

THE COUNTY FAIR,
SOLITUDE, LIVE MUSIC
AND ‘ORMS’ PAGE 2

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AND THE MUSIC PLAYS ON AND ON

In 2023, the band Rukkus will celebrate 40 years.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

In the fall of 1973, four eighth-grade students brought their guitars and drums to their Perry Junior High School dance to provide live music. Nearly 50 years later, three of those guys still are making music together, plus, one now has his children and grandchildren in the band, too.

Mark Einck and his wife Karen both grew up in Perry. They still have their primary home there, plus a second home at Lake Panorama they purchased 24 years ago.

For that dance, Einck wasn't a regular member of the band. It was Jim Wuebker and Joel Wilson on guitars and Larry Nichols on drums. They played mostly Beatles, Moody Blues and other songs from the 1960s and early 1970s.

The hit movie "American Graffiti" had just been released, and its theme song was "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and the Comets. Another popular song on the radio was "Angie" by the Rolling Stones. Einck, who played guitar, had learned those two songs, and the other three boys asked him to get up and play them at the dance.

"Those songs went over so well, I ended up singing and playing them three times that night," says Einck. "The next day, the guys asked me to join the band. They soon recruited a friend to play bass and another to play keyboards, and the band PHYX was officially formed."

That summer, the bass and keyboard players left. Rather than continue with three guitar players,



The first public performance for PHYX was in the spring of 1975 at the St. Patrick's gym in Perry. Left to right are Mark Einck, Joel Wilson and Jim Wuebker. Larry Nichols was on drums in the early days.

Einck made the move to bass. His dad worked for a finance company that had just repossessed a Fender Precision Bass for \$75, so he had his bass guitar.

The first public performance for PHYX was in the spring of 1975 at the St. Patrick's gym in Perry. Their first big payday was July 4, 1975, at a small bar in Yale called The Place.

The band was hired for \$180, so each member made \$45.

"That was huge for us," Einck says. "Since none of us were old enough to drive, the parents who had pickups were our road crew. We played several more private functions that year and were making a name for ourselves, but we needed a real PA system."

Parents drove the band members to Victor's House of Music in Des Moines, where they picked out a new Peavey PA system, complete with monitors and microphones. The price tag was \$2,000.

"That was way more than we had between us," Einck says. "At a meeting of all four sets of parents, it was agreed Joel's dad would cosign a loan

from the bank, with open payment terms. Every time we played, we put that money toward the note."

The guys were getting their name out, and while playing around Perry was OK, they finally booked a gig in Westside for homecoming in 1976 and were asked back in 1977. They

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2022 PANORAMA DAYS IN THE BOOKS

Despite high temperatures and high humidity, good crowds participated in all aspects of this year's celebration.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The first Lake Panorama Day was Aug. 2, 1969. It was originally scheduled to celebrate the completion of Lake Panorama's dam, but weather and other delays meant that didn't happen until the summer of 1970.

Now what began as a single day stretches over three days. The theme for the 2022 celebration Aug. 5-7 was "Rolling Into Panorama Days." Despite high temperatures and high humidity, good crowds participated in all aspects of this year's celebration.

There were 36 players in the annual Friday afternoon cribbage tournament. The \$5 per person entry fees were donated to support Panorama Days. Bill Eby and Stine Seed provided

prize money, popcorn and caps. Mark Kopaska took first place by winning all four games. Second place went to Karen Eby, with Rex Schoonover in third and Jason Berry finishing fourth. Kelsey Pettitt had the high hand of 24.

A ribbon cutting was held at the Guthrie County Historical Village and Museum for the restored Pullman Train Car. An open house followed with free refreshments and tours of the car and the village.

At the town square, the Bill Riley Talent Show began at 6 p.m. In the senior division, Libby Ashworth qualified for the talent show at the Iowa State Fair with her dance solo. In the sprouts division, Hanna De-

PANORAMA DAYS, PAGE 6



Trophies were presented in each of four age categories for smallest and biggest fish, plus for the three biggest fish overall. Shown with their trophies, left to right, back row, Maverick Opp, Vander Emick, Theodore Grossman and Blake Stanley. Front row, Faith Larsen, Avery Allspach, Madden Littler, Lillie Lauzon and Alyssa Stanley.

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ON THE LAKE

THE COUNTY FAIR,
SOLITUDE, LIVE MUSIC
AND ‘ORMS’

BY SHANE GOODMAN
Editor and Publisher

I attended my first Guthrie County Fair this week, and I was greatly impressed. As a child, I attended the Kossuth County Fair every year in my hometown of Algona. I was a city boy and never truly appreciated the work of the 4-H and FFA kids who couldn’t wait for their time to shine. I was more into the carnival rides, demolition derbies, live music and, well, let’s be honest — chasing girls. By the looks of what I saw from the youth at the fairgrounds, not much has changed. Meanwhile, there was something for everyone, regardless of backgrounds or interests. If you missed the fair, be sure to put it on your schedule for next year.

Shane Goodman

Quietness and solitude

With the county fair complete, that means Labor Day weekend has come and gone as well. With that, many part-timers at the lake call it a year. For parents with young kids who are back in school, the priorities shift as schedules become more demanding. For empty-nesters like Jolene and me, we appreciate the quietness and solitude as much as we do the liveliness and the crowds. At Lake Panorama, it’s all good.

Going green

I like my grass green. My lake water? Not so much. Some longtime lake residents say the blue-green algae is as bad as they have ever seen it. Others say it is par for the course. The good news is that the most recent tests showed low levels of microcystin, and the LPA lifted its swim advisory. Of course, this can rapidly change, so stay tuned and be cautious.

Live music continues

It seems like most every weekend, some lake resident has had live music playing and has invited everyone to anchor and listen. We have taken advantage of this and enjoy it very much. Thank you to all of you who have paid for the bands and provided this entertainment. Now if we could just get the rains to hold off for a few hours while the musicians play.

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Lake humor

John and Daryl were fishing on Lake Panorama. John looked at Daryl and saw that he had a full bucket of fish and asked him, “Hey, Daryl, how did you catch so many fish, and I’m sitting here with nothing?”
“Eep or orms orm,” Daryl mumbled.
“What?” John asked.
“Eep or orms orm,” Daryl repeated.
“Buddy, I got no clue what you’re saying,” John remarked.
Daryl spat in exasperation and said, “Keep your worms warm!”
Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Kevin Hart and Jamie Foxx should be ashamed. But read on for some gems.

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY

September is the month that defines the term “mixed bag,” at least as far as movie releases are concerned. This September might even be more mixed than usual. There are a few gems, for sure, (including the locally made and produced “Kinnick” documentary) and an equal number of really, really bad movies (Kevin Hart and Jamie Foxx should be ashamed). Oh well, here they are, warts and all...

“Bullet Train” (in theaters)

Brad Pitt in a roller-coaster-ride of a movie that will have you on the edge of your seat the entire time. Non-stop action on a Japanese bullet train full of bad guys/girls. Very few believable moments in the film, but Pitt is ultra-cool and reminds you many times why he is such a great movie star/actor. **Grade: B**



“Thirteen Lives” (streaming on Prime Video)

Viggo Mortensen, Colin Farrell and Joel Edgerton play the real-life rescuers of the 13 young soccer players in Thailand who were accidentally trapped in a cave when the flood waters rose too high and too quickly. It is a tense and nerve-wracking two-and-a-half-hour film. You might have followed the real-life event but you will be surprised at what you learn here. **Grade: A**



“Prey” (streaming on Hulu)

Who knew that the “Predator” creatures were on our planet hunting human prey way back in time? I’m not sure we needed another “Predator” sequel, or prequel, but it isn’t a bad movie. **Grade: C+**



“A League of Their Own” (streaming on Prime Video)



If you are a big fan of the movie with Geena Davis, Madonna and Tom Hanks, my recommendation is to completely skip this overbearing, message-laden series. While I am certain that there were lesbians on these teams and that Black women were treated horribly, I am also certain that I didn’t need my nose rubbed in it for the first three episodes. They also pretty much forgot any baseball action and humor. A missed opportunity. **Grade: D**

“Emily the Criminal” (in theaters)

The nice thing about the early fall is that there are a bunch of movies that don’t ever get a chance for a release. “Emily the Criminal” could not have come out at a better time. It is a very interesting movie about a woman who is struggling to make ends meet after a mistake in her past keeps showing up when she interviews, preventing her from getting hired. She turns to a life of easy crime, which, we all know, is never as easy as it might seem. Gritty, well-acted and very good. **Grade: A-**



“Day Shift” (streaming on Netflix)

I have no idea what Jamie Foxx was thinking when he thought a vampire slasher film would be a good career decision. I figured it out way early, and since it was on Netflix, I simply reached for the remote control and hit OFF. **Grade: D**



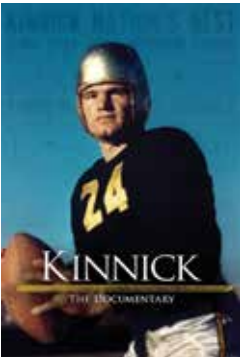
“Beast” (in theaters)



I have no idea what Idris Elba was thinking when he thought a rapid lion film would be a good career decision. I figured it out way early, but since I was in the theater, I suffered through the predictable and completely unsatisfying ending. **Grade: D**

“Kinnick” (through Vimeo on demand)

<https://vimeo.com/onedemand/kinnick-documentary> My friend Scott Siepker and many of his obviously talented compadres have delivered an excellent look at the life and brief career of Adel’s own Nile Kinnick. I went to the University of Iowa in the late 1970s and, of course, know the Kinnick story...or thought I did. “Kinnick” can be found on Vimeo, and I’ve included the link to the site. This is an emotional, eye-opening look at this great young man and the beginning of the greatness of Iowa football. Kinnick’s cousin is an excellent guide. It would be a great film to watch after Iowa beats ISU again this year. Just kidding. Kind of. **Grade: A**



“Me Time” (streaming on Netflix)



Kevin Hart and Mark Wahlberg take some time off from making very entertaining and

fun movies to give us this ridiculous movie that shows how to not make a good career move. It is a really bad, rude and crude update of “Mr. Mom” with all the fun and humor sucked out of it. **Grade: D+**

“Samaritan” (streaming on Prime Video)



OK, comic book fans, and only comic book fans, two twin brothers — one good and one evil — had their final battle centuries ago, but they really didn’t die. They are living in what looks like a nasty old New York City neighborhood only to search for each other to end this good vs. evil battle once and for all. This is a really dumb movie, but as a comic book fan, it had some appeal for me. Not enough to strongly recommend, but it’s a good solid. **Grade: C+**

“McEnroe” (on Showtime)



The bad boy of tennis takes center court in this documentary about the life and times of one of the greatest tennis players of all time. What a great look at this complicated and mostly misunderstood athlete. An excellent sports doc. **Grade: A**

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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RUKKUS

FROM PAGE 1

also played for Boone’s homecoming in 1977.

“Things were going great and then one month before we all graduated in 1978, Larry quit school and moved to Florida,” Einck says. “We played one last gig with Joel taking over the drumming duties and Shaun Stokely joined for a short stint on keys. That gig was the night before I left for college at Buena Vista, and Joel went to DMACC. A month later, Jim got married, and we didn’t know if we’d ever play together again.”

Toward the end of the college school year, Wilson had found a young guitar player and a drummer, both still in high school. When Einck got home from college, those four resurrected PHYX for a second run. At the same time, Wuebker hooked up with a drummer, Dana Keenan, and found a bass player, and their band was Gemstone. The two bands played together for the next three years.

PHYX bought an old school bus and converted the front of it to a living area, with the back for the equipment. They played for proms, homecomings, weddings and community events, as well as the bar circuit. With Einck and Wilson still in college, only

weekends were available, but the band usually played somewhere three out of four weekends.

While the two younger members wanted to make this their living, Einck and Wilson didn’t. After a final bash in May of 1982, the two younger band members left for Oklahoma, and Einck and Wilson went to work.

Later in 1982, Wuebker and Keenan were not getting along with their bass player, so they called Einck and Wilson to see if they had an interest in joining them.

“I was an accounting major, but my minor was in music,” Einck says. “After a couple of jam sessions together, the remnants of PHYX and Gemstone combined to form Rukkus. The first time this band played publicly was at my and Karen’s wedding reception in June 1983. We only played four songs, but we were ready to do more.”

When Van Halen came out with “Jump” in 1984, the band decided they needed a keyboard. Einck bought one, and the band incorporated “Jump” and other new songs into their repertoire. The band wouldn’t have a full-time keyboard player for another 12 years or so, because he



Rukkus performed in Yale this summer for that town’s annual Fourth of July celebration. Pictured are three generations, including Mark Einck’s grandson John Einck on guitar, his son Ben Einck on drums, and Mark on bass.

wasn’t born yet.

Rukkus bought a newer bus that is the subject of many stories the band members still share. For instance, losing the brakes in Fort Dodge, having the transmission stuck in low gear at the Botanical Center, blowing a tire coming home from Ames, and having the exhaust system break off at the manifold in Atlantic.

In the spring of 1988, Einck was offered a new job, which was more demanding of his time. He also was going back to school that fall at Drake University to work on his MBA. The boys agreed they had had a great five-year run, and they got to go out at the top of their game. After a Friday night at Ferg’s in Grand Junction and a Saturday night wedding reception at Lake Panorama, Rukkus was officially retired.

The four band members all remained great friends and stayed in touch, but family and work took up the majority of their time. However, for the guy without kids, a new band was in his future.

Joel Wilson, better known by now as JC, was one of the founding members of the Flying Marsupials. That band toured from 1989 to 2003, considered one of Des Moines’ favorite bands for much of the 1990s. Their first gig was a wedding reception, but they only had enough material for half the show. The Rukkus boys agreed to play the first half of the gig, and the Flying Marsupials played the second half.

Rukkus was asked to play for drummer Dana’s uncle’s birthday party. The problem was, Wilson was already booked with the Marsupials. A young kid who had taken piano lessons for the last seven years and had become a really good lead guitar player stepped in — Einck’s son, Ben. Ben became a permanent member of the band at 14 and was the keyboard player first and foremost. But

if Wilson was with the Supes, he was the lead guitar player.

Rukkus slowly accumulated enough gear to do larger shows and began playing six to eight times a year through the end of the 1990s and into the new century. Mark’s daughter, Emily, began singing with the band in the early 2000s.

During Ben’s high school years, he and some other classmates formed a group called Feedback, with Eric McLeod as the band’s drummer. In 2010, Rukkus drummer Keenan’s battle with alcoholism was getting the better of him, and McLeod started traveling with the band. While Keenan continued to be the starting drummer, he often would ask McLeod to finish the sets. In 2012, Keenan played his last show with Rukkus at Perry’s Friday Fest, and McLeod took over drumming duties.

McLeod joined the Iowa Army National Guard during his junior year at Perry High School and has served for more than 18 years. He is now based at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Davenport as an instructor pilot, currently mobilized in the southwest United States, and will return near the end of this year.

“I grew up with Ben as one of my closest friends and was a drummer for Ben’s band during high school,” McLeod says. “I was over at the Eincks’ a lot using Rukkus’ drum set for practice and for any performances our band had. Feedback sometimes



This photo of Rukkus performing at The Port in 2021 includes, left to right, Ben Einck, Jim Wuebker, Eric McLeod on drums, Mark Einck and JC Wilson.

RUKKUS, PAGE 5

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RUKKUS
FROM PAGE 4

would play a few opening songs for Rukkus at their performances, and I would have opportunities to play select songs with Rukkus as a guest drummer.

“They are all family to me,” McLeod continues. “It’s been an absolute honor that they accepted me to play drums for them when they could easily have chosen someone else. I really enjoy the genres of music we play and the chance to perform with my family, who are all incredibly talented musicians.”

JC Wilson has vivid memories of the early days.

“We were unassuming about the future; we were just being a band and having fun doing it,” he says. “I don’t remember anyone aspiring to make the big time. We just got together on a regular basis to rehearse and perform because of the camaraderie.”

Wilson is the one band member who has come closest to making the “big time.” Over the Labor Day weekend, he received the 2022 Iowa Rock ‘n Roll Music Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He was already a member of the association’s Hall of Fame after being inducted in 2016 as a founding member of the Flying Marsupials.

Jim Wuebker says he and Wilson started playing guitars together when they were 5 years old.

“What got me interested in playing was all the different guitars and amps,” he says. “Throughout all my years, it has been a goal for me to

keep on sounding better either with new equipment or more practice. I’ve truly enjoyed trying out different amps and guitars.”

Wuebker says when Mark Einck joined the band, things changed.

“The band now had a different sound, and it was fun playing as a group and playing for people and friends,” he says. “The band became a group of friends I still really enjoy playing music with and have a very close relationship with. They are my closest friends.

“I feel if we hadn’t played together for all these years, my life would have been completely different,” Wuebker says. “But I wouldn’t have changed any of it. Playing with these guys, for our fans, and even someone listening for the first time, is a thrill. My goal is to play until I’m 70, and to just keep having fun and enjoy life.”

Ben’s two oldest sons, John, age 11, and Will, age 10, are both taking piano lessons, and John has ventured to the guitar.

“Like Ben, John and Will have grown up around Rukkus their entire life,” Mark Einck says. “Over the last two years, they both have joined us on stage. John sings and plays guitar on ‘Take it Easy,’ and Will sings ‘All These Things That I Have Done’ by the Killers. They absolutely steal the show.”

A niece, Katie Hermann, is an occasional vocalist. Another addition to the band is Mark’s nephew Nick Hermann.

“Nick is one of those people who



Rukkus has expanded to include several new members beyond the core group of three that started playing together in 1973. Left to right are Jim Wuebker, one of the three original members; Nick Hermann, a nephew of Mark Einck; Eric McLeod; Ben Einck; Will Einck; Emily Grimm, Mark Einck’s daughter; John Einck; Mark Einck; and JC Wilson, one of the three original members. This photo was taken in Yale July 3.

can play any instrument,” Einck says. “We asked him to learn the banjo, and he did. We asked him to learn the fiddle, and he did. When Ben jumps on guitar when we need a third guitar, Nick takes over on keys.”

“I grew up watching and emulating Rukkus. I wanted to do what they did,” says Ben Einck. “I started learning piano at age 7 and picked up a guitar at 12. I came home every day from school for years and just played, played, played.”

“As I reflect 23 years later, for them to consider me and eventually accept me as a member of the band, I’m fortunate,” Ben says. “I can’t think of anyone who has a similar relationship with their dad and his closest friends. Their constant openness and attitudes make this band what it is today, 40 years later, and why we continue to book shows.”

Ben admits to “proud dad moments” when his sons John and Will are on stage.

“Neither has fear to get in front of hundreds of people,” he says. “Our 8-year-old daughter Andi and 4-year-old son Henry both show interest in following our footsteps. I’ll continue to encourage their passions and hope to see music flourish for them as it has for me. I hope Rukkus will see another 40 years and honor its founders.”

Rukkus has proven its staying power. In 1984, the band played for a wedding reception for Russ and Lori Hawley at the Starlite in Fort Dodge. In 2013, they played for the Hawleys’ son’s wedding reception in Des Moines.

RAGBRAI made a stop in Perry in 1986, and the city asked Rukkus to perform.

“It was one of the highlights of our career,” Einck says. “We were asked

by the City of Le Mars this summer to play for RAGBRAI when it stopped there July 24. But two of the guys had family vacations planned, so we opted for family time over show time. But it’s pretty awesome that 35 years after playing our first RAGBRAI, we still are around to even be asked.”

The band limits its schedule to a handful of gigs a year, but they still draw big crowds. They are regulars at Perry’s Friday Fest in the summer, The Port on Lake Panorama, Fourth of July celebration in Yale, class reunions and private events.

Mark Einck says Wuebker and Wilson are like brothers to him.

“I don’t have a brother, so these guys have really been my brothers for 50 years. It’s rare that we have any disagreements. We were each other’s best men in our weddings,” he says. “I will always be in the band as long as I can sing, although hitting all the high notes isn’t as easy as it once was.”

In 2023, Einck, Wuebker and Wilson will have been bandmates for 50 years, and Rukkus will celebrate 40 years. Given the current lineup of young and old, it seems people will be entertained by Rukkus for many years to come. ■



The first paying gig for the band that eventually became Rukkus was July 4, 1975, at a small bar in Yale called The Place. Over the years, Rukkus has become a regular at the city’s annual Fourth of July celebration, including this year’s performance July 3. Shown left to right, Jim Wuebker, Ben Einck, Eric McLeod, Mark Einck and JC Wilson.

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PANORAMA DAYS

FROM PAGE 1



Lake Panorama Ski Team



Lake Panorama Realty in the parade.



The ninth annual Panorama Days kids’ fishing derby took place at the Lake Panorama marina with 82 children participating. Four age groups competed, with trophies given in each age group for smallest and largest fish. The top three overall with the biggest fish also got a trophy and cash prize.



GCH Clinic in the parade.

priest and Sophia Miller qualified for the state competition with their dance duet. Performances by the Main Street Dance Studio followed the talent show.

Emerson Bendickson, daughter of Erin and Jacob Bendickson, was named Little Miss Panorama Days. Grant Leo, son of Nels and Karla Leo, was named Little Mister Panorama Days.

About 20 cars and drivers took part in the Friday night Cruise the Loop, sponsored by Panora Auto Parts. Friday night closed with a street dance with live music provided by Charm School Dropouts, sponsored by Wood Duck Landscapes.

Saturday’s activities started at 5 a.m. with a bass fishing tournament on Lake Panorama, sponsored by Fin and Feather. Thirteen boats entered the tournament, which was a five-fish (smallmouth or largemouth bass), 15-inch minimum event.

First place went to Mike and Jake Lauzon for their five bass that weighed 12.57 pounds. Second place went to Scott and Thad Stanley for their five bass weighing in at 10.99 pounds. In third place were Jared Brinker and Curtis Sellers, who caught four fish, weighing 8.65 pounds.

The Panorama Days 5K run/walk, sponsored by Reshape, had 91 participants. The overall winner was 17-year-old Kal Hoppe of Clive, with a time of 17 minutes and 21 seconds. Kole Steiner of Guthrie Center finished second, and Bo Arrasmith of Guthrie Center took third. Hoppe also won the 10-19 age bracket, with 16-year-old Arrasmith in second place in that age category.

Mason Crees of Panora won the 0-9 age bracket. Kole Steiner of Guthrie Center won the 20-29 age bracket. In the 30-39 age bracket, Kari Crevier Dooley of Brookings, South Dakota, took first place. Jessica Carney of Adair won the 40-49 age bracket. In the 50-59 age bracket, Curtis Thornberry

took first place, and Erin Nanke took second place, both from Panora. In the 70-79 age bracket, Wilbur Bates took first place, with Linda Wendl taking second, both of Panora.

The annual parade was filled with fire trucks, antique tractors, political candidates, the Iowa State University cheerleaders and their mascot Cy, Panarama School groups and more.

Parade winners in the commercial category were Panora Fiber in first place, Panora Auto Parts in second, and Guthrie County State Bank in third. In the organization category, the Panora Garden Club won first place, followed by Hope Lutheran in second and the Panorama Ski Team in third.

The Citizen of the Year award was presented to Tom and Ellen Campbell of Panora, who were recognized for their many years serving the community. Tom spent 50 years as a member of the Panora fire department. Ellen has been involved in the Panora Christian Church, Women for Panora’s Future, and many other community organizations.

The Panora Garden Club won a special award for 2022 and was presented with a plaque recognizing the “beautification and betterment” the club has provided to Panora and Lake Panorama.

The cutest baby contest, sponsored by Lakeside Village, took place Saturday at the gazebo. After several cute babies were presented, judges chose Henry Jacob Allspach, son of Jake and Ashlie Allspach, as the cutest of the cute.

The Lake Panorama Ski Team show began at 2:30 p.m., with viewing from the south shore. The ski team started in 1985 when a group of friends whose passion for skiing led them to start a show performance team. This was the team’s 38th annual performance. It included 34 skiers ranging in age from 4 to 68, performing 20 acts.

This year’s show was titled “Ski

Story,” in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the first person to water ski. Ralph Samuelson was 18 years old and living in Lake City, Minnesota, when he used a pair of boards as skis and a clothesline as a towrope to ski behind his brother’s boat on Lake Pepin on July 2, 1922.

The “Ski Story” theme also had a “Toy Story” spin, with characters such as Buzz Lightyear, Woody and others from the “Toy Story” movie appearing. Performances included pyramids, swivel skiing, barefoot skiing, a girls’ line, a slinky dog and many more.

Saturday closed with fireworks from the lake’s south shore, sponsored by the Lake Panorama Association.

Festivities wrapped up Sunday. The annual Panorama Alumni golf tournament was held at the Panarama West golf course, and a gospel music festival and ice cream social at the Brethren Church.

The ninth annual Panorama Days kids’ fishing derby took place at the Lake Panorama marina Sunday morning with 82 children participating. Registration was free courtesy of the Lake Panorama Fin and Feather club. Four age groups competed, with trophies given in each age group for smallest and largest fish. The top three overall with the biggest fish also got a trophy and cash prize.

Scott Stanley, who organizes the kids’ fishing derby, says almost \$2,000 worth of trophies, prizes and cash were awarded to participants.

“I saw many smiles and shouts of excitement,” he says. “It was a great day and I’m glad the fish decided to cooperate!”

In the 3-5 age group, Madden Litter had the smallest fish and Theodore Grossman had the biggest fish. In the 6-8 age group, Vander Emick had the smallest fish, and Blake Stanley caught the biggest fish. In the 9-11 age category, Alyssa Stanley caught the smallest fish and Maverick Opp



The Panora Garden Club is a community club with a goal of keeping Panora colorful, and they certainly have done that. The club has more than 30 members who help beautify the community with the many flowers they have planted and taken care of. They say they do this not only for the benefit of current residents but for potential residents and businesses, too. The group was recognized for their efforts on Saturday, Aug. 6 in the gazebo after the Panorama Days Parade. They were presented a plaque stating it was in recognition of the “beautification and betterment” the club has provided to Panora and Lake Panorama.



Guthrie County State Bank in the parade.

had the biggest. Faith Larsen had the smallest fish in the ages 12-13 category, with Lillie Lauzon catching the biggest fish.

In the overall biggest fish competition, which earned the winner an additional trophy and cash prize, first place and \$60 went to Blake Stanley for his 22.25-inch flathead catfish. Second place and \$40 went to Lillie Lauzon for her 19.25-inch largemouth bass. Avery Allspach won \$20

for third place with a 17-inch channel catfish.

Besides the Lake Panorama Fin and Feather, sponsors for the kids’ derby included Tristan West, owner of T-Dogg’s Bait & Tackle, who contributed 25 dozen nightcrawlers and prizes; Guthrie County Pheasants Forever Chapter, \$500 cash donation; Bill and Karen Eby, cookies; and Steve and Rita Brannen, who donated the overall big fish cash prizes. ■

‘RELUCTANT AUTHOR’ PUBLISHES BOOK

Jennifer Godwin says much of her book, “Go...Make...Ripples,” was written sitting on her Lake Panorama deck.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Jennifer Godwin calls herself a reluctant author. And yet her 234-page book titled “Go...Make...Ripples” now is available on Amazon and in small businesses.

“It wasn’t easy,” Godwin says. “I never wrote an essay paper in high school or attended college. I’m not a computer person, and just getting my computer to give me a blank page to write on was difficult. Yet I sat down at my computer with a monster cookie and a glass of iced tea, and I started.”

Jennifer and her husband, Dean Godwin, are high school sweethearts who graduated from Saydel and have been married 34 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. The couple has owned a home on Lake Panorama’s Horseshoe Cove for 15 years. Their primary residence is in Ankeny, and they enjoy winter vacations in Florida.

Godwin says much of her book was written sitting on her Lake Panorama deck, or overlooking water in Florida or near their Ankeny home. She says the book has been 20 years in the making, because it was 20 years ago God planted the idea by telling her, “You will write a book.”

“I know it was God because I would never have come up with this idea on my own,” Godwin says. “It was a crazy thought at the time. But as the years passed, I kept thinking about the possibility. Four years ago, the idea kept pressing on my heart, and I decided to do it.”

Godwin had worked 24 years as a portrait photographer.

“I never dreamed about writing a book; it was never a desire of mine or a link on my bucket list,” she says. “In the beginning, I had no idea who I was writing it for. I was about 90% of the way through it before I realized the book’s purpose.”

Godwin says she had a great childhood, but she was not raised in a family that went to church. At the age of 6, she was visiting a friend whose family sat down at the dinner table together and prayed before they ate. That started her on an inquisitive childhood journey that

“I know it was God because I would never have come up with this idea on my own. It was a crazy thought at the time. But as the years passed, I kept thinking about the possibility. Four years ago, the idea kept pressing on my heart, and I decided to do it.”

– Jennifer Godwin

included asking questions about God, heaven and hell, baptism, churches and much more.

“I was 14 years old before I knew Easter was a religious holiday,” she says. “I started a relationship with Jesus in my teens, but my education about who God is and how to serve him happened as an adult. This book includes a lot of my personal stories about how I came to know Christ as my Savior and my spiritual journey.”

Godwin is passionate about sharing her faith with others.

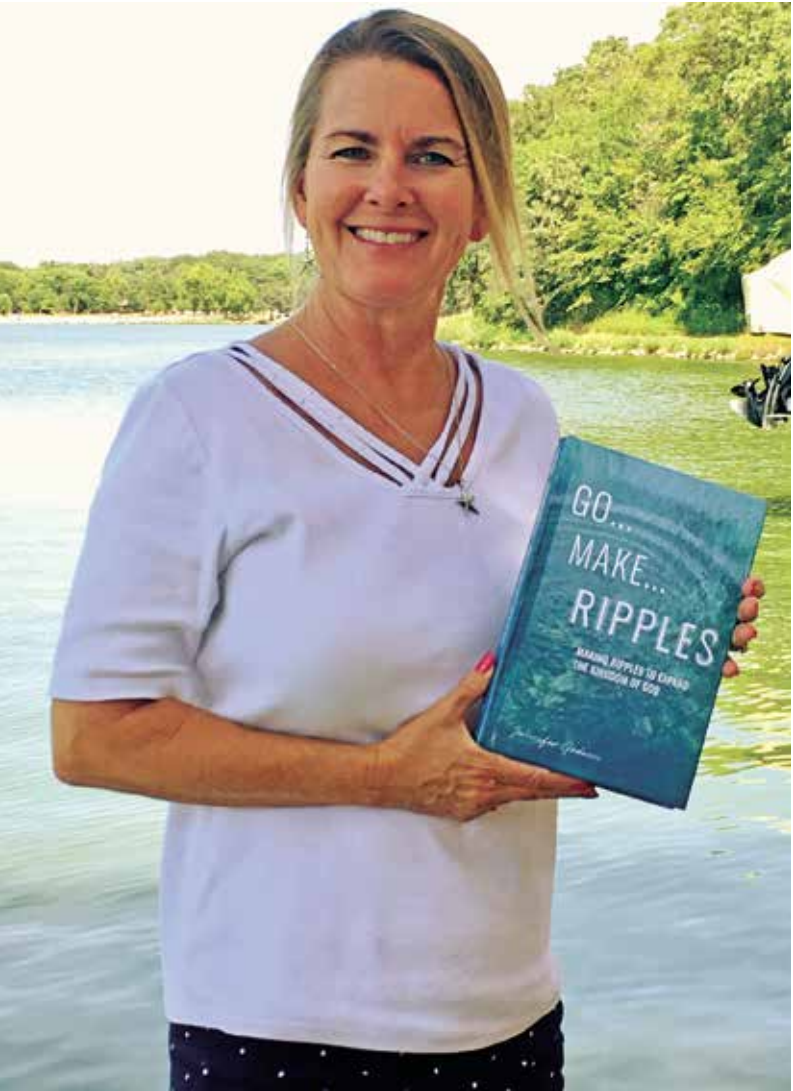
“This book is for Christians who might be nervous about sharing their faith,” she says. “It includes lots of easy, simple, practical tips.”

Those tips come in the form of gray boxes of highlighted text, each starting with the word “Ripple” in bold font. In her book’s first chapter, Godwin wrote the definition of ripple effect is “a spreading effect or

series of consequences caused by a single action or event.”

“Jesus was the first ripple,” Godwin says. “I am just one ripple responding to the pebbles thrown out before me. I want to keep the ripples going and want those who read my book to do the same. That’s why I included these boxes filled with suggestions for ways readers can make ripples in their own lives and share with those around them.”

Godwin spent a year and a half writing and about the same amount of time getting the book edited and ready to print. The book was published by WestBow Press, which specializes in self-published Christian books. It was released May 23 of this year on Amazon in hard cover, paperback and Kindle versions. Portions of the first two chapters of the book can be viewed on Amazon at no cost.



Jennifer Godwin is shown on the dock of the Godwin family home on Lake Panorama’s Horseshoe Cove with her recently published book, “Go...Make...Ripples.”

Godwin placed an order for 1,500 books and is marketing those through Facebook and personal contacts with local businesses.

“I think it’s important to support small businesses,” she says. “I sell books to them at a much lower price. This allows them to mark up the price to make a profit and still be below the cost of purchasing on Amazon.”

Currently, the book is available at Nine Livez and Dowd Drug in Guthrie Center, and Crafty’s Coffee and Gifts in Panora. It also is available in Ankeny at several locations, including The Attic, Charlotte Louise Mercantile, Faith Baptist Bible College, Tweedle Dee’s, Wall of Books, Walnut + Willow, and XoXo Gift & Home.

Godwin says she doesn’t have a deadline for marketing the book and is looking forward to meeting more people and making contacts with businesses, libraries, church groups and others that might be interested in her book.

Godwin says friends and family who have read the book tell her they feel she is sitting right beside them, having a conversation.

“That’s exactly what I wanted,” she says. “This is my story filled with my personal experiences. I just wrote the way I talk; I hope readers will feel that connection.” ■

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NEW LPN GOLF CARTS... FINALLY!

Deliveries of some of the 60 electric carts ordered last fall came in mid-August, and all were onsite by the end of the month.



Lake Panorama National Resort now has 60 new electric carts for use by members and guests. The carts were ordered last October with an expected delivery of April of this year. Instead, the carts arrived in mid-August.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

For many years, Lake Panorama National Resort has had multi-year leases for a fleet of Club Car golf carts to be used by LPN members and guests. In October 2021, an order was placed for new carts to replace those that had been in the LPN fleet for four years. At the time the order was placed, delivery was expected April 2022.

Yet, as with so many things these days, supply chain issues caused delays. It's been a long summer for the LPN pro shop staff. That's because instead of new carts for the 2022 golf season, they've had to deal with old carts and batteries that wouldn't hold a charge long enough to make 18 holes. Finally, deliveries of some of the 60 electric carts ordered last fall came in mid-August, and all were onsite by the end of the month. Also ordered last October were 24 gas carts, five carryalls, one range picker and one beverage cart. The carryalls, range

picker and beverage cart arrived earlier this summer. The gas carts now are expected sometime in September. The 60 electric carts feature an electronic screen that activates as golfers near the first tee. This technology allows golfers to see each hole from either an overall or closeup view. Distances are provided to the center of greens and other points of interest on the screen, and an electronic scorecard is available. Warnings about blind spots on the hole where players in front can't be seen also

are a part of this new technology. Pro shop personnel now have remote access to battery status information and the ability to broadcast messages to the carts, such as severe weather alerts. The carts have the option of offering advance food and beverage ordering, a feature it is hoped can be rolled out in 2023. Cart fees were increased for this season, which was an adjustment based on comparable rates charged at other courses. The annual LPN golf cart fleet cost went up about

\$13,000 for 2022. For that extra cost, the LPN now has GPS on the 60 electric carts; four additional gas carts with 10 of the 24 slated for use at Panorama West; an upgraded carryall fleet that provides heavier duty carts with electric bed lifts; an additional carryall for the LPN housekeeping and clubhouse use, which made it possible to take a carryall to Panorama West for golf maintenance use; and an additional Café Express food and beverage cart. ■

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Q&A: LPN BOARD MEMBERS PROVIDE LPN RESORT UPDATE

John Coghlan and Barry Monaghan share current status and plans for LPN with the food and beverage department.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

While the Lake Panorama Association has owned the LPN golf course since 1977, it has owned the LPN conference center just since 2005. At the time the conference center was purchased, the LPA board established the legal corporate entity known as “LPN, LLC” to manage this wholly owned subsidiary. The Panorama West golf course and clubhouse was placed under LPN, LLC management in 2013.

As a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, LPA is required to pay taxes only on gains from land sales. Revenues from dues and assessments are not taxable. Keeping the LPA and LPN, LLC operations separate is necessary to protect the nonprofit status of the LPA.

To keep this separation, the LPA Board of Directors created and appointed the LPN Board of Managers, which held its first meeting in October 2015. The LPA board provides oversight of the LPN, LLC board. Current members of the LPN board are Katelyn Brelsford, John Coghlan, Kathy DeLucca, Sue Merriam, Barry Monaghan, Greg Steffen and Shanell Wagler.

The month of July brought substantial changes to the LPN, with the kitchen closing and staff working with food vendors to cater scheduled events. In this month's Q&A, two members of the LPN board provide information on the food and beverage aspect of the LPN Resort. First up is John Coghlan, who is president of the LPN board of managers.

Q. John, give us a rundown of what has been happening behind the scenes at the LPN with the food and beverage

department.

A. Two key food and beverage employees resigned in late April. A decision was made then to create a task force made up of three members of the LPN board, three members of the LPA board, and three others to help determine next steps regarding the LPN food and beverage operation.

We discussed short-term, long-term and backup strategies if additional departures happened during the peak season. The short-term strategy included getting current key employees into positions that would make it possible for them to run the Links restaurant. This meant limiting the restaurant's menu and hours, since staffing was limited.

An emphasis was placed on making sure upcoming events already on the LPN calendar could be managed. The task force developed a list of caterers who could be called on short notice to execute events, in case the restaurant needed to close due to a staffing shortage. The task force also discussed contacting food truck operators to provide options if the restaurant closed.

Additional kitchen departures in early July forced the backup plan into action. Staff began working with caterers to execute upcoming events and actively sought food trucks. However, finding food trucks has been more difficult than anticipated, as their minimum sales are more than the LPN business will support.

Since the LPN kitchen closed in early July, the LPN staff, working with event planners and caterers, have pulled off many successful events, including a 350-person wedding reception. The LPN board is grateful for ev-

eryone who stepped up to help make this possible. We'll continue to use this same formula for remaining events on the 2022 calendar. At this time, no further events are being scheduled for this year. However, events for 2023 are being penciled into the LPN calendar.

Q. What's the next step?

A. Long-term, the task force recommended leasing the food and beverage operation to a third-party vendor, while maintaining control over the golf and lodging departments.

It's important for our members to know that while the LPN golf operation and Spikes snack shop are profitable, the food and beverage department has been losing money for many years. This means the LPA has had to provide an annual subsidy to the LPN, LLC.

This subsidy has grown in recent years as the COVID pandemic led to two very difficult years, and also the start of our ongoing staffing issues. We have made several upgrades in wages and working hours in attempts to improve staff retention. Yet hiring and keeping quality staff for the LPN food and beverage operation continues to be a difficult task.

So far, we've interviewed three potential tenants, but all decided this is not a good fit for them. We will continue to manage scheduled events with LPN staff and outside caterers, while the search for someone to lease the food and beverage operation continues.

Specific lease details would be worked out with the tenant. The LPA would have some requirements, such as the number of days the restaurant must be open for walk-in guests. The tenant would be the exclusive

vendor for all events LPN books at the conference center. The tenant also could plan additional events, plus use the kitchen to cater events elsewhere.

The vendor would have the use of all existing kitchen equipment and supplies, and would be responsible for expenses such as utilities and employees. Leasing the LPN food and beverage operation would be similar to what the LPA has done for many years with the marina.

The LPA is willing to lease the operation at extremely favorable terms. For now, the LPA is more interested in finding a tenant who becomes well established and provides good service to members and guests.

I have spoken to several LPA members who know someone in the food and beverage industry, or have some connections in the industry. We need everyone's help, and we're open to all contacts and recommendations.

Q. In mid-July, John Rutledge stepped away from his day-to-day role at LPN, after working in an interim role as LPN director of operations for four years. To make that possible, LPN board member Barry Monaghan offered to step into Rutledge's LPN role as a volunteer. Barry, tell us more about this change.

A. John requested this to allow him to focus on his primary role as LPA general manager and advisor to the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) board. I'm now overseeing the food and beverage team and providing support to Royce Shaffer, who is the LPN operations manager. Royce continues to manage the non-food and beverage portions of the LPN operation.

Events have been going well,

with the LPN staff and several different caterers working together. Long-time LPN employee Kashley Sneller, who had taken on much of the load for events when others left, is leaving Sept. 10 for other opportunities. We wish her well. Key contacts now for events are myself and Jen Jensen, who can be reached at jjensen@lakepanorama.org.

Besides continuing to manage scheduled events, I'm working to recruit potential tenants to take over the LPN food and beverage operation. The Iowa Restaurant Association has been contacted and we are working with them to notify their 4,000 members about this opportunity. We're also working with Shane Goodman and his culinary magazine RELISH to find potential prospects. The hope is to have someone in place by March 1, 2023.

In the meantime, the LPN staff has done a thorough cleaning of the kitchen, followed by a professional service that has the kitchen ready for potential tenants to explore. We believe the kitchen is in good condition, adequately stocked with equipment and serving pieces, and ready for the next chapter.

Both the LPN and LPA boards are committed to having a successful restaurant, lounge and event center at Lake Panorama National Resort. We are actively seeking individuals and groups interested in discussing the possibility of leasing the LPN food and beverage operation. To learn more, anyone interested can contact me at bmonaghan@lakepanorama.org. ■

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LPA BOARD APPROVES PLANS FOR TRAILS ON SOUTH SHORE

Panorama School District has committed funds to help improve the existing trail and also provide ongoing maintenance assistance.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

At its Aug. 30 meeting, the LPA board approved a proposal from Friends of Lake Panorama that will make improvements to existing trails on the south shore of Lake Panorama's main basin.

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 school has committed funds to help improve the existing trail and also provide ongoing maintenance assistance.

The cross country trail will begin on school property, continue onto the south shore for much of the course, and loop back to end on school property. All parking and restrooms for cross country meets will be on school property. This loop will be a total of 3.1 miles.

The south shore has several existing trail sections that will be combined into a single trail offering a variety of lengths and difficulty. Users will be able choose a combination of loops based on the total distance they want to walk.

Final details for the trail system will be developed after the south shore rip rap repair project is complete. That is expected to begin this fall and may continue into spring 2023.

Results of a survey about possible projects on the south shore were discussed, prior to

board action on the trails. At its May meeting, the LPA board approved a proposal presented by Friends of Lake Panorama that included ideas for various recreational amenities that could be incorporated into the south shore. At its July meeting, the board asked LPA staff to conduct a survey to gather member input on key items included in the plan.

That survey was open for three weeks in August, and included a link to the Friends proposal. A total of 667 people responded to the survey. Questions about each of the projects included in the Friends proposal were asked, covering trails, disc golf, a small shelter house and a fishing dock.

The majority of respondents supported all projects mentioned. A question about a possible walking trail showed the most support, with more than 60% of respondents supporting this project, with another 20% neutral, and 17% opposed. A yes/no question about the Panorama cross country teams being able to use a trail on the south shore for practice and meets received 366 yes votes, 152 neutral votes and 144 no votes.

A final question gave respondents the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. It was agreed at the Aug. 30 board meeting that LPA staff and Friends representatives will continue to research options for a disc golf course, a single picnic table with shade and a dock. Friends representatives will return to a future LPA board meeting for further discussion on these topics. ■

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT OCT. 6

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Volunteers play a big role at Lake Panorama. Many maintain landscape beds at the lake's three beaches, two golf courses and lake entrances. Others organize the Lake Panorama ski team and serve on the board of directors for the Lake Panorama Association, Lake Panorama National, and Friends of Lake Panorama.

Board members for the Southern Panorama Sewer District, On-Site Waste Water Management and the Lake Panorama Rural Improvement Zone also volunteer many hours. The same is true for members of four committees appointed annually by the LPA board — appeals, building

codes, land sales and water safety.

To celebrate the many volunteers who help the Lake Panorama community, a special event is planned for Thursday, Oct. 6, at the LPN Conference Center. Social time begins at 5:30 p.m. with a catered "comfort food" dinner at 6 p.m. This is the 15th year for this free social time and dinner recognizing Lake Panorama volunteers.

Invitations will be mailed to known volunteers. But if you volunteered in the last year and didn't receive a formal invitation, please know you're invited and can bring one guest. Reservations are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28 and can be made by calling the LPN front desk at 641-755-2080 during daily business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

PANORAMA WEST WOMEN'S LEAGUE WRAPS UP 2022 SEASON

The Panorama West women's golf league wrapped up its 2022 season Aug. 30 with a four-gal best-shot tournament. The league had 82 members this year. The Tuesday tournament was followed by an awards luncheon in the Panorama West Clubhouse community room.

Cash prizes for play throughout the season were distributed to league members based on pars, birdies and chip ins. Karen Bump, Judy Schnack and Sharon Wedemeyer received "perfect attendance" gifts to recognize they played every week of league during the 2022 season.

The top 10 point winners in the league included 13 players because of some ties. Each was recognized and received cash awards. They were Emily Spradling in first place; Sharon Wedemeyer, second; Paula Hansen and

Sheryl Crawmer, tied for third; Susan Thompson, fourth; Janet Luing and Donna Daniels, tied for fifth; Toni Wright, sixth; Rhoda Williams and Diane Pieper, tied for seventh; Kathy Feilmeyer, eighth; Karen Bump, ninth; and Carla Fitzgerald, tenth.

Ann Chambers served as league chair in 2022 and will serve a second year in that position in 2023. Also continuing in their 2022 positions next year will be Peg Carr as vice-chair, Nini VonBon as treasurer, Rhoda Williams as secretary, and Amy Johnson, who handles the weekly statistics.

Brenda Dinkla completed her eighth year of managing the handicaps for the Panorama West women's league. Debbie Rockwell has agreed to take over that task for the 2023 season. ■

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

Q: I love Trish Hart's nature photos that you publish and would like to have canvas prints made for my home. How do I do that?

A: Thank you. We enjoy her photos as well. You should reach out to Trish directly for options at 515-777-8793 or lakehouseapril@gmail.com. If you use Facebook, you can see more of her work by visiting NaturesCanvasPhotos.

Q: Why do we receive the Lake Panorama Times for free but have to pay a subscription for the Times Vedette and other newspapers?

A: The Lake Panorama Times has the largest circulation and is the most-read newspaper in Guthrie County and is mailed to every property owner on Lake Panorama each month with additional copies sent to businesses and subscribers in other areas. The revenue for the newspaper comes completely from advertising.

The Times Vedette is a traditional paid subscription weekly newspaper that relies on subscription revenue

and legal advertising from cities, schools, the county and other public entities, as well as advertising from local businesses. Current Iowa law requires that these entities use your tax dollars to publish their minutes and expenditures as legal advertising in paid subscription newspapers only. As such, converting to a free distribution model like the Lake Panorama Times would disqualify the Times Vedette from receiving any legal advertising. Meanwhile, we are exploring our options beyond this outdated model that will reach as many residents as possible and provide strong results for our advertising customers.

Q: I am planning to plant some trees this fall. Do I need to get a permit or permission of some sort from the LPA?

A: According to the LPA, no permit is required to plant trees unless the ground is to be cleared first. Meanwhile, residents should request a utility locate (811) before digging any holes for tree plantings or other landscaping. ■

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

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BUSINESS

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NEW NAME FOR LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS

Panora Fiber continues to operate from current locations in Panora and Guthrie Center.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

On Aug. 1, Panora Telco and Guthrie Center Communications became Panora Fiber, as did the providers' TV services and the Solutions store. Panora Fiber continues to operate from current locations in Panora and Guthrie Center, and the same team of employees will continue to serve customers.

Andrew Randol, CEO and general manager, says for several years the company's board of directors had been discussing the breadth of services offered under different names and the possibility of unifying under one.

"We kept discussing 'who we are' and how we could create a sharper focus," Randol says. "We wanted our family of companies to unify under one name to streamline our marketing and create efficiencies. As we started to look at expanding outside our current service area, we decided it was time to take action."

Randol turned to Shane Petersen, owner of the Cornerstone Group, for help. Petersen's company provides marketing assistance to independent phone companies and has been managing Panora Fiber's website, Facebook page and other news and marketing pieces for about five years.

Petersen gathered information from current staff, looked at several case studies, and developed a recommendation, which he presented at a board retreat in June. That recommendation was to place all aspects of the company under the Panora Fiber umbrella.

"Fiber is at the core of all of our business and will play a huge role in the future of communications," Randol says.

Panora Telco, founded as a telephone cooperative in 1919, was a pioneer in deploying fiber to homes in Iowa, beginning with its first fiber customer in December 2001.

"Since then, we've continued to expand our fiber network, connecting more homes and businesses to its ultrafast and reliable internet and related services," Randol says.

Below the new Panora Fiber logo are three words — Fast, Reliable, Local.

"When customers think of Panora Fiber, we want them to think of those three things," Randol says. "We provide fast and reliable internet service, and we're the local provider."

Once the name change decision was made, the rush was on to meet an Aug. 1 announcement deadline. This would allow the company to use Panorama Days as a chance to introduce the change to a wide range of customers.

Jaime Waddle, administrative and customer service director, has been with the company for 20 years. She was given the task of getting everything that represents the company updated with the new name and logo.

"Designing and ordering new signs for outside and inside both buildings was the first focus," Waddle says. "All our forms, such as applications and welcome materials, needed to be updated. We wanted to have branded clothing for all employees and board members in time for the announcement. And what our vehicles should look like needed to be decided."

After researching options, Waddle presented Randol with a plan to have vinyl vehicle wraps that she said would "make a statement" in existing service areas, plus places where the company is making expansion plans.



Andy Carson, one of several Panora Fiber data and combo technicians, is shown in the plant sporting a T-shirt with the new company name and logo.



Panora Fiber brought in the Jenson Shire Farm team from Blair, Nebraska, for the Panorama Days parade. Pictured left to right are Andy Randol, LeRoy Oxley, Jaime Waddle, Pam Klinkufus and Dave Ryan. Dean Jenson is driving the horse team. Oxley and Ryan are Panora Fiber board members and rode in the wagon in the parade. Randol, Waddle and Klinkufus are three of the 14 Panora Fiber employees.



New signs went up Aug. 1 on this Panora Telco building in Panora, plus the Guthrie Center Communications building. Panora Fiber is the new name for the two companies and its television and Solutions Center offerings.



Bill Dorsett, Panora Fiber plant manager, has the longest tenure of any of the 14 Panora Fiber employees, having been with the company 40 years. He is shown in one of the company's trucks with a vinyl wrap featuring the new name and logo.

plans. Most of the company's vehicles were covered with the newly designed wraps by Aug. 1, with the exception of a couple of trucks that are scheduled to be replaced in the near future. Replacement trucks also will receive the same wraps.

Randol started working for Panora

Telco in 1995 and become the company's general manager in 1999. He was hired by Dale Grotjohn, who was the company's general manager for 30 years.

"Dale was a great mentor to me," Randol says. "He was a big part of our evolution, taking it from a telephone company to what we offer today."

The company still has many telephone customers, especially businesses. It also offers subscription cable television service, although Randol says that is "becoming a thing of the past. So many people now use streaming services for television and depend on our broadband fiber for that."

The company currently provides service to customers in Panora, Lake Panorama, Yale, Guthrie Center, Bagley, Bayard, Jamaica, Linden, and rural areas in Guthrie and Audubon counties. Randol says with the help of state and federal grant programs that target broadband expansion in underserved areas, the company is looking toward additional rural areas of Dallas county.

Closer to home, Randol says Panora Fiber will continue to invest in the communities it serves. For instance, the company business park on the east edge of Panora, which began

in the 1980s with the purchase of 40 acres, continues to recruit new businesses.

"The GCH medical clinic that opened this year is a huge asset to the community," he says. "That, combined with the renovation of the nearby building that now houses Reshape and Restyle, has given the entrance to the park a different feel. But it remains zoned as light industrial, and we're always looking for new opportunities."

Panora Fiber also is involved in a joint paving project with the City of Panora and the Panorama School District. West Clay Street is being extended, which will provide another access to Panorama Elementary and Little Panther Day Care.

"It also will open up 18 new lots for housing, which are desperately needed in our community," Randol says.

Panora Fiber is governed by a seven-member board of directors. Ron Reynolds is the board president. Other directors are Dave Ryan, Lynnea Anderson, Kelvin Hafner, Trudy Hastings, LeRoy Oxley and Chris Arganbright. More details about Panora Fiber, including its services and service areas, are available online at panorafiber.com. ■

RACCOON RIVER VALLEY WALK BENEFITS ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION

More than \$23,000 raised.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The second annual Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer’s was held in Panora Aug. 13. More than 95 participants on 15 teams raised more than \$23,000. The walk began at the Michael Mills Memorial Park. The 2-mile route had walkers heading east from the park, north to the Raccoon River Valley Trail, and south on the trail before looping back to the park.

These Alzheimer’s Association fundraising walks are held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide. There are 18 walks scheduled in Iowa this fall, with Panora being the smallest town to host one, and the first walk of the 18 to be held this year.

Steve Smith of Guthrie Center, who said he had been personally impacted by the disease as a caregiver for his father, was the emcee for the opening ceremony. Smith said more than six million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s, and 11 million unpaid caregivers are helping loved ones who suffer from the disease.

Spinning flowers in four

colors were available for walk participants to place in a Promise Garden. Smith asked various people in the crowd to show each colored flower, and explained its meaning. Blue — someone living with Alzheimer’s or another dementia. Purple — someone who has lost someone to the disease. Yellow — a person currently supporting or caring for someone living with Alzheimer’s. Orange — a person who supports the cause and the Alzheimer’s Association’s vision of a world without the disease.

Nora and Gracie Grove, daughters of Dave and Sara Grove, displayed white flowers, which will represent the first survivor of Alzheimer’s, once a cure is found.

The first Raccoon River Valley Walk in 2021 had a goal of raising \$12,500 and exceeded that by nearly \$8,000. That led organizers to set this year’s goal at \$27,000. Donations can be made online to the Raccoon River Valley Walk through Dec. 22 at act.alz.org/rrvwalk.

Edwards Jones is a national presenting sponsor of the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, having

raised nearly \$5 million this year. Dave Grove, an Edward Jones financial advisor based in Panora, and Melissa Loest, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Guthrie Center, were instrumental in getting the local walk scheduled.

In addition to Edward Jones, sponsors of the local walk included Lakeside Village, New Homestead, Guthrie County State Bank, Care Initiatives, Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, Wesley Life, Panora Fiber, Nutriom, Dallas County Hospital, Hospice of the Midwest and Life Care Services. Crafty’s Coffee and Hometown Foods of Panora provided coffee and bottled water at registration.

Mel Borgeson, New Homestead manager, volunteered countless hours to prepare and organize the event. Other committee members were Terry and Mary Jane Sprague and Mary Jane Carothers. Many other volunteers were present to help the day of the event, including Joann Reil, plus members of the Panora Garden Club and the Panora Girl Scout Troop. Plans are in the works to hold a third Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer’s in fall 2023. ■

ALZHEIMER’S, PAGE 15



Walk participants could choose from one of four colors of spinning flowers to place in a Promise Garden, with each color representing the relationship the person has with Alzheimer’s.



The 2-mile walk began at Michael Mills Memorial Park and headed east toward the Raccoon River Valley Trail.



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ALZHEIMER'S
FROM PAGE 14



Steve Smith of Guthrie Center, who said he had been personally impacted by the disease as a caregiver for his father, was the emcee for the opening ceremony. Shown on the right is Dave Grove, an Edward Jones financial advisor based in Panora, who helped organize the walk. Edwards Jones is a national presenting sponsor of the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Grove led Team Lake Panorama in this year's walk.



Vicki Gubser spoke during the program in advance of the Aug. 13 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Panora. She talked about her husband, Dr. Robert Gubser, who died in 2013, and the impact the disease had on their lives together.

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For example, the lifestyle portion of the checklist helps you compile important information that the remaining spouse will need, such as how to contact your CPA, attorney and insurance agent. You also want to help avoid a technology nightmare by ensuring you both know important accounts' passwords.

The investment portion of the checklist includes things you will have to do when your spouse passes, such as change titles on accounts like checking or savings, credit cards and your mortgage. You may also have to call your spouse's insurance company and file a claim.

We are often one of the first phone calls that the families we work with make when a loved one passes. They are tough conversations but necessary ones as we work to help them execute their spousal succession plan. It's a privilege to help ease their burden and know that the wishes of their loved one are being fulfilled because they made some of these decisions together when we first started putting together their comprehensive retirement plan.

You can download the Spousal Succession Plan Checklist by going to SuccessionChecklist.com. By having open and honest conversations with your spouse regarding each of the outlined points, you'll be well on your way to having a purposeful plan that your spouse can turn to in one of life's most stressful and emotional moments.

Information provided by Loren Merkle, CFP®, Merkle Retirement Planning, 1860 S.E. Princeton Drive, Grimes, IA 50111, 515-278-1006.

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LAKEVILLE CELEBRATES DOG DAY

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Some Lakeville residents and their dogs celebrated National Spoil Your Dog Day on Aug. 10 by spending the afternoon at the Lake Panorama dog park. According to the folks who created this special national holiday, recommended activities include doling out extra treats and taking your dog to a dog park to socialize with other dogs.

The Lakeville staff took those suggestions to heart and organized this event to give residents who own dogs the chance to let them run and roam off-leash. A small canopy was set up just inside the entrance to the small dog side of the park, which provided a shady resting spot for the humans and their canines. Special “pup cup” ice cream treats for the dogs topped off the visit. ■



Left to right, dog owners James Standiford, Larry Book and Jeffrey Creen watch dog residents of Lakeville enjoy the Lake Panorama dog park.



A Lakeville dog enjoys a special “pup cup” ice cream treat on National Spoil Your Dog Day Aug. 10 at the Lake Panorama dog park.



Ruby Dygert is surrounded by dogs on a visit to the Lake Panorama dog park by residents of Lakeville.



A canopy was set up just inside the entrance to the small dog side of the park to provide shade for the humans and their canines.



Six dogs who live at Lakeville visited the Lake Panorama dog park Aug. 10, along with their owners, who also live at Lakeville. Pictured left to right are James Standiford, Jeffrey Creen and Ruby Dygert.

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RECIPE

COPYCAT OLIVE GARDEN SALAD

BY JOLENE GOODMAN

One of my favorite salads is the one you receive when you eat at Olive Garden restaurants. You know the one I'm talking about. The endless bowl of fresh greens and vegetables, topped with croutons and all the parmesan you desire. It combines flavors that are both satisfying and addictive. Through the last 10 years, I have replicated this recipe for my family, large gatherings and when preparing meals for friends in need. It is a go-to recipe that is a crowd pleaser... and easy. Enjoy! ■

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



Jolene Goodman

COPYCAT OLIVE GARDEN SALAD

- 2 bunches of romaine lettuce, chopped
- ½ red onion, thinly sliced
- ¾ cup pitted black olives
- ¾ cup (or more) pickled whole pepperoncini
- 2 plum tomatoes chopped
- 1 package of croutons
- 1/3 cup of grated parmesan
- ½ - 1 cup Italian dressing – quantity based on desired taste

Combine everything except croutons, parmesan cheese and dressing to make ahead. When ready to serve, add croutons and drizzle dressing over all. Toss and serve. (Chill salad bowls ahead of time for the best tasting salad.) Add 1-2 cups of diced grilled chicken or salmon to make this a meal.



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LAKE DOG & COVE CAT

By CHERYL TEMPLE
Lake Panorama Times

LAKE DOG

Name: Rizzo
Age: 6
Breed: boxer
Owners: Linda and Steve Roe
Rizzo is a rescue boxer that Linda and Steve Roe say they were lucky to get when he was just 6 months old. Rizzo is now 6. He is a sweetheart that loves to bark at everything. Rizzo, the wonder dog, really isn't into being on the water. However, happiness is being with Steve, taking on the responsibility as first mate, riding shotgun in the truck, daily walks and making sure Sunday naps are taken care of. Rizzo (though he does sigh occasionally), puts up with Mom, Linda, and annoying baby brother Charlie, an 18-month-old mix.



COVE CAT

Name: Utah
Age: 2-3 years old
Available at: Panora Pets
Utah has been at Panora Pets for almost a year. He is a neutered male and a bit on the small side. While at the shelter, he has been quite ornery. He finds it fun to reach out of his cage and grab a toy that another kitty is playing with. He doesn't particularly like other kitties much. However, Utah has a great attitude and is a happy and playful kitty. Utah has the cutest look of wonderment that he pairs with a snazzy little gray and white coat. ■



Suggest Lake Panorama residents and their pets for us to cover on the **Lake Panorama - Lake Dogs and Cove Cats** Facebook page



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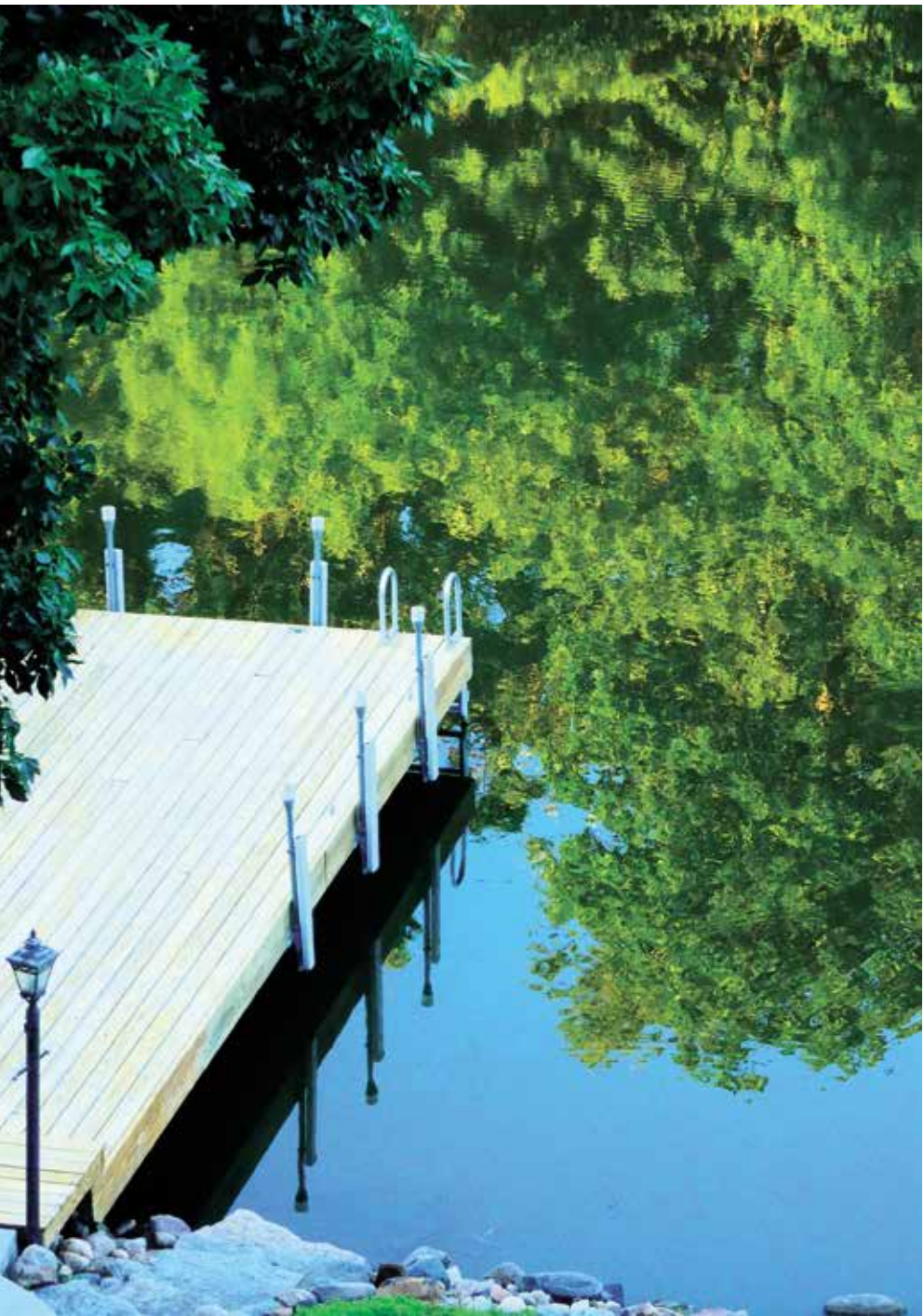
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TRISH HART'S NATURE PHOTO OF THE MONTH



MIRROR-LIKE

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Photographer Trish Hart and her husband, Scott, live in Lake Panorama's Andrews Cove, a narrow finger of water across the lake from Sunset Beach. She recently snapped this photo of their dock from a firepit seating area situated on the hillside between their house and the water. "It's so tranquil and relaxing when the cove is mirror-like," Hart says. "Whenever we're entertaining family and friends, or just a quiet evening alone, later afternoon into evening is a favorite time of day to sit and enjoy the view. And such fun to watch the deer come out with their fawns near the water across the cove." Hart offers custom prints of her photos on canvas, paper, metal and glass. Learn more by visiting [NaturesCanvasPhotos](https://www.facebook.com/NaturesCanvasPhotos) on Facebook. ■

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Dave was excellent. **He was professional at all times and offered a combination of objective and subjective information as needed.** Dave was well-versed on all parameters of the real estate market and provided guidance -- but was never pushy -- to assist in our decision to buy a home on the lake. I would highly recommend Dave and Sunset Realty to anyone considering the purchase or sale of a lake home. He is fantastic.

Laura was always there to answer any questions both before and after the sale! Laura's kindness... along with **her knowledge and professionalism were much appreciated!**

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