama were used to purchase the bench, which is in memory of Craig Thompson. Thompson passed away in March 2018 after a long illness. Although a Georgia resident for many years, he was raised in Iowa and enjoyed family visits to Lake Panorama. The bench sits at an angle in the northeast corner of the mulched area surrounding playground equipment that was installed at Boulder Beach in 2021, funded by Friends of Lake Panorama. The bench provides great views of both the playground and the lake. ■



This new bench was installed at Boulder Beach in mid-November and was given in memory of Craig Thompson. It sits near playground equipment installed in 2021 and offers views of both the lake and the playground.

Left: In October, Larry Isom, Isom Tree Farms, planted four new trees at the Lake Panorama dog park.

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# Q&A: FRIENDS PRESIDENT REVIEWS PROJECTS, ENCOURAGES YEAR-END DONATIONS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Friends of Lake Panorama is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity dedicated to supporting recreational amenities at Lake Panorama. The first meeting of the Friends of Lake Panorama board was Dec. 3, 2013. An application for nonprofit status was filed with the IRS in January 2014 and approved in July of that year.

The charity is governed by a volunteer, seven-member board of directors. In this month's Q&A, Jan Reinicke, Friends board president, talks about completed projects and the charity's current priority project.

**Q. For newcomers to Lake Panorama, let's start with a look back at some of the first major projects Friends of Lake Panorama helped make possible.**

A. Our first project was a destination playground at Sunset Beach. It was a partnership project, completed in 2016, with Friends raising \$80,000 and LPA contributing \$50,000. Our second large project was the sports courts at Boulder Beach, which also was a partnership project with the LPA.

In 2017, the Panorama West golf course saw significant upgrades, thanks to an estate gift to Friends of \$473,00 from James and Joyce McLuen. It was a generous gift by long-time lake residents who wanted to support a place they loved by including a bequest in their will. We hope it encourages others to think about the future impact they can have on recreational amenities at Lake Panorama.

Another major project completed in 2021 was a \$70,000 fundraising campaign for new playground equipment at both Shady and Boulder Beaches. The LPA provided in-kind contributions of assistance with installation, oversight and maintenance.

**Q. Several projects led by Friends were completed**

**this year, correct?**

A. Yes, I'm happy to report five projects were completed in 2022. It has been a banner year for adding to the recreational opportunities here at the lake, but none of it could have been accomplished without the continuing support of so many in the community. Our support has run the gamut of great volunteers helping with fundraising and outreach to others to generous contributors at the Beach Ball, as well as a few individuals stepping up to make a project a reality. All are appreciated and applauded.

The biggest of the five projects is the Lake Panorama dog park. A \$50,000 fundraising effort began in September 2020. Donations reached \$45,000 by the time the 2021 Beach Ball was held, which provided another \$5,000 to reach the project goal.

The park opened June 10. Another \$4,500 from the 2022 Beach Ball was used to purchase two benches and four trees to add to the park. The dog park project was successful from the beginning as numerous volunteers helped raise the necessary funds. There were so many fundraisers held by our volunteer committee, it appeared to be a labor of dog love. Now it's gratifying to see the dogs and their owners enjoying the space. It's become a popular hangout for the canine crowd.

Another project that was in the planning stages for a while and completed this fall is the Panorama West Nature Trail. Private donations and funds from the 2021 Beach Ball made this project possible. Portions of an existing trail being used by a limited number of people and the Panorama school's cross-country track teams now is a designated nature trail, and ready for visitors.

Posts with directional signage and a trailhead sign have been 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. Those who use the official trail, plus the optional loop, will complete 2.25 miles. It's a beautiful trail.

A third project completed this year was the addition of three swings near the existing Sunset Beach playground. The swing set includes two bench swings and one toddler swing and was financed by profits from the 2021 Beach Ball.

A fourth project that wrapped up this fall also is at Sunset Beach. The Friends board had discussed a basketball half-court there for several years. The idea of expanding the basketball court to include pickleball was raised this summer. Adding an extra 10 feet to the original plan made this possible.

Mark and Karen Einck donated \$25,000 for this project, with another \$5,500 in donations received. A total of \$17,500 from the 2022 Beach Ball finished this project, which now is ready for basketball players. A portable pickleball net on wheels will be available there in the spring.

The fifth project came together quickly this spring at Lake Panorama National. Eight large shade trees located around the Spikes snack shop, and between the first and 10th tees, were removed in February. Research on artificial shade options led to a project that cost \$22,000.

Fundraising began in April, and the goal was reached in June. Six metal poles were installed in concrete footings in the grassy horseshoe area near Spikes, with two heavy-duty fabric sails attached to the poles. The main use of this area is for golfers in carts before and after tournaments and league play.

**Q. What other projects are in the works?**

A. The current priority project for Friends of Lake Panorama is enhancements to existing

trails on the south shore of the main basin, which the LPA board approved at its Aug. 30 meeting. The board also approved Friends and LPA staff working with Panorama Community Schools personnel to move the cross country team trail from Panorama West to the south shore. The new cross country trail will begin on school property, continue onto the south shore for much of the course, and loop back to end at the school.

So far the school has spent about \$5,000 to make a path through an area of cedar trees on LPA property that is near the northwest corner of school property. This new path is about 25 feet wide and 100 yards long and will connect with existing trail sections on the south shore. School personnel also are committed to helping with ongoing maintenance.

The south shore has several existing trail sections that will be combined into a single structure offering a variety of lengths and difficulty. Final details for the trail system will be developed in spring 2023.

Earlier this year, Friends of Lake Panorama presented a recreational concept for the south shore to the LPA board, which included disc golf, fishing dock, a small shelter and the walking trail enhancements. Friends continues to research these additional low-impact recreational amenities, and will return to the LPA board in 2023 for further discussion.

**Q. How can people donate to Friends of Lake Panorama?**

A. Statistics show a high percentage of charitable contributions are made in the last few weeks of the year. We're looking forward to donations coming in to support the trails project on the south shore, as well as the Friends general fund. All donations are tax-deductible and donors receive a confirmation letter for tax purposes.

There are several donation options. One easy way is to clip the coupon from the Friends ad in this issue of the Lake Panorama Times, fill it out and mail it with a check to Friends of Lake Panorama, P.O. Box 488, Panora, IA 50216. Or simply include a note with your check so we know how you want your donation used.

Direct donations can be sent via Venmo @Panorama-Friends. Donations also can be made by credit card online at [www.friendsoflakepanorama.org](http://www.friendsoflakepanorama.org). Details about all past, present and future Friends projects also are on the Friends website.

Donations of securities (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) are welcome, as are direct IRA qualified charitable distributions — for donors over age 70 ½ who are required to take forced IRA distributions. There are potential tax-saving benefits when considering either of these direct donation strategies. For information, contact Kristen Crouthamel, financial advisor at GCSB Investment Center, at 641-755-2799 or [kristen@investgcsb.com](mailto:kristen@investgcsb.com).

**Q. Any additional thoughts you'd like to share?**

A. Friends of Lake Panorama is the perfect opportunity to forge a strong partnership with the Lake Panorama Association to improve the recreational opportunities here at the lake. Working together, we have the potential to improve the quality of life for current and future residents. While the LPA's focus, out of necessity, needs to be on safety, security and infrastructure needs, Friends of Lake Panorama can be a catalyst and support group focusing on the amenities our community members desire.

Our working relationship with the LPA is a good model as we move forward. The LPA board has provided financial contributions when possible and many in-kind contributions. LPA staff



Jan Reinicke

have spent many hours helping make each of the projects come to be a part of life at Lake Panorama.

We are proud of our commitment to engage LPA community members in establishing priorities and continuing our work to provide additional amenities. The volunteer committee working on developing a concept for recreational amenities on the South Shore is another good example of seeking input from community members with expertise and commitment.

In addition, we were encouraged by the strong response to the survey conducted among lake members affirming their support for south shore projects.

We will be doing outreach for the support needed to complete the next phase of projects and hope you'll include Friends in your priorities. We'd like to widen our fundraising base in the community and get new first-time donors on board. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to build a strong Friends organization for the future.

That future support can include marking your calendars now for the sixth Beach Ball on Friday, June 16, 2023. This is our primary fundraising event in addition to the individual donations we solicit throughout the year. It's always a fun event so save the date and plan to attend. More information will be available in the spring. ■

## ASK *Lake Panorama* TIMES If you've got questions, we'll find the answers.

**Q: I noticed that the Lake Panorama Times is now printed in full color on every page. If I remember right, it only used to have color on certain pages. What brought on the change?**

**A:** You are quite observant, and we are glad you noticed. We made the decision to start running every page in full color several months ago. We think it looks better, and we hope you do, too. Although it is much more expensive to print in full color, we believe it to be a necessary step in modern publishing. After all, you could still watch a black and white TV, but would you?

**Q: Why do the foxes around the lake seem so friendly? Can I safely approach them?**

**A:** Spotting a fox can be exciting, especially when it approaches you. Foxes can be friendly and are generally not a threat to humans. However, foxes are wild animals, they are unpredictable, and they will revert to their wild nature in a situation where they feel threatened, according to [allthingsfoxes.com](http://allthingsfoxes.com). Even if a fox appears to be friendly, you should not approach it up close. A wild fox is a solitary creature that prefers to avoid people and other animals. They sneak around in the night, do their business, and return to their dens. In some settings, a fox is most likely just curious. It will come around, hoping to find scraps of food. It could be friendly, or it could be more aggressive, depending on the situation. You should also know that foxes are known to have mange and carry rabies. These are two of the biggest reasons you should not approach foxes in the wild. The best advice is to admire foxes from a distance.

**Q: I have a family member who died and no longer lives on the lake, but I would like to run the obituary in the paper even though the funeral is in another area. Can I do that? Do I need to go through the funeral home?**

**A:** We welcome obituaries about anyone who has had a tie to Lake Panorama, past or present. You can certainly request that the funeral home send us the information, or you can send the photo and copy to us directly. Send to [shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com). There is no charge for obituaries in the Lake Panorama Times. ■

Submit your questions at [www.lakepanoramatimes.com](http://www.lakepanoramatimes.com) or email [shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com).

## *Lake Panorama* TIMES

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# ANNUAL LAKE PANORAMA FISH STOCKING COMPLETED

Fin and Feather stocks fish that range from 3 inches to 8 inches in length.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Nearly \$18,000 worth of fish were added to Lake Panorama Nov. 2 and funded by Fin and Feather. Fish stocking totals for 2022 included 1,500 walleye, 1,500 smallmouth bass, 3,000 largemouth bass and 1,000 perch.

The longtime supplier for the fish-stocking program is North Star Fish Hatchery, a third-generation, family-owned business in Montour, Iowa. North Star brought the fish to Lake Panorama, where the fish were introduced into the lake near the LPA work area at the mouth of Burchfield Cove. In the past, Boulder Beach has been the most popular location for stocking, but Fin and Feather decided it would be best to vary the location.

Fin and Feather stocks fish that range from 3 inches to 8 inches in length, depending on the species, to promote high survival rates. Fingerlings are less expensive, but survival rates are lower. Experience has shown group leaders that stocking larger fish is a good investment. This year, the perch and walleye were larger than usual.

Volunteers in the nonprofit Fin and Feather group have been stocking fish and working to improve fishing conditions in Lake Panorama since 1984. When the dam was closed in 1970, the only thing natural to the lake were crappie, largemouth bass, carp and catfish.

Besides stocking fish, the group helps improve fish habitat and sponsors an annual fishing derby for children during Panorama Days. Fin and Feather raises its money through annual memberships and a fundraising banquet each spring.

The 2023 banquet is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, the same date as the LPA annual meeting. The event will be held at the Lake Panorama National conference center, with social hour at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. ■



The longtime supplier for the fish-stocking program is North Star Fish Hatchery. North Star brought the fish to Lake Panorama, where the fish were introduced into the lake near the mouth of Burchfield Cove. Scott Stanley, a Fin and Feather committee member, is shown releasing a bucket of fish into the lake.



More than \$18,000 worth of fish were added to Lake Panorama this fall. Shown here is one of the 1,500 walleye included in this year's fish stocking, funded by Fin and Feather.



Left: Nearly \$18,000 worth of fish were added to Lake Panorama Nov. 2, using funds raised by Fin and Feather. Included in this year's stocking were 3,000 largemouth bass and 1,500 smallmouth bass.

Right: Fin and Feather stocks fish 3-8 inches in length to promote high survival rates. The fish brought to Lake Panorama this year were all healthy, and some were larger than usual. This perch was one of the 1,000 perch released Nov. 2.

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SPOONS  
FROM PAGE 1



Brenda Dinkla has about 200 of her favorite collectible spoons on display in the townhome she and her husband Dwight live in at Lake Panorama. She has another 150 spoons stored away. Note she’s wearing a necklace with a spoon pendant.



These are six of Brenda Dinkla’s favorite spoons. All are sterling silver, which means these probably would have been made before 1920. Highlights of each spoon are, left to right, Ft. Dearborn, Chicago; Morro Castle, San Juan, Puerto Rico, dated 1910; Grant’s Tomb depicted in the spoon bowl, with the New York City skyline on the handle; Congressional Library, Washington, D.C., with President Washington on the handle; Mount Vernon; and Mt. Rainier, Seattle, with the notation 14444 Ft.

features I liked or that had a special meaning to me because of where it was from,” Dinkla says.

Souvenir spoons were first produced in Europe around the mid-1800s. Wealthy Americans touring Europe brought home these souvenirs marked with the names of cities and famous landmarks they saw. The first souvenir spoon in the United States was created in 1889, featured a profile of George Washington, and was created to mark the 100th anniversary of his presidency.

Soon, hundreds of souvenir spoon patterns were being produced to commemorate American cities and towns, famous people, historical events and significant events of the time. The spoons were made of sterling silver. The collapse of the silver market in 1893 meant for the first time silver was affordable to many more Americans, and the popularity of spoon collecting increased.

By the 1930s, most souvenir spoons were silver-plated. Beginning in the 1950s and yet today, souvenir spoons are made of stainless steel.

“The most collectible spoons are the ones made of sterling silver,” Dinkla says. “You can tell a lot about the time a spoon was made, and its value, by the material used.”

After buying those first sterling silver spoons, Dinkla started reading sale bills, and purchased other spoons for her collection at auction.

“They are much harder to find now,” she says. “I used to walk through an antique store and find a spoon I liked, but most sell online. In the last 10 years, I’ve turned to occasionally browsing online, and if I find something that really interests me, I’ll buy it.”

SPOONS, PAGE 9

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SPOONS  
FROM PAGE 8

Dinkla has about 350 spoons in her collection. She displays 200 of her favorites on wooden racks on a wall in the Karen Drive townhome she and her husband, Dwight, moved to four years ago. Dwight grew up in Casey, and Brenda in Adair. They’ve lived at Lake Panorama since 2010, after 30 years in Guthrie Center.

“I really like the old sterling silver ones the best, with some of my favorites being spoons that show things from my past or from surrounding towns,” she says. “For instance, I have one that shows the old Guthrie Center high school from the early 1900s. I also have one of the old Rock Island train depot in Adair, and a church in Casey that no longer exists.”

While many of Dinkla’s oldest spoons are closer to the size of a typical spoon a person would use for eating, some are much smaller. One tiny one is actually a pin.

“Brides would register for flatware, and once they had acquired a full set, the company selling the flatware would give the bride a pin with a small spoon attached,” she says.

Because the sterling silver spoons tarnish over time, Dinkla cleans them every three months or so.

“It’s an all-day project, but polished sterling is really beautiful,” she says. “I love looking at each one as I clean it, because each is so detailed and historical. Each has a story, and I wish I knew that story. It’s interesting to think about how people traveled back then and how they purchased souvenir spoons.”

Dinkla says she knows some people who have a few souvenir spoons, but not a collection like hers.

“Once in a while, someone will give me a spoon as a gift,” she says. “But most of my spoons I’ve found on my own and purchased because I liked something about them. The hunt is part of the fun.” ■

Do you have an interesting collection you’d be willing to share in a future Lake Panorama Times story? Or know someone who has a collection you’d like to read about? If so, contact Susan Thompson, [thomcomm@netins.net](mailto:thomcomm@netins.net), or 515-240-6536.

PETUNIA TREES TRANSFORMED  
FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Two metal stands that overflowed with pink petunias through the summer months now are decked out for the holiday season. Members of the Panora Garden Club gathered the afternoon of Nov. 28 to transform the metal stands into Christmas trees.

The metal stands were installed last spring near the gazebo in Panora’s downtown area. The garden club used donated funds to have the stands created and installed. Volunteers kept the petunia pots watered throughout the summer.

Garden club members used plastic zip ties to attach freshly cut pine branches onto the metal stands in layers. Strings of lights, colorful flowers, pine cones and other decorations were added before each “tree” was topped with a golden star.

Earlier in the month, club members filled several of their blue pots with a variety of holiday decorations, which are scattered throughout the Panora business district. ■



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**New Retirement Contribution Limits for 2023**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released new limits for certain retirement accounts for the coming year. After months of high inflation and financial uncertainty, some of these cost-of-living-based adjustments have reached near-record levels.

**Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)**  
Traditional IRA contribution limits are up \$500 in 2023 to \$6,500. Catch-up contributions for those over age 50 remain at \$1,000, bringing the total limit to \$7,500.

**Roth IRAs**  
The income phase-out range for Roth IRA contributions increases to \$138,000-\$153,000 for single filers and heads of household, a \$9,000 increase. For married couples filing jointly, phase-out will be \$218,000 to \$228,000, a \$14,000 increase. The same increases for Roth IRA contributions apply as a Traditional IRA - \$6,500 per Individual, with an additional \$1,000 catch-up allowance for those over age 50.

**Workplace Retirement Accounts**  
Those with 401(k), 403(b), 457 plans, and similar accounts will see a \$2,000 increase for 2023, the limit rising to \$22,500. Those aged 50 and older will now have the ability to contribute an extra \$7,500, bringing their total limit to \$30,000.

**SIMPLE IRA Accounts**  
A \$1,500 increase in limits for 2023 gives individuals contributing to this incentive match plan a \$15,500 stop light. Those aged 50 and older will now have the ability to contribute an extra \$3,500 (a \$500 increase), bringing their total limit to \$19,000.

Visit [investgcsb.com](http://investgcsb.com) to read this article in its entirety. As always, discuss your retirement plan contributions with your tax advisor, and give us a call today to discuss your financial goals!

**Kristen Crouthamel, AIF®, Financial Advisor**

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# SANTA’S WORKSHOP AND BREAKFAST

The annual Santa’s Workshop and pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Panora Chamber, was held Saturday, Dec. 3. An estimated 200 people enjoyed the pancake breakfast at the Panora Community Center, available for a freewill donation.

Children had the chance to talk with Santa, have their photos taken with him, and pick up a goodie bag. A variety of crafts and games were available in the adjacent Veteran’s Auditorium and included

such things as cookie decorating, coloring, creating Christmas tree ornaments and participating in the Candy Cane walk.

The Santa’s Workshop activities were sponsored and staffed by several businesses and community groups. Those included Guthrie County Hospital and Clinics, Crafty’s Coffee and Gifts, Women for Panora’s Future, Stormy Miller, Patty Stanton, Panorama FFA, and two 4-H clubs, the US Sunbeams and Cass Pioneers. ■



Four-year-old twin sisters Lenox and Knox Matthies were excited to visit with Santa and tell him what they hoped he will bring them for Christmas. They are the daughters of Erica and John Matthies of Panora.



Members of the Women for Panora’s Future (WFPF) club ran a Candy Cane walk as part of Santa’s Workshop in Veteran’s Auditorium. Participants walked in a circle as music played. When the music stopped, they stepped on the nearest numbered pad. Numbers were drawn, and the child standing on the winning number received a candy cane.



Three of Santa’s friends — an elf, a Christmas tree and a gingerbread cookie — roamed the venue and were available for photos with visitors.



Volunteers representing the Panora Chamber flipped and served pancakes as part of the Santa’s Workshop event. Shown are Mike Ketelsen, Dave Grove, Janis Hochreiter and Dale Hochreiter.



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Lake Panorama Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Oct. 25, 2022

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met Oct. 25, 2022, at 5 p.m. at 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, Lane Rumelhart, John Rutledge.

Visitors in attendance: None  
President Schumacher called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Approval of the Agenda

Flanery 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 – No one was present

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 09.27.2022 LPA Board Meeting
  - c) Acceptance of 09.30.2022 consolidated financial report – LPA & LPN, LLC
  - d) Set date for next board meeting, Nov. 22, 2022
  - e) Accept minutes from 09.26.2022 LPN LLC Board of Managers Meeting
  - f) Accept minutes from 10.10.2022 Building Codes Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 4a – Setback Variance for Pool Fence – Lots 1541 and 1542 combined

Request by owner of lots 1541/1542, James and Dee Tometich, was made for an eight-foot setback variance from the shoreline for the construction of swimming pool fence. Site plan demonstrates pool is 50 feet from the shoreline, but the fence surrounding the pool is 42 feet at some points, from the shoreline, due to curvature of the shore line. Building codes committee is recommending the approval of the variance.

Finneseth moved to approve an eight-foot shoreline setback variance for the swimming pool fence, as presented on site plans, to be constructed on Lots 1541 and 1542 combined lots, 4907 McDermott Lane, James and Dee Tometich. Motion seconded, carried

unanimously.

Agenda Item 4a – Land Sales – Lots 1333 and 1326

LPA received offers from William and Marcia Hackfort to purchase Lots 1333 and 1326. The LPA land sales committee reviewed offers and recommends accepting the offers; Lot 1333 in the amount of \$20,000, contingent on Lot 1333 being legally combined with the lot 1334 at closing, Lot 1326 in the amount of \$35,000, contingent on acceptable perc test.

Finneseth moved to approve sale of lot 1333 to William and Marcia Hackfort for sale price of \$20,000 with lot to be combined with lot 1334 at closing. Approve sale of lot 1326 for sale price of \$35,000, sale contingent on acceptable perc. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4c – Update from board members regarding campground review

Finneseth and Flanery reported on a review of the campgrounds, current rates and neighboring campgrounds. Board unanimously directed management to increase camping fees and storage rates by \$100 in the final version of the 2023 Operational Budget.

Agenda Item 4d – 2023 LPA and LPN Budgets – Capital and Operational Budgets

The LPA and LPN budgets were reviewed. No action was taken, follow-up information will be presented at the November meeting for final budget approval.

Agenda Item 5 – Other Business – None

Agenda Item 6 – Closed Session – The board entered closed session at 7:19 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Board exited closed session at 7:30 p.m.

Donovan moved to authorize execution of boundary line agreement between LPA and two adjacent member/property owners, with the agreement to be drafted by LPA attorney. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Schumacher noted for the minutes that the general manager's multi-year contract was reviewed in closed session and mutually continued by both LPA and General Manager John Rutledge. Rutledge thanked the board for their continued support.

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

OBITUARIES  
EDWARD JOE BUCHANAN

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www.lakepanoramatimes.com.

Edward Joe Buchanan, 81, son of Roy and Ruth (Parrish) Buchanan, was born Aug. 27, 1941, in Taylor County, Iowa. A beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, at his home.

Ed was raised on the family farm and graduated from Clearfield High School in 1959. In 1960, Ed went to work constructing telephone systems for Afton Telephone Company. On Dec. 20, 1963, he married DeVona "Dee Dee" Stevens in St. Marys, Iowa, and raised two children, William "Bill" and Tonia. They made their home in Truro, Iowa.

In 1965, Ed was one of the founding members of Interstate 35 Telephone Company. Ed spent his entire career in the rural telephone industry, serving as the president of Interstate 35 Telephone Company until 2007. He was recognized by his peers as an industry leader, serving as a director of the Iowa Telephone Association, Iowa Network Services, National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), Iowa Telecom, and Iowa Wireless, and a committee chair for OPASTCO, and past chair of Farmers and Merchants Bank. Throughout Ed's life, he served his community in various capacities, as a volunteer fire chief, member of the Lions Club, City Council member, School Board member and a member of the Knights of Columbus. In 2002, Ed and Dee Dee moved to Lake Panorama and are members of St. Cecilia Catholic Church.

Over the years, Ed enjoyed many hobbies in-

cluding golf, traveling for industry meetings, water skiing, hunting, motorcycling, and Corvette club. He has visited all 50 states and numerous countries. Ed treasured most his time with family and friends, and wintering in Orange Beach, Alabama, with Dee Dee.

He is survived by his wife, Dee Dee Buchanan of Panama; son, Bill (Mallorie) Buchanan of Staunton, Virginia; daughter, Tonia (Stan) Rouse of Blue Hill, Nebraska; grandchildren, Tyler and Tanner Buchanan, Kyl, John, and Katelynn Rouse; sisters, JoAnn (Keith) Denton of Avoca and Barb Osterwise of Maui, Hawaii; sister-in-law, Kay Buchanan of Crescent City, California, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Billy and David Buchanan.

Memorial services were Nov. 26, 2022, at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Panama. Burial of his remains will be at a later date in the Conway Cemetery, Conway, Iowa.

Memorials may be left to St. Jude's or to the discretion of the family. ■



JEFFREY C. BILBREY

Jeffrey Bilbrey passed away peacefully on Oct. 18, 2022, at the age of 75.

Jeffrey (Jeff) was an entrepreneur in his business life. In the fall of 1984, he opened a new restaurant called "The Waveland Cafe" near Waveland Golf Course in Des Moines. He served breakfast and lunch in the setting of an old-time diner. The food was so good that it was not uncommon for a line to form out the front door on a Sunday morning during breakfast. He had many "regular" customers, and it was a favorite place of many. Some even had a favorite table. Jeff sold the Waveland Cafe in 1993 to the people who still own it today.

In 1994, Jeff started the Urbandale Café, which was located on the corner of 86th Street and Douglas Avenue in Urbandale. It was in the same retail center as Hy-Vee. He owned and operated that restaurant for 16 years. Jeff retired when Hy-Vee expanded into that location.

During the winter of 2013, Jeff had the idea of moving out to Lake Panorama. He and his mother (Kathleen) each sold their respective homes and moved to Lake Panorama in the spring of 2013 to be closer to family. Jeff took such good care of his mother. By sharing a home, he surely extended her life. She passed away at 98 years of age.

Jeff's passions were playing golf and sailing.

He owned numerous sailboats before retiring, and one of those ironically found its way to Lake Panorama with a different owner. He loved living at the lake. He loved playing golf with the old guys who have a perpetual game going every day... even during winter.

Jeff was a very generous person. He was the kind of guy who would give you the shirt off his back, even if he needed the shirt. He would just find a way to live without the shirt so the person in need could have one. He was a loyal and faithful friend.

Jeff is preceded in death by his mother and father, Kathleen and Charles Bilbrey, and his sister, Jan Webster. He is survived by his sisters, Jackie Van Ahn and Ruth Jordal, along with many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Jeff's life will be held Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. at the Panorama Par 3 Clubhouse. Because Jeff always owned dogs and loved them dearly, any donations can be made to the Animal Rescue League of Iowa. ■





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MORE NON-BUSINESS STORIES ALSO INSIDE THIS SECTION.

## STRENGTH TRAINING IS BIG BUSINESS

Jeff Conner is the owner and CEO of Power Lift. He and his wife, Robin, have owned a home on Lake Panorama since 1998.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

There is a large complex of buildings on the northeast edge of Jefferson, north of Highway 30. At one time, Parker Grain Wagons were manufactured at the site, before the company went out of business. For the past 20 years, athletic performance strength training equipment has been created there under the Power Lift brand.

Jeff Conner is the owner and CEO of Power Lift. He and his wife, Robin, have owned a home on Lake Panorama's Burchfield Cove since 1998.

Conner describes himself as "just a farm kid" who was raised four miles north of Jefferson. He was a wrestler at Jefferson High School and also for a brief time in college, before returning to the family farm.

The Conners soon had three children to raise, and he worked a variety of jobs. He spent 10 years with Morton Buildings. In the 1980s, he started selling for American Athletic, a company in Jefferson founded in 1954 to manufacture trampolines that later expanded its athletic equipment offerings.

In 1987, he formed Conner Athletic Products to distribute high quality fitness equipment. From 1989 to 1998, Conner Athletic Products was the Midwest United States distributor for Hammer Strength Equipment.

Conner was first exposed to weight lifting as a college wrestler. As his children got involved in weight training for youth sports, his past experience, combined with their new opportunities, stuck in his mind.

"I realized no one was providing the things the market really needed," he says. "I'm not an engineer, but as a farm kid, I understand how things work. I decided to start manufacturing products I knew would sell, to customers I already had lined up."

The Power Lift brand name was created in 1999. Power Lift began manufacturing in 2000 with four employees working in several different rented locations throughout Jefferson. Manufacturing was consolidated into a 50,000-square-foot facility at its current location in 2003. A 10,000-square-foot office and showroom complex was added in 2005. Another 5,000-square-foot space was added a year later.

Conner's first product was Olympic Lifting platforms, which continues to be a popular offering. These oak floor platforms feature five layers of wood, covered by five coats of polyurethane. The platform is flanked on each side by rubber surfaces, so a standing lifter can drop a free weights bar without damage to the wood platform.

Next came modular free-weight lifting rack stations in a variety of sizes, shapes and features. Then came a variety of weight stack machines, so users can strengthen all upper and lower body parts. Two years ago, the company began offering laser cut logos and signs, which allows buyers to customize the equipment and accessories they purchase.

"Everything we build is sold for a customer; we don't produce for inventory," Conner says. "Probably 80% of the equipment is customized for a particular customer. In addition, we can provide customized colors, logos and signage. Larger companies don't have the ability to provide the type of customization we do."

The company's 5,000-square-foot showroom is filled with equipment and photos of previous installations.

"We bring in college and high school coaches from around the country," Conner says. "Having them be able to see in person the various pieces of equipment we build is helpful as we design their weight rooms."

Power Lift has 85 employees, most of whom live in the Jefferson area. Eight sales people are scattered across the United States to service specific regions.

"All of our sales people were previously involved in weight training either as an athlete or a coach," Conner says.

Four engineers work on research and development, coming up with new products or ways to improve existing products. The company holds five patents. The engineers also manage equipment design and room



The 65,000-square-foot Power Lift manufacturing plant, office and showroom facility is north of Highway 30 on the northeast corner of Jefferson. The Power Lift semis in the photo deliver equipment to customers across the United States, where installation is handled by Power Lift employees.



Panorama High School students are shown in the school's weight room during a physical education class, which includes both multi-sport athletes and students not involved in organized sports at the school. Spotters are required for the bench presses being done here.



This laser in the Power Lift manufacturing facility is used to cut holes in metal pieces of equipment. Metal signage the company offers to customers to fit on the equipment they purchase also is created on this machine.

layouts for customers.

Larry Isom, who also lives in Burchfield Cove with his wife, Heather, and their two children, has been with Power Lift for 17 years and is senior director of engineering. He grew up in southern California and attended Cal Poly, where he and Heather met.

Isom started working in the commercial strength industry for Life Fitness while he was still in school. The couple moved to Kentucky in 2000 so he could work in the Hammer Strength division of Life Fitness.

"That was when I first met Jeff," Isom says. "From Kentucky we went to Minnesota where I was head of engineering for the commercial strength division. I left that position to work for Jeff."

The Isoms' move to Iowa in 2005 brought them directly to Lake Panorama.

"Jeff had me out to the lake as part of the recruitment," Isom says. "That was part of the appeal to make the transition, and it's been a great place to live."

The Power Lift list of customers is more than 3,500 and counting, with equipment sold across the United States and 18 other countries. About 90% of all items sold in the United States are delivered and installed by Power Lift employees.

"Eighty percent of our business is colleges, universities and high schools," Conner says. "The remaining 20% is pro sports, all branches of the U.S. Military, Olympic training centers, sports performance centers, and international. We ship a lot of product to China."

Conner says selling to high schools is how Power Lift started, and he plans to continue to serve those smaller customers. Three new Power Lift rack stations recently were added to the Panorama Community Schools weight room, with plans to add seven more over the next five years. The 10 new racks will replace some that are more than 20 years old.

The Power Lift sales team helps customers with equipment layouts, and deciding what equipment is needed, before an engineer takes over. Larry Isom did the design for the Panorama project.

"We created a new version of our step-up platform that attaches to the racks," he says. "My daughter Danica goes to morning workouts and uses the equipment. It was cool to build something I knew she would use."

Bruce Dahlhauser is the Panorama secondary school physical education teacher, assistant football coach, strength and conditioning



Jeff Conner is shown beside one of the Power Lift rack stations in the company's showroom. The company is well known for these rack stations, which make it possible for athletes to do a wide variety of strength training movements with free weights, all in one location.

coach, head boys track coach, and responsible for Panorama's strength and conditioning activities.

"The Power Lift stations are equipped with several features that allow us to program more efficiently and improve the flow of traffic," Dahlhauser says. "Each station includes a power rack, which is equipped with plate storage, chain and band storage, spotter arms, bar catches, and a chin-up handle, a multi-angle adjustable bench, an extra set of bar catches, band attachments, a landmine rotation attachment, a step-up platform, and stability ball storage."

Dahlhauser says the new stations make it possible for students to do more exercises in one location.

"Previously, athletes had to move to different parts of the weight room

to perform some of these exercises and get pieces of equipment," he says.

"Power Lift has one of the best reputations in the business, serving individuals, programs and organizations at every level around the globe," Dahlhauser says. "They have lived up to that reputation as we worked with them on this project. Having a company of their caliber 20 miles up the road is a tremendous asset for our school district."

Asked to reflect on how Power Lift became an industry leader, Conner says it's because he saw a unique opportunity.

"The timing was good. Now there are multiple players, but back then, there wasn't as much competition for the style of equipment I wanted to make. In recent years, weight rooms

have become recruiting tools, with everyone wanting to have a strength training facility with the 'wow' factor," he says. "That's what we are known for, being innovative and creating the wow factor."

Sons Matt and Christopher are involved in the Power Lift business, while daughter Celli lives in Little Rock. There are 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren in the family. Looking ahead, Jeff believes Power Lift has a bright future as a family-owned business.

"I'm in the trenches every day and don't take time often enough to think about all the places Power Lift equipment can be found. It's pretty incredible," he says. "Now we need to grow and just keep going." ■



# 3 NEW MEMBERS JOIN GUTHRIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Three new members of the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors will be sworn into office Tuesday, Jan. 3 at the Guthrie County Courthouse. Supervisor districts are redrawn every 10 years to reflect the most recent census numbers and ensure each supervisor represents an equal portion of the county population. Last spring, the Guthrie County supervisors approved a map that cut the number of voting precincts from eight to six and kept the number of supervisor districts at five.

Joining the board for the first time will be Maggie Armstrong, Brian Johnson and Steve Smith. Armstrong, of Panorama, won the Supervisor District 3 seat, which includes the town of Panorama and Lake Panorama voters who live in Cass Township. Johnson, also of Panorama, won the Supervisor District 2 seat, which covers the towns of Yale, Jamaica and Bagley, plus Lake Panorama voters who live in Victory Township. Smith, of Guthrie Center, won the Supervisor District 4 seat, which covers Guthrie Center.

Also on the five-member board will be incumbent Jerome J.D. Kuster, Guthrie Center, who won re-election Nov. 8 in Supervisor District 1. Mike Dickson, of Stuart, who lives in the newly established Supervisor District 5, was not required to run for re-election this year, because he was the only incumbent residing in the new district.

For this story, the three who will join the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors in January were asked four questions.

**The first question was why each was interested in pursuing a seat on the Guthrie County Board of Supervisors.**



Brian Johnson

Armstrong said she was raised in Guthrie County and loves Guthrie County. “The new district map gave me the opportunity to run for supervisor and represent my neighbors,” she said. “As it is now, we need some fresh ideas, and we need some new perspectives at that board of supervisors’ table. Also, representation was a big factor in my decision to run. The people who live in District 3 need to have strong representation at the county level.”

Johnson said he grew up in a family where community service was practiced. “As I answer this question, it is the anniversary of the Kennedy assassination, which had a profound impact on me,” he said. “President Kennedy asked people to give back, and I hope that by serving in this public role, I can serve the people in District 2 and in Guthrie County.”

Smith said he has always enjoyed working with people who are all working toward a common goal. “Collaborating with other supervisors, county and community groups, and citizens of Guthrie County seemed a natural fit for me,” he said. “I am interested in maintaining and improving the vitality of Guthrie County.



Maggie Armstrong

I believe Guthrie County soon will have a surge in population. Helping to plan and provide for the needs of the current citizens and those moving into the area will be a challenge, but a challenge I welcome.”

**The second question asked the new supervisors what they liked about the campaign work they did that led to their successful election.**

Smith said talking to Guthrie County residents and listening to their concerns and aspirations were highlights. “It is always interesting to hear people’s different perspectives on issues,” he said. “Also, learning the process and procedures for campaigning for an elected office was an eye-opening adventure for me.”

Armstrong said she enjoyed the opportunity to talk with and listen to people’s concerns and opinions about the future of Guthrie County. “So much of my campaign was based on connecting with voters and establishing relationships with community groups, and I took that responsibility very seriously,” she said. “Giving people a chance to ask me questions and taking the time to have thoughtful conversations



Steve Smith

is something I’ll always cherish.”

Johnson said simply meeting more people in Guthrie County was a highlight for him. “I really enjoyed visiting with voters and hope they will continue to reach out to me,” he said.

**The third question was about what the new members of the Guthrie County board hope to accomplish in their first six to 12 months in office.**

Johnson said he knows the new members have a great deal to learn. “All three of us have had discussions with department heads in an attempt to get a jump-start on 2023,” he said. “If we can get a good budget done, develop a more efficient agenda and make it more transparent to the public, we will have a good start.”

“I think bringing closure to the new law enforcement center project, and finding a solution to the current county Emergency Medical Services controversy are high priorities,” Smith said. “If we bring closure to these things, then moving forward to infrastructure and other needs will be easier.”

Armstrong agreed completion and opening of the county’s new law

enforcement center is a top priority. “It is such a critical piece of public safety for Guthrie County,” she said. “After that, we need to take a wide-angle approach to determining what is next with collaboration from all county departments. It also will be important to find successes in some of the smaller projects throughout the county. This is where strong communication, effective planning, thoughtful budgeting, and a big-picture approach are so important.”

**The final question was if the new supervisors have any personal goals as they begin their work for Guthrie County citizens.**

“My wife, JoAnn, and I love living in Guthrie County,” Johnson said. “I want to find ways to help our small towns survive and help make our businesses even more viable.”

“My No. 1 goal is to always be an effective, thoughtful leader who listens and remains committed to making sure the health and prosperity of Guthrie County is our key priority,” Armstrong said. “I hope to continue building and maintaining the strong relationships I developed during my campaign, and to always have an open mind when faced with making hard decisions.”

Smith said his main priority will be to establish positive working relationships with the other four supervisors, county employees and Guthrie County citizens. “In an effort to lead Guthrie County into the future, all parties will need to work together, set and reach goals, and provide for the many needs of Guthrie County citizens,” he said. “We also need to find ways to promote Guthrie County as a ‘county of choice’ for both young adults and people of all ages who are looking for a place to call home.” ■

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# 2023 GOLF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Annual memberships are available at both courses for both Lake Panorama Association property owners and those who are not LPA property owners.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Anyone who was a golfing member of either Panorama West or Lake Panorama National in 2022 will receive 2023 golf membership applications and related information about the 2023 season in their mailbox. Application forms also are available online and in the LPN pro shop.

There are two golf courses at Lake Panorama, both offering annual memberships. Lake Panorama National is an 18-hole course located on the east side of Lake Panorama. Panorama West is a nine-hole course on the west side of the lake. Both courses are owned by the Lake Panorama Association and managed by Lake Panorama National.

Annual memberships are available at both courses for both Lake Panorama Association property owners and those who are not LPA property owners. All memberships include free use of the Lake Panorama National driving range. There are several membership options.

A Lake Panorama National 2023 membership for LPA property owners is priced at \$2,541 for families, \$2,159 for couples, \$1,650 for an individual, and \$424 for junior golfers under the age of 18. An LPN membership for non-LPA property owners is \$2,794 for families, \$2,413 for couples, \$1,905 for individuals, and \$424 for juniors.

For LPA property owners joining at Panorama West, fees are \$793 for a family, \$623 for a couple, \$453 for an individual and \$113 for a junior. For non-LPA property owners, Panorama West memberships are \$906, \$736, \$567, and \$113 for those same four categories.

A special “first time” membership is available for those who have never been a Lake

Panorama National member. The cost of this membership for a family is \$1,620, for a couple it is \$1,334, and for an individual, the cost is \$881. LPN members who refer a “first time” person who joins will receive \$50 in LPN pro shop credit.

Distance memberships at Lake Panorama National are available for those who do not own a home at Lake Panorama, and who live more than 18 miles from the LPN. This membership costs \$2,160 for a family, \$1,779 for a couple, and \$1,175 for an individual.

Memberships for the swimming pool and fitness center at the LPN also are listed on the 2023 membership applications.

Those using private carts on either golf course must pay a trail fee. At the LPN, members have the option of a cart lease, which entitles one person to a seat on an LPN cart for the season.

Other services listed on the membership forms are cart storage at both courses and a USGA handicap at the LPN. Those who play in the LPN’s leagues and handicap tournaments must pay the \$30 handicap fee. This fee is not required for Panorama West leagues.

All memberships paid by Dec. 31, 2022, will be entered into a drawing. Prizes awarded will include a driver and fairway wood combo valued at \$850; Bushnell range finder valued at \$300; a Michael Kleinwolterink print valued at \$200; three-dozen Titleist custom golf balls valued at \$180; a 2023 single LPN pool and fitness membership valued at \$350; bring three guests free to your member course, cart included; and a nine-hole playing lesson with Rob Riggins, LPN head golf professional, valued at \$150.

Membership forms are online at [www.lakepanoramanational.com/membership](http://www.lakepanoramanational.com/membership). ■

## GUEST COLUMN

# REVISITING A 1980 WEDDING AT LAKE PANORAMA

Send in the clowns.

BY RICK MORAIN

Kathy and I got married a few weeks ago. Well, almost. What we did was renew our wedding vows in a ceremony at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Jefferson.

Our close friend, the Reverend Roger Linnan, former priest at St. Joseph and now of Sioux City, performed the ceremony. It was his first crack at us — we were married nearly 43 years ago, on Feb. 2, 1980, in my parents’ home at Lake Panorama, with the late Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Harris of Jefferson officiating and with all our close relatives present.

(Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day. That’s a big help as a reminder, given my memory challenges, which were always present but disturbingly more so these days.)

Our four children, bless them, were all there a few weeks ago, as were our daughters-in-law, son-in-law, and all but one of our six grandchildren. Daughter Molly and her husband flew in from Texas, son Matt from North Carolina, and granddaughter Laura from Arizona. Dan’s family lives in Ames and David’s in Adel. Kathy organized a role for each of them at the ceremony.

We didn’t have a musician this time, except for some recorded music. At the Panorama event, my late brother Tom played for us on Mom’s piano.

We appreciated Tom’s willingness to play. We told him what musical selections we wanted, and he said he could handle them. He seemed eager to do so. The reason became clear at the start of the ceremony.

As Kathy and I entered the living room for the processional, Tom substituted “Send in the Clowns.” As a remembrance, I played that

as the processional this time.

We had three readings at our 1980 wedding, and grandchildren reprised them.

We savored the wedding feast afterward back at our house, on takeout from a local restaurant. In 1980, we reserved a banquet room in The Port restaurant at Panorama. It was February, and The Port that winter was closed, but management opened it up for us. Unfortunately the heat hadn’t been on long enough, and we all dined in our winter coats.

Kathy had no trouble finding the church. That’s different from our wedding day back in 1980. She had been to my parents’ place at the lake a couple of times, but I had always taken her there. She still lived in Ames, and on our wedding day she drove over with her family members.

As many of you know, the roads through the Lake Panorama residential areas wind around. It’s confusing to newcomers. It was confusing to Kathy. As H-Hour approached, I kept looking at my watch. As the minutes ticked by, I kept telling myself that she had not got cold feet, that she indeed would show up. She did, after taking several wrong turns and backtracks. My heart rate, already pumped for the day, returned closer to normal.

We didn’t wear what we wore in 1980. That should come as no surprise.

Anyway, it was a signal day back then, and it was again. We’re grateful to everyone who made it memorable then, and now. After almost 43 years, we’re convinced more than ever that we did a good thing. ■

*Rick Morain is the retired publisher of the Jefferson Herald.*



## RETIREMENT PLANNING

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# A dose of optimism

We all understand the importance of being optimistic, but sometimes it’s difficult when the headlines are full of doom and gloom. The stock market slump, persistent inflation and rising interest rates dominate economic news.

In the spirit of the holidays, I want to offer a dose of optimism to help you wash down the eggnog.



Loren Merkle  
CFP®, RICP®, CFF

Retirement income taxes are going away next year in Iowa. If you are 55 or older, you will not pay state income taxes on pension income and distributions from IRAs, annuities and employer-sponsored plans like 401(k)s. The same goes for distributions from deferred compensation plans and plans maintained or contributed to by a self-employed person. This applies even if you are still working.

Medicare premiums are going down, and Social Security is going up. The standard Part B premium will be \$164.90, \$5.20 lower than in 2022 (I didn’t forget about the big jump in 2022; I’m being optimistic here, remember). Social Security is getting its biggest bump in 40 years, an 8.7% cost-of-living adjustment or COLA. The average benefit will increase by \$146 monthly from \$1,681 to \$1,827.

Those are a couple of small wins. The big wins come when you have a customized, written retirement plan. We’ve been talking with the individuals and families we work with about taking advantage of the economic conditions. We know that, on average, recessions happen every five to six years, so when we helped them put together their retirement plans, we had that in mind. Then when the recession hits, we look at action steps like Roth conversions or Dollar-Cost-Averaging and decide if it’s time to execute.

You may have been watching your 401(k) take a hit and think it’s too late to act. Or you’ve been told to sit back and wait it out. I disagree. Now is the time to take control. You don’t have to be a victim of market conditions. There are likely things you can do right now to help you get through this economic storm and put yourself in a better position for the next one. Then you can worry less about the stock market swings and focus more on the joy — something we all want to experience during the holiday season.

Take the first step to building a recession-resistant retirement plan. Check out our online Journey to Retirement workshop. Details are below.

Information provided by Loren Merkle CFP®, RICP®, CFF,  
Merkle Retirement Planning, 1860 S.E. Princeton Drive, Grimes, 515-278-1006.

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# Friends of Lake Panorama

A public nonprofit charity supporting recreational amenities at Lake Panorama

2022 was a great year filled with good news for Friends of Lake Panorama and the many donors who support the efforts of this non-profit charity!

## DOG PARK OPENS

Friends of Lake Panorama launched a \$50,000 fundraising effort in September 2020. Donations reached \$45,000 by the time the 2021 Beach Ball was held, which provided another \$5,000 to reach the project goal. Construction began in September 2021, and the park opened June 10, 2022. It is located at the corner of Sage Trail and RV Road, near the east campground. There are two sections, one for small dogs and one for large dogs. This fall, another \$4,500 raised at the 2022 Beach Ball was used to purchase benches and trees for the park. Four Autumn Blaze Maples from Isom Tree Farm were planted in early October. Two metal benches on concrete pads will be installed in December.



## LPN SHADE SAILS

A desire for artificial shade to replace eight large ash trees on the Lake Panorama National golf course led to a new project for Friends. Fundraising began in early April and the \$22,000 goal was reached in early June. Six metal poles were installed in concrete footings in the grassy “horseshoe” area in front of Spikes, then two heavy-duty fabric sails were attached to the poles at angles. The main use of this area is for golfers in carts before and after tournaments and league play.



## PANORAMA WEST NATURE TRAIL

The Panorama West Nature Trail is open and ready for visitors. It was financed by funds raised at the 2021 Beach Ball, plus additional private donations. 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. A sign at the trailhead includes a map of the trail, and there are directional signs on posts along the trail. There also are two benches along the trail. The trail is 2.25 miles in length for those who choose to include the optional three-quarters-mile loop.



## SUNSET BEACH SPORTS COURT

For several years, the Friends board discussed a basketball half-court at Sunset Beach. Adding an extra 10-feet to the original plan made it possible to accommodate pickleball. A total of \$17,500 from the 2022 Beach Ball was earmarked for this project. Mark and Karen Einck donated \$25,000, with another \$5,500 in donations also received. The sports court was completed in late November. It is a concrete pad covered with sports court tiles, surrounded by an 8-foot fence. Black paint shows the basketball free throw line, lane and three-point arc. The regulation-sized pickleball court is green tile with painted white lines. A portable pickleball net on wheels has been purchased that will be stored along the fence when not in use. It will be added to the court in the spring.



## SUNSET BEACH SWINGS

In 2014, Friends started raising funds for a large, destination playground at Sunset Beach. The playground opened in summer of 2016, replacing an old slide, merry-go-round and swings. The Friends board decided to use proceeds from the 2021 Beach Ball to bring swings back to Sunset Beach. Three swings, which include two bench swings and one toddler swing, were installed in August directly west of the existing playground.



## SOUTH SHORE TRAILS

The current priority project for Friends of Lake Panorama is enhancements to existing trails on the south shore of the main basin. A significant section of the trail will be along the shoreline, with loops of varying lengths up the hill through the timber. Some portions of the trail will be used by the Panorama Community Schools cross country teams. The south shore has several existing trail sections that will be combined into a single structure offering a variety of lengths and difficulty. The trail system design, plus estimated costs for development, won’t be complete until spring 2023. Panorama Community Schools will assist with development and maintenance of the portion of the trail used for cross country. Friends of Lake Panorama is seeking donations to help with the cost of developing the full trail system. These costs are expected to include a trailhead sign, directional signs on posts, benches, removal of dead trees and brush, turf establishment and more. Watch for additional details in early 2023, and consider a 2022 tax-deductible donation now.



## BENCHES AT BEACHES

In 2019, Friends of Lake Panorama launched a program called Benches at Beaches, which targets individuals, couples and families interested in sponsoring a single bench. Benches can be purchased as a memorial for a loved one, or by those who want to leave their mark on Lake Panorama while they are alive. Both stationary and swinging benches are available, and can be installed at any of the three beaches. Interested? Email [staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org](mailto:staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org) or call Susan Thompson, 515-240-6536.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 2023 Beach Ball — FRIDAY, JUNE 16

More information about all past, present and future projects is available at [www.friendsoflakepanorama.org](http://www.friendsoflakepanorama.org).

### Please consider a 2022 tax-deductible donation to Friends of Lake Panorama!

Donor Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in Memory of or Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ For Friends updates, please provide email: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct your charitable donation by marking one or more of the funds below. To split your donation, indicate percentages or dollar amounts for each fund chosen.

☐ South Shore Trails \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Friends General Fund \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To donate by check, make it payable to Friends of Lake Panorama. Complete this coupon and mail it, along with your check, to Friends of Lake Panorama, PO Box 488, Panora, IA 50216.

Donations of securities (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) are welcome. For information, contact Kristen Crouthamel at 641-755-2799 or [Kristen@investgcsb.com](mailto:Kristen@investgcsb.com). Direct donations can be sent via Venmo @Panorama-Friends. Donations also can be made by credit card online at [friendsoflakepanorama.org](http://friendsoflakepanorama.org). Questions or suggestions? Contact Susan Thompson, 515-240-6536, or [staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org](mailto:staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org).



# SOUTH SHORE RIP RAP REPAIR PROGRESSING

This project is being funded by the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
Lake Panorama Times

Good progress is being made on the project to repair the rip rap along the south shore of Lake Panorama's main basin. JNC Construction, of Clearfield, began work Oct. 31 near the ski team dock and is moving west. At the end of November, about half of the shoreline repair was near completion.

The crew pulls all the existing rock out of the bank and lake. Then they regrade the bank, lay fabric, and place dolomite rip rap below the lake level up to the water elevation line. Once the dolomite is in place, the salvaged field stone is put back on top of the dolomite, above the water elevation line.

This project, which is expected to be completed before the end of this year, is being funded by the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ). ■



This shows the progress being made to repair rip rap along the south shore of Lake Panorama's main basin. The work began at the ski team dock and will continue west all the way to the dam.

## 10 SQUARED WOMEN OF GUTHRIE COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING

The members of 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County met at the Lake Panorama Conference Center Nov. 15. The Bagley Fire Department was voted the recipient of the evening's donations. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 28. Check the Facebook page for more information and the 2023 meeting schedule at [www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc](http://www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc).



Barb Wollner, Patsy Goss and Nancy Loeck



Dani Fink, Courtney Hodges and Maggie Armstrong



JoAnn Johnson and Lisa Wingert



Kristen Crouthamel and Bethany McCool



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**RECIPE**

**MAKE HOLIDAY MEMORIES WITH  
SWEET EATS**

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

(Family Features) Whether your festivities include immediate family or bring together relatives from around the country, the holidays are about making memories with loved ones. From the first days of the season to the last, many families spend their precious time together with favorite activities and the best foods the holidays have to offer. Our daughters will join us here in Iowa for Christmas. As I shared last month, they value tradition but love new recipe ideas and strive to eat healthier. Having adult children is a real joy. Ours love to cook and experiment with recipes, and it is a common thread of conversation among us. So, this year, I am trying some new recipes. And, I am working on being a little more festive and creative, but striving for simplicity and minimal time in the kitchen. The following recipe accomplishes all these goals! Fresh ingredients, like Envy apples, provide an easy way to update classics due to their sweet taste and availability. The sophisticated flavor; uplifting, fresh aroma; delightfully satisfying crunch; beautiful appearance; and naturally white flesh that doesn't brown as quickly as other apples all lend themselves to shareable recipes like this Apple Wreath Salad. Find more memory-making recipes at [EnvyApple.com](http://EnvyApple.com). ■

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



Jolene Goodman

**APPLE WREATH SALAD**

Recipe courtesy of "The Produce Moms"  
(@theproducemoms)

**Balsamic Dressing:**

- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, finely ground
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

**Salad:**

- 10 ounces baby arugula
- 3 Envy apples, sliced
- 9 ounces goat cheese, crumbled
- 3 ounces pomegranate arils
- 3 ounces pecans, toasted

• To make balsamic dressing: In small serving bowl, whisk honey, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper, garlic, balsamic vinegar and olive oil.

• Place dressing bowl in center of large board or platter. Arrange arugula around dressing bowl in wreath shape.

• Place apple slices on top of arugula. Sprinkle on goat cheese, pomegranate arils and pecans.



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# LAKE DOG & COVE CAT

By CHERYL TEMPLE  
*Lake Panorama Times*

## LAKE DOG

**Name:** Willow  
**Age:** 3 years old  
**Breed:** Golden retriever  
**Owners:** Craig and Jodie Gratias

Willow's favorite place to be is anywhere her family is, but especially at the lake. She's always on the go, whether it's swimming, boating, jet skiing (yes, she rides on the jet skis) golf cart riding, playing fetch, going for walks with mom, going to work with dad, or chasing squirrels.

Willow was brought home in March of 2020, during the start of COVID, which resulted in an extra-spoiled pooch due to never being left alone. Willow is too smart for her own good; if left in the house while its owners sit outside with friends, she opens the door on her own just to be around everybody. For some reason, Willow has a huge fear of big trucks — garbage trucks, dump trucks, UPS/Amazon trucks, etc. If she's outside when they come down the road, she will open the door to the house to let herself in. Unfortunately, Willow finds stinky and sticky things to roll in. Ironically, she hates having to be bathed but won't hesitate to jump off the dock dozens of times to go for a swim. Her favorite game is tug-of-war, and she thinks anything can be used to play that game, including sticks. She's full of energy and luckily has two human brothers (Tyler, 25, and Mason, 22) who can keep up with her. There's no such thing as "personal space" with Willow; she's either sitting right next to her owners or laying on their laps. And, of course, Willow sleeps in bed with them, too. She's the boss, and she knows it.



## COVE CAT

**Name:** Mabel  
**Age:** Approximately 2-3 years old  
**Available at:** Panora Pets

Mabel was a pregnant stray that was caught and brought to Panora Pets where she was immediately taken to a foster home to give birth to her kittens. Just a few days after arriving at her foster home, she gave birth to six healthy babies. Mabel's kittens have all been adopted, but Mabel is still looking for her own home. Mabel is friendly and loving to people but does not like other kitties. She has a beautiful, deep tortoiseshell and white coat with the cutest little face scowl you will ever see. ■



## TRISH HART'S NATURE PHOTO OF THE MONTH



## SLEEPING SQUIRREL

BY SUSAN THOMPSON  
*Lake Panorama Times*

Photographer Trish Hart often has Lake Panorama wildlife posing for her camera, whether it be a deer on alert or a bird wondering why there isn't more food in one of her many feeders. But sometimes she catches an animal off guard, as was the case with this sleeping squirrel.

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 color-

ation 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. These same nimble paws also make it easy for squirrels to steal from birdfeeders. And, sometimes, those paws help a squirrel perch on a tree branch for an afternoon nap.

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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Brandon Monaghan not pictured



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- MON., DEC. 26: Closed
- SAT., DEC. 31: Closed
- NEW YEAR'S DAY: Closed
- MON., JAN. 2: Closed

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Panora location. We're still available in our temporary Panora  
mobile office while work is underway.