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Lake Panorama **TIMES**

FEBRUARY 2018 VOLUME 50 NUMBER 2

Love of travel takes Lake Panorama man to mountain summit

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
 Lake Times staff

Last September, while most Lake Panorama residents were enjoying beautiful fall weather, one resident was in Tanzania, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in single-digit temperatures.

Gary and Susan Geels moved from Johnston to a condo on Lake Panorama's main basin in 2008. She works as a special education administrator in the Des Moines Public Schools. He is a Bankers Trust vice president who works with retirement plans.

"We decided to try living here full-time, and thought if we got tired of the commute, we could use it as a second home," he says. "We fell in love with the lake and community, and plan to live here forever."

Both Gary and Susan grew up in the small town of Sully, south-east of Newton. Gary's grandparents lived in Bozeman, Montana. "My family couldn't afford to travel much, but we did visit my grandparents. My love of travel started from all those exciting trips to Bozeman, and exploring Yellowstone with Grandpa and Grandma Geels in an old Rambler," he says.

The couple has three children, twin girls and a younger daughter. When they were young, Gary and a brother-in-law talked about taking their families to all 50 states. Gary and Susan embraced the idea, and visited their 50th state the year the twins were seniors in high school.

International travel followed, with trips to South Africa, Australia, India, Europe, Israel and more. "I put a high value on seeing and exploring new things,



Before the ascent up Mount Kilimanjaro, Gary Geels (left), is shown with his daughter Meredith Swenson, her husband Adam Swenson, and Adam's father, Craig Swenson.

whether it's Iowa, the United States or around the world," Geels says.

In 2012, their youngest daughter Meredith married Adam Swenson. Adam's father, Craig Swenson, lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "Craig always wanted to ride RAGBRAI. I had ridden two days 25 years ago, and I rode the full route in 2008. So I said I'd do it with him, and we've ridden the entire route the last five years," Geels says.

An interesting side note of the "it's a small world" variety — Swenson's parents once owned a lot at Lake Panorama, which he remembers visiting and mowing as a kid.

TRAVEL, PAGE 2A



Gary and Susan Geels are shown on the deck of their condo, which overlooks Lake Panorama's main basin.

LAKE PANORAMA PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES COMING SOON

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
 Lake Times staff

Lake Panorama property owners soon will receive their 2018 property assessment notices from the Guthrie County Assessor's office. Nikki Carrick, Guthrie County Assessor, says notices will be mailed about February 14. "These notices are intended to inform Lake Panorama property owners of the estimated market value of their property," Carrick says. "However, the values should not be confused with taxable value or property taxes. Property taxes based on these 2018 property assessment values will be payable in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020."

In March 2014, Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. of Cedar Rapids was awarded the contract to reappraise all Lake Panorama residential property in Guthrie County. The reappraisal was conducted to equalize assessed values, since not all properties have decreased or increased at the same rate.

Over the last year, company representatives have measured and attempted to inspect all residential property. Both a sales analysis and a review of the information collected were con-

PROPERTY, PAGE 4A

EDUCATION Holloway joins educators at State Capitol

By **GORDON CASTILE**
 Lake Times staff

At the recent school board meeting Panorama superintendent Shawn Holloway suggested members urge friends to contact state legislators in support of public education.

Holloway last Wednesday put those words into practice as he and some 150 other educators -- superintendents and Area Education Agency (AEA) administrators -- met at the State Capitol with elected representatives. It was also a time to touch base with other superintendents.

It's a way to have a show of force and to meet with legislators on issues related to education, said Holloway, pointing out it's an opportunity for public education to be heard.

"It's always good to put a face with an issue," said Holloway of meeting with senator and representatives. "We don't always agree, but that's politics. It's always productive as both area legislators will listen and we have good conversations."

That didn't apply Wednesday as Rep. Clel Baudler was tied up in a subcommittee meeting he only saw Sen. Jake Chapman very briefly.

HOLLOWAY, PAGE 3A

March 13 deadline to file for LPA Board of Directors election

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
 Lake Times staff

The deadline to file nomination papers for the 2018 election for a seat on the Lake Panorama Association board of directors is March 13.

The board consists of seven members. Board terms are three years, and members are allowed to serve two consecutive terms. Terms are staggered so the number of seats on the annual ballot varies each year.

For 2018, there will be two seats on the ballot. Mindy Larsen Poldberg and Charles Schnack both will be completing their sixth year on the board and are ineligible to run for re-election in 2018.

Both Poldberg and Schnack were elected at the 2012 and 2015 annual meetings.

Nomination papers are available at the LPA office, or will be emailed on request. Candidates must collect a minimum of 18 signatures, representing 18 separate active memberships.

Along with the nomination form, candidates are asked to submit a signed statement of willingness to serve, and a 100-word statement of qualifications. Also needed is a signed conflict-of-interest form listing any businesses or financial interests the candidate has with the LPA. These items will be included in the ballot mailing.

A mailing that includes the ballot, numbered envelope and the official announcement of the

May 12 annual meeting will be sent in April. LPA members must return their completed ballot in the numbered envelope. Members are urged to return their ballots in advance of the annual meeting to speed up the tabulation process, although ballots also can be brought to the annual meeting.

Board meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning with open forum at 5 p.m., although the day and time sometimes is adjusted. The board does not meet in January or February, unless a special meeting is necessary.

Anyone with questions about the board election process, or details of serving on the LPA board, can contact the LPA office at 641-755-2301 or lpa@lakepanorama.org.



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TRAVEL
FROM PAGE 1A

Mountain climbing long had intrigued Geels, and he has done a lot of reading on the topic. Mount Everest, the Earth's tallest mountain, was of particular interest, but he knew he doesn't have the technical skills to reach that summit.

The idea of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro came up between Swenson and Geels as they peddled across Iowa. Swenson has a son-in-law who is the son of Kenyan missionaries. His daughter and son-in-law had married in Michigan, but were going to Kenya for a second wedding ceremony in fall 2017. That provided the catalyst for Swenson and Geels to plan their climb.

Joining them for the adventure were daughter Meredith and her husband Adam, who live in Des Moines, plus Adam's brother Christian and his wife, Krista, who live in Ann Arbor.

Throughout last summer, Geels trained at Lake Panorama by walking the lake's south shoreline, golf courses and roads. Meredith and Adam trained by climbing up and down the dam at Saylorville Lake.

The first hurdle for Geels was simply getting to Kilimanjaro. That required a flight to Chicago from Des Moines, followed by a nine-hour flight to Frankfurt, Germany. From there, it was another nine-hour flight to Nairobi, Kenya, where he met the Swenson family, who already had been in the country for two weeks.

The group took a six-hour bus ride to Arusha, Tanzania, where they spent the night in a hotel. "It was the last night with 'creature comforts' for the next eight days," Geels says.

The next morning they drove five hours to the base of Mount Kilimanjaro, registered, and started their hike in the rain forest about 1 p.m.

Mount Kilimanjaro is a dormant volcano and at 19,300 feet above sea level, the highest mountain in Africa. There are seven official trekking routes to ascend and descend the mountain. The Geels/Swenson team used the Lemosho route.

That first day and night, it rained steadily. "The rain was fairly chilly so we needed to keep warm clothing and rain gear on," Geels says. "The rainforest was beautiful with a variety of birds and monkeys to keep us entertained. The hiking was quite steep with the trails slick and muddy, so it was an immediate reality check. We developed a great deal of respect for our porters who



The team is shown climbing the narrow Broncha Wall trail. Note the porters and guides are carrying the team's supplies on their backs and heads.

were carrying 35-pound loads on their heads, while we were challenged with our backpacks."

The second day brought sunshine. The team hiked out of the rainforest and into the alpine heath climate zone, where the ground cover consists of giant heather bushes. That night's camp was at 11,550 feet. They slept in two-person tents. Geels says it was challenging to stay warm in their sleeping bags, even with layers of clothing.

By the third day, the ground cover was reduced to small bushes and grasses. Each day involved hiking to a higher elevation, then back to a lower elevation to camp. This is done to acclimate climbers to the higher altitudes and lower oxygen levels.

On the fourth day, the team hiked to the Baranco camp at 13,100 feet. "The Baranco wall is an impressive sheer cliff wall that appears similar to the Grand Canyon walls. It has a narrow trail with multiple switchbacks and is a major climbing challenge," Geels says. "The views of Kilimanjaro were becoming increasingly closer and intimidating, realizing how far we still had to climb."

The fifth day, Geels says the hikers "climbed and scrambled over rocks to get to the top of the Baranco wall. We climbed even higher for acclimatization and spent the night in the Karanga Valley at 13,300 feet. The climate

zone was mountain desert and nothing but rocks and gravel until the summit ice cap and glaciers. Each day's climb was a continuous round of up and down with a steady uphill trend."

They climbed to Base Camp at Barafu the next morning, and tried to sleep that afternoon and evening in anticipation of the summit climb. Here's an excerpt from a journal Geels kept during the adventure.

"We were awakened at 11 p.m. to eat and prepare for the long hike to the summit. We left for the summit at midnight in extreme temperatures, wearing seven layers of clothes and coats, mittens, stocking hats. We ascended using headlamps. The stars were incredibly bright and it seemed we were climbing into the sky. The Milky Way was like a belt across the universe. The trail was very steep and rocky with sheer drop-offs, requiring full attention in our exhausted state. It was challenging to stay awake throughout the night."

Geels says it was a wonderful sight to experience the sunrise and feel the warmth around 6 a.m. "We reached the summit at 7 a.m., and it was a tremendous feeling of accomplishment as we celebrated our achievement as a group," he says.

They were on the summit for

TRAVEL, PAGE 5A



The Geels/Swenson team celebrates with their guides and porters at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. After six days of climbing, they spent just 30 minutes at the top before beginning their descent.



This sign at the beginning of the Geels/Swenson team's trip shows the distances and hours required to reach the mountain peak.



Shown in the rainforest during the first day of the climb are, left to right, Christian and Krista Swenson, Adam and Meredith Swenson, Gary Geels and Craig Swenson.

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BUSINESS

PANORA COMMUNICATION COOPERATIVE BOARD MEMBER LEROY OXLEY COMPLETES NTCA BOARD TRAINING

LeRoy Oxley, Panora Communications Cooperative Board Member, has completed the Director Core Curriculum (DCC) training from The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA). NTCA represents broadband companies like Panora Communication Cooperative, also known as Panora Telco, on federal policy matters and provides a wide variety of educational training opportunities for its members.

Oxley has been an elected board member since 2012. He received his DCC certificate in December after completing the necessary training requirements, which include the completion of 14 credit hours in four study areas -- policy, technology, business and governance.

"Training such as this is vital for our board members to have," said Panora Telco General Manager Andy Randol. "It allows them to be up to date with information they need to make decisions that impact our cooperative and our members. Completion of DCC training

does not happen overnight. It requires several years of continuing education to complete the course training."

Panora Communications Cooperative is an independent telephone company located in Panora, that provides telephone, Internet and video services to residents of Panora and the surrounding communities.

NTCA, The Rural Broadband Association, is the premier association representing more than 800 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural small-town American. NTCA advocates on behalf of its members in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and it provides training and development; publications and industry events; and an array of employee benefit programs. In an era of exploding technology, deregulation and marketplace competition, NTCA's members are leading the IP evolution for rural consumers, delivering technologies



LeRoy Oxley (left), Panora Communications Cooperative Board Member, is presented a certificate by Ron Reynolds, Board President, for completing the Director Core Curriculum training from The Rural Broadband Association.

that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Because of their efforts, rural America is fertile ground for innovation in economic development and commerce, education, health care, government services, security and smart energy use.

HOLLOWAY

FROM PAGE 1A

"I'll go back to the Capital at least one more time to meet with Jake and Clel," said Holloway.

"We understand the state budget is tight," said Holloway. So, he noted, the focus was more on two other issues rather than Supplemental State Aid.

First was extending the one-cent state sales tax from 2029 to 2049. School districts look to SAVE as a source of funding for bond funded projects. Holloway noted using funding other than general obligation bonds save taxpayers money as property taxes don't have to be raised. "It's a win-win for taxpayers and school districts," he stated.

According to published reports, the Iowa Legislature will extend SAVE.

The second major issue is the difference between transportation costs among schools. These vary, according to a Des Moines Register article, from a low of \$9.56 per pupil at one school to the highest amount of \$970 per pupil at another. There is a move in the Iowa House to provide \$10 million in transportation relief.

An AEA news release listed two other issues educators were seeking. One dealt with extending operational sharing agreements between schools

for certain positions, such as Guthrie Center and Adair-Casey sharing Steve Smith as superintendent.

The other was a request legislators support mental-health related issues. Holloway said funding has been reduced for

a general issue that affects the state as a whole.

As for supplemental state aid, Holloway looks for the legislature to approve a 1-1.5 percent increase. This would equate to \$30-\$35 per student at Panoramia, he said.

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COMMUNITY

TORI'S ANGELS ACCEPTS FOUR MORE CHILDREN, ADDS WEBSITE



Emery Thompson



Finley Jesko



Gracie Crowell



Hope Watters

Lake Times staff

Five-month-old Finley Jesko, daughter of Anthony and Jocelyn Jesko of Guthrie Center, is one of four more children with life-threatening medical conditions accepted by Tori's Angels Foundation since December 2017. The foundation now supports 29 children and has sponsored a total of 36 children to date.

Finley is the foundation's 35th accepted child. She has Surfactant Protein C Deficiency and was recently life-flighted to Blank Children's Hospital in

Des Moines when her oxygen level fell dangerously low and her breathing was severely compromised. After many tests and improved function, Finley is expected to return home soon.

Emery Thompson, 20 months old, from Carlisle is the foundation's 33rd sponsored child. She is being treated for neuroblastoma. Despite two surgeries, immunotherapy and chemo, the tumor remains and further treatment is being sought.

Ten-year-old Gracie Crowell of West Des Moines is the foundation's 34th sponsored child. Gracie is in the maintenance

stage of treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, receiving chemo and steroid treatments.

Four-year-old Hope Watters of Norwalk is the 36th sponsored child. Hope was diagnosed at 4 weeks of age with hereditary spherocytosis and eventually had her spleen removed. She began having pancreatitis episodes again and was recently diagnosed with Hereditary Pancreatitis. She is receiving treatment to get enzymes into her pancreas.

Tori's Angels also announces their new website, www.torisangels.org, that shares the Tori's Angels story, pictures and short bios of each child, and the foundation's operating information. The foundation raises funds to help the families of their supported children who have life-threatening medical conditions. Tori's Angels pays all medical expenses not covered

by insurance from the date of sponsorship until the child's 19th birthday. This includes travel expenses to treatment (airfare, mileage, hotel, meals), as well as prescriptions, medical co-pays and deductibles.

Anyone wishing to help Emery, Gracie, Finley, Hope, and other Tori's Angels children are invited to send donations to the foundation's chairman, Bill Ridgley, at 4677 Panorama Dr, Panora, IA, 50216. An online donation option is located on the foundation's website and on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/torisangels. Supporters can "Like" the Tori's Angels Facebook page to receive regular updates on the children.

For more information about Tori's Angels or to request an application for support, contact the foundation's chairman, Bill Ridgley, at bridgley@netins.net or 712-249-6423.

SNOW GEESE



Geese fly over Lake Panorama during a winter afternoon in February.

PROPERTY FROM PAGE 1A

in this process is to be fair to all property owners, and accurate in our assessment of values."

Property owners who want to meet with a Vanguard representative must request an appointment prior to Feb 26, 2018, by calling the Guthrie County Assessor's office at 641-747-3319.

If assessment values do change, new notices will be mailed prior to April 1.

Carrick says Lake Panorama property owners also have an opportunity to protest the new assessed values to the Guthrie County Board of Review during the normal protest period. A written protest must be submitted between April 2 and April 30 for the Board of Review to consider any adjustment. The assessment notice will have additional instructions on how to protest assessed values to the Guthrie County Board of Review.

ducted before property values were finalized.

Carrick says property owners will have an opportunity to meet with a representative of Vanguard Appraisals, Inc., beginning March 5, 2018. These meetings are an opportunity for the property owner to submit any information that may affect the estimate of market value of their property.

"Property owners who disagree with the new values should be prepared to state their estimate of market value and present evidence to support that estimate," Carrick says. "Vanguard representatives must base any adjustments they make on relevant data, and cannot make adjustments simply because property owners are displeased with increases in value. Our goal

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VALENTINE'S DAY - CONSIDER FINANCIAL GIFTS FOR ALL YOUR VALENTINES

Valentine's Day is almost here – and it's a pretty big business. In fact, U.S. consumers spent about \$18 billion on their valentines in 2017, according to the National Retail Federation. Of course, recipients certainly appreciate flowers, candy, jewelry and so on, but this year, consider going beyond the traditional favorites to give your loved ones something more long-lasting – a financial gift.

And, while you're doing so, why not also go beyond the traditional definition of a "valentine"? After all, not all that \$18 billion went to spouses or significant others. A sizable amount also went to non-romantic connections, including children, parents, friends, teachers – even pets. So, in the spirit of ecumenical Valentine's Day gift-giving, here are some suggestions for financial gifts for your loved ones:

FOR SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER

One valuable gift to your spouse or significant other might be an IRA contribution. While you can't directly contribute to someone else's IRA, you can certainly write a check to that person for that purpose. This gift is particularly valuable because many people have trouble coming up with the maximum annual

IRA contribution, which, in 2018, is \$5,500, or \$6,500 for individuals 50 and older. As an alternative to an IRA contribution, you could give shares of a stock issued by a company whose products or services are enjoyed by your spouse or significant other.

FOR YOUR CHILDREN

It's never too soon to start saving for college for your children. Fortunately, you have a few attractive college-funding vehicles available, one of which is the 529 Savings Plan. You can generally invest in the plan offered by any state, even if you don't live there. If you do invest in your own state's plan, you might receive a tax incentive, which could include a deduction, match or credit. Plus, all withdrawals from 529 Savings Plans will be free from federal income taxes and, in most cases, state income taxes as well, as long as the money is used for qualified college or graduate school expenses of the beneficiary you've named. (If a withdrawal is taken from a 529 Savings Plan but not used for a qualified expense, the portion of the withdrawal representing earnings is subject to

ordinary income tax and a 10% federal penalty.)

FOR YOUR PARENTS

You can probably find a number of thoughtful and valuable financial gifts for your parents. You could, for example, offer to pay a month's worth of their premiums for their auto or health insurance. Even if they are on Medicare, they may still be paying for a supplemental policy, so your gift may well be appreciated. But you might want to go beyond helping them with just a single component of their financial situation and instead provide them with assistance for their "big picture." To do so, you could arrange a visit with a trusted financial professional, assuming your parents aren't already using one. This person could look at all issues, including investments, retirement accounts, long-term care and estate-related financial strategies, and then make appropriate recommendations and even referrals to other professionals.

Everyone likes the hearts, flowers and sweets of Valentine's Day. Nonetheless, give some thought to making financial gifts – they can make a difference in your loved ones' lives long after the chocolates are eaten and the roses have faded.

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TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 2A

about 30 minutes, before beginning the long hike down. Here's another entry from Geels' journal.

"We essentially jumped and slid and skied on the loose rock and gravel and returned to Base Camp in about two hours. With the lack of oxygen at that elevation and the extreme fatigue, it took complete focus and concentration to descend in a reasonably safe manner. Turning an ankle, hitting the boulders in the way, or flipping over is constantly on your mind. We had a quick meal at Base Camp, packed up and descended to Mweka Camp at 10,019 feet, which was about another five-hour hike. The descent from Base Camp was very steep with loose rock, and painful for our knees in our exhausted condition. Most of us had been awake for 36 hours with maybe a couple of hours sleep. It was wonderful to collapse at Mweka and sleep through the night with an abundance of oxygen to breathe."

The group hiked to the exit gate the next morning. They stopped at a restaurant in Moshi, a village at the foot of Kilimanjaro. "We had cheeseburgers, fries and cokes, which was terrific after a week of food designed to get us up the mountain," Geels says. "Our cooks did a great job, but the steady diet of porridge and soups, with no appetite from the altitude, required us to force down the food and water."

The climb to the Kilimanjaro summit took six days, and the return took two. Oxygen levels at the summit are about half of normal, which can cause altitude sickness and other health risks.

Geels is 63 years old and Craig Swenson is 65. Their four children are in their late 20s and early 30s. "It was strenuous for all of us," Geels says. "The lack of oxygen, the cold, the sleeping on the ground. The lack of sanitation was horrible, and the climb was brutal on our knees."

While Geels says he would never climb Mount Kilimanjaro again, he's happy to have done it once, and found much to love about the experience.

"There was beauty, from the



Mount Kilimanjaro is seen in the background at one of the team's overnight camps. Pictured left to right are Gary Geels, Meredith and Adam Swenson, and Craig Swenson.

rainforest to the snow-covered peak and glaciers. Our support team, who earn about two-dollars a day, were helpful, caring people. When we reached the summit, some of our guides and porters spontaneously began singing and dancing in celebration. It was really touching," he says.

Geels has spent his career helping people fund their retirement plans. "It has been very sobering to watch several friends and classmates pass away the last few years," he says. "It makes a person realize how short life can be and how important it is to live your dreams while you can. Climbing a mountain was one of my dreams. I encourage others to live their dreams, too."

Susan Geels also loves to travel, and when they retire in a few years, they plan to drive this country's western coastline, beginning in Seattle, Washington, and ending in San Diego, California. They also will continue to explore other parts of the United States and the world.

But first, Gary is looking ahead to his next adventure — a river raft ride through the Grand Canyon.



Gary Geels and his daughter Meredith Swenson are shown on the second day in the alpine heath climate zone, where the ground cover consists of giant heather bushes.

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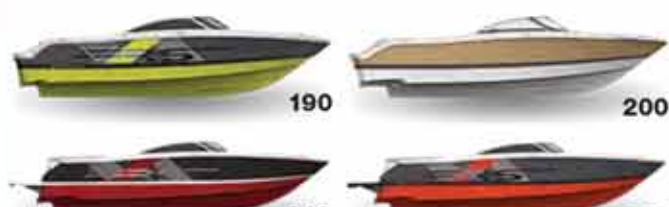
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Gina Badding is a busy rural Iowan. She's practicing law at the prestigious Neu firm in Carroll and, with her husband, Tony, is raising four children. Both of Gina's parents are long-time teachers so she understands the value of education.

She completed her undergraduate work in religion and English at the University of Iowa before graduating from its law school.

"University of Iowa was an absolutely wonderful place to go to school. Although it's a large campus, it felt small. I got a lot of support from the professors and teachers' aides."

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8th annual Merryman Broomball Tournament held in January



Courtney Cronk dribbles the ball down the rink, while Laura Engel keeps close watch in the goal. Courtney Cronk later delivered a game-winning overtime goal.

Submitted by Daniel Fischer

A group of 30 athletes converged on frosty Lake Panorama in Panora for the Eighth Annual Merryman Broomball Tournament on Saturday, January 27. The weekend consisted of opening ceremonies, scouting reports, and a player draft. The teams then competed in tournament play on Horseshoe Cove starting at 10:30 a.m., after which one team earned the coveted

Golden Broom.

Broomball is a sport in which players wield taped-up brooms, maneuver around the ice in flat-footed shoes or boots, and try to slip a small round ball past the goalie. Sometimes referred to as "working-man's hockey," broomball requires brutal physicality, clever stickwork and footwork, and cunning strategy.

"The thing I love about broomball is that it's like playing chess with road graders, bulldozers,

and Mack Trucks," said Kody Guiter, a Denver, Colorado physician. "And I don't need to pirouette, triple axel, or make any other fancy moves to get around the ice."

Broomball has seen significant expansion in recent times. Originally started by Canadian street-car workers nearly a hundred years ago as a way to pass

BROOMBALL, PAGE 2B

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February				1 20% OFF Iowa STORE	2 PURSE DRAWING	3 Sugarland Party IN THE PIT
4 SUNDAY SPECIAL BLOODY Mary	5 PRESIDENTIAL KIOSK GAME J TOWN 20% OFF	6 50+ Day Club Freedom	7 BRING YOUR WINGMAN	8 20% OFF Iowa STORE	9 PURSE DRAWING	10 The Fab Four The Ultimate Tribute
11 SUNDAY SPECIAL BLOODY Mary	12 PRESIDENTIAL KIOSK GAME J TOWN 20% OFF	13 50+ Day Club Freedom	14 BRING YOUR WINGMAN BRUCELET	15 20% OFF Iowa STORE	16 PURSE DRAWING	17 Sugarland Party IN THE PIT
18 SUNDAY SPECIAL BLOODY Mary	19 PRESIDENTIAL KIOSK GAME J TOWN 20% OFF	20 50+ Day Club Freedom	21 BRING YOUR WINGMAN	22 JACKPOT PARTY	23 PURSE DRAWING	24 Sugarland Party IN THE PIT
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BROOMBALL
FROM PAGE 1B

bitter winters, broomball is now a mainstay for thousands at college campuses, late-night ice rinks, and frozen ponds and lakes.

Winter sporting enthusiasts are abuzz that the 2018 winter season includes both the annual broomball tournament and the quadrennial Winter Olympics. Just two weeks after broomball on Lake Panorama, United States of America, the world's best athletes convene for the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. With such events occurring within weeks of each other, many are asking if broomball should also be featured in the Winter Olympic games.

Molly Merryman, a teacher residing in Munich, Germany, knows from her extensive travels and current residence that

broomball is a growing international sport.

"Since soccer can't be played in the snow and the ice, Germans love the chance to mix it up, just like those over in the western hemisphere," she says. "And even when not playing, spectators appreciate the wild broomball culture. Gute zeit!"

Likewise, Alexa Choles, a Minneapolis interior designer, believes there is international support for introducing the game to the Winter Olympics. "Oh, you betcha. Us Minnesotans don't always see eye-to-eye with our Canadian neighbors up north, but you just can't beat curling, ice fishing, and broomball competitions to celebrate our eight months of winter," she said.

Sean Fitzgerald, a Nashville, Tennessee corporate executive, is the Tennessee representative to USA Broomball, broomball's official national governing body. Fitzgerald believes the organi-

zation needs to expand its mission from national governance to international promotion.

"Considering its growing international participation, exciting games, and representation of Olympic values, the International Olympic Committee should unquestionably add broomball for 2022 in Beijing," he said. "As soon as y'all spread broomball fever, the world will be fixin' to play."

Perhaps someday "Benny Broomball" Ellefson, Mikayla Rohde, or Deni will be able to trade in the Golden Broom for a Gold Medal, but for now, broomball will remain a fun and intense local competition.

Tournament Commissioner Josh Merryman reports that the "state of broomball is strong," adding that "I keep getting older, and broomball stays the same good time."

Visitors were welcome to stop by the Horseshoe Cove to watch the slipping, sliding, and scoring.



Cale Kassel and Aaron Armbrecht jostle for a ball, while Mark Sullivan hot dogs in the open space. Both the competition and the temperature were expected to heat up this year.



Dan Murphy, Alexa Choles, Ryan "Deni" Zenisek, and "Benny Broomball" Ellefson celebrate with the completed 2017 bracket. The team "Inside Panora's Box" won all 4 of their games to claim the 2017 title.



Mikayla Rohde and Cale Kassel battle for a ball, as Sean Fitzgerald guards the goal. Temperatures in the balmy 30s, 40s and 50s during the week, meant competitors braced for a wet and sloppy ice rink again in 2018.

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Q&A: Brad Halterman, LPA project manager

Sports Courts Update

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

New sports courts will be constructed at Boulder Beach this spring. Friends of Lake Panorama raised \$75,000 for the project, and the Lake Panorama Association is matching that amount to complete the full \$150,000 project. Site preparation was done in September by the LPA staff. In this month's Q&A, Brad Halterman, LPA project manager, provides an update, since this is one of many projects he is overseeing for the LPA in 2018.

Q: Let's start with you telling us about the court sizes and how they will be configured.

The Sports Court Complex will consist of one tennis court, two pickleball courts and one basketball court. The basketball court will be 80 ft. 5 in. long by 50 ft. 3 in. wide, and be fenced separately from the other courts. It will have two internal adjustable Signature Series Goalsetter MVP basketball system hoops with acrylic backboards, breakaway goals and black pole pads. Just to the south of the basketball court will be the tennis court. The tennis court slab will be 110 ft. 6 in. long by 56 ft. 3 in. wide with a regulation-sized tennis court on it. The tennis court will be equipped with one Douglas Sports Premier XS Tennis post system with a tapered

tennis net, deluxe center strap with anchor, and aluminum ground sleeves.

To the east of the tennis court will be a connected slab that is 60 ft. 4 in. long by 62 ft. 4 in. wide. This slab will house the two pickleball courts. The pickleball courts will have two Douglas Sports Pickleball post systems with nets and aluminum ground sleeves. The tennis court and pickleball courts will be fenced as one.

The area between the basketball court and tennis court also will be cemented. This will provide a place for two benches, and perhaps a picnic table and trash receptacle.

Q: Where are the courts located?

The Sports Courts will be located at the Boulder Beach area, just south of the road into the beach and east of parking lot. That location was chosen because of the ample nearby parking and close proximity to the beach, sand volleyball, playground and shelter houses. The Courts will be on a slab that provides proper drainage on all four sides and is easily accessible, all while avoiding existing drainage tile and utilities.

Q: What type of surface is going on top of the concrete?

The surfacing of the Sport Courts will consist of 13,880 Sport Court Power Game out-

door surfacing modules. The court is made of high impact copolymer polypropylene suspended modules with a positive locking system and wide-gap patented "lateral" forgiveness. Each open-grid slip resistant module is 12" X 12" X 5/8" and comes with a 15-year limited warranty. The tile colors will be a mixture of blue and green, with white court lines painted on.

I have been asked how a basketball, tennis ball or pickleball will bounce off of this court material compared to other surfaces. My answer is "just fine." I have played basketball and tennis on these courts and they performed great. Every flooring or surfacing performs differently whether it be modular, rubber, sheet vinyl, tartan, concrete, wood or Sport Court. This type of surfacing gives Lake Panorama the best bang for the buck as far as usability, performance, life of material, warranty and safety.

Q: Are there plans for players to be able to reserve the courts?

There are currently no plans to maintain a reservation system that is similar to tee times on the golf course. However, LPA has discussed the possibility of allowing a standing reservation for any leagues that are open to LPA members and set a recurring schedule for league play. For example, a pickleball league could request a standing reservation for Tuesday mornings.



The need for formal scheduling is something LPA can revisit as we gain a better understanding of usage patterns.

Q: What is the construction timeline for this spring?

As with any major project there are stages that need to take place to get the project finished. The pad is built and will be touched up early this spring as soon as weather breaks. We are first on the list with the concrete contractor for spring 2018 for him to form and pour the concrete pad. This will take place when the weather breaks for a good window to pour the concrete.

The concrete will have to sit for a few days and then the Sports Court tiles will be laid on top of the concrete and painted. When the paint dries, the basketball hoops, poles and nets will be put in. When that part is done the fencing company will come in and get the fence up. All of these stages will be done when the one before it is finished, and the suppliers can work it into their schedules. The plan is to work with each contractor for each part of the project and get it done as soon as possible, yet not rush things to get an inferior finished product.

As usual, Iowa weather will have a lot to say about when we are able to finish the project. But we hope play can be underway on the courts sometime in May, or at least early June.

COFFEE WITH THE GM MARCH 9

By **SUSAN THOMPSON**
Lake Times staff

A program to improve communication between the Lake Panorama Association and LPA members will continue in 2018. The first "Coffee with the GM" was held in April 2015. These events provide LPA members the opportunity to discuss topics of interest in a candid, conversational format.

The first coffee of 2018 is scheduled for Friday, March 9, at the Lake Panorama National conference center. John Rutledge, LPA general manager, invites LPA members to

join him for coffee and other refreshments at this informal gathering. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and last about an hour. Rutledge will provide an update on current happenings, and take questions from members in attendance.

If members have questions or items they would like covered about LPA policies or developments, they can email lpa@lakepanorama.org to give Rutledge an opportunity to prepare in advance. LPA members with questions specific to their own membership or property should call the LPA office during regular business hours at 641-755-2301.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTE: These minutes from the December meeting of the LPA board of directors have not yet received final approval. This will be done at the board's March meeting.

Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors Meeting December 19, 2017
Lake Panorama Association Office
Unapproved Minutes

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met December 19, 2017, at 5 p.m., at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members present were Larry Babcock, Mary Jane Carothers, Gary Evans, Tom Jeschke, Mindy Larsen Poldberg, Charles Schnack, and Jim Spradling.

LPA Staff present: Danna Krambeer and John Rutledge.

Visitors present: Bryan Cox, LPA Member

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

Agenda Item 1 – Approval of the Agenda. Evans moved to approve the agenda. Motion second, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Open Forum. Bryan Cox addressed the board regarding the process to research development of condos along Panorama Drive, across from Boulder Beach and along the golf course. He discussed the possibility of developing along fairways 17 and 18. Cox is interested in looking at ground within the association to be developed with condos, single dwelling homes and duplex type of units. There is a growing interest of existing water front homeowners to downsize within the association and be closer to the golf course, conference center and the City of Panorama. Cox asked what areas could be considered, including property adjacent to the golf course or 200th Road.

The board agreed there is a growing demand for condos and will continue to research the legal and practical components of such a project.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda. President Spradling amended the consent agenda by removing item 3e, the topic of which is to set the date for next board meeting. Jeschke moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion second, carried unanimously.

Consent agenda to include:
a) LPA General Manager's Report
b) Approval of minutes from 11.28.2017 LPA Board Meeting
c) Acceptance of the 11.30.2017 LPA LPN Consolidated Financial Statements
d) Accept minutes from 11.21.17 LPN Board of Mangers Meeting

Agenda Item 3 -
e) Set date of next board meeting for March

Discussion was held on moving the meeting date from March 27 to March 20 to accommodate board member participation. Rutledge noted the date change would work for staff. Evans moved to change the meeting date to March 20, 2018. Motion second, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4a – Variance request for 7015 Andrews Terrace.
No action taken on Item 4a, as the member has placed the variance request on-hold until spring.

Agenda Item 4b – Review preliminary survey results – Survey remains open through 12.31.17
The board reviewed the initial responses to the survey. To date we have received 326 survey responses. Rutledge briefly recapped the responses captured by the survey to date. LPA staff will continue to review the results and summarize for the next board meeting. One point highlighted from the initial survey results is more education is needed regarding the proposed RO water plant project. This will be done through the weekly Panorama Prompt newsletter and GM coffees. The survey will remain open until 12/31/2017. At the suggestion of Poldberg, another reminder of the survey will be distributed prior to the survey's closing.

Agenda Item 5 – Old Business
Rutledge discussed the future of the old tennis courts. The board was supportive of demolishing the courts this winter, however, it was noted the LPN board of managers was contemplating options for future use. Rutledge was directed to contact the LPN Board president and determine if LPA should proceed with removal of the old courts this winter. Rutledge noted demolishing during the off-season would be preferable as the ground is firm, little golf traffic is present and LPA could do the work in-house.

Agenda Item 6 – Other Business - None

Agenda Item 7 – Closed Session. The Board entered closed session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss legal matters and exited closed session at 6:43 p.m.

Motion Jeschke to approve annual contract with John Rutledge, LPA general manager, for 2018 as discussed in closed session. Motion second, carried unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Danna Krambeer,
Recording Secretary

Mindy Larsen Poldberg
Board Secretary

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BUSINESS

GUTHRIE COUNTY STATE BANK PROMOTES MARK CATES TO VICE PRESIDENT

Guthrie County State Bank announces Mark Cates promotion to Vice President, Branch Manager with oversight of the Panorama location. In this role, Cates will manage all operations of the Panorama branch while continuing his consumer and commercial lending roles.

Cates was hired at Guthrie County State Bank in October 2015 after beginning his career with a large national bank. He has been instrumental in the continued growth of the bank, spearheading several new programs and building strong customer relationships. Mark completed the Iowa Bankers Association

Consumer Credit School in 2016. The school is an intense one-week program sponsored by the Iowa Bankers Association (IBA).

"Mark has continued to excel at managing the day to day responsibilities of his role while working to understand bank operations," said Mike Underwood, chief executive officer and president, Guthrie County State Bank. "He is a pleasure to work with, has a positive attitude, and contributes new ideas. Retaining great team members that are dedicated to our customers as well as our mission is critical as we continue to grow."

Cates is a native of Ida Grove,

IA, and graduated from Simpson College with double majors in business management and sports administration. He also played football for the Storm. Cates coaches youth soccer and baseball and is active with PRIDE (Panora Regional Industrial Development Enterprise) as a vice president and board member. Prior to joining Guthrie County State Bank, he experienced career progression as a personal banker with Wells Fargo in several locations in the Midwest. He and his wife, Jana, are raising their three children in Panora.

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Please RSVP to Kristen by February 27 at 641-755-2799 or kcrouthamel@ibasecurities.com.



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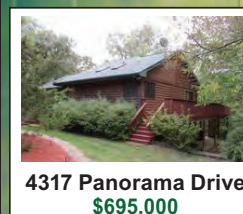
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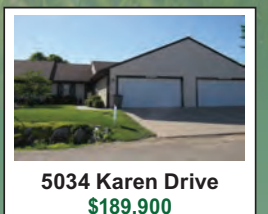
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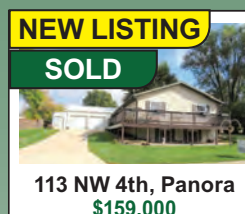
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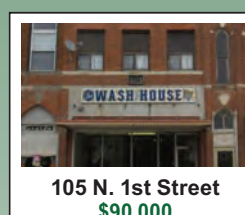
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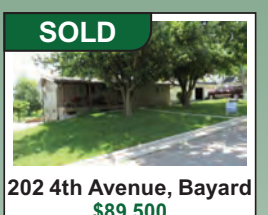
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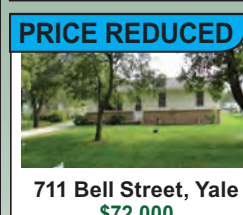
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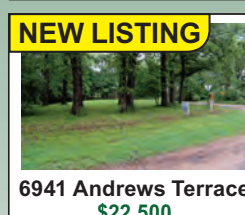
2227 Wagon Road
\$89,500



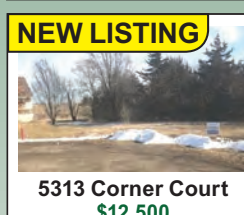
202 4th Avenue, Bayard
\$89,500



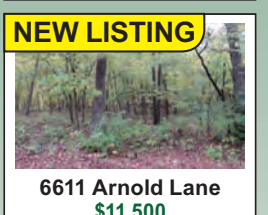
711 Bell Street, Yale
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BUSINESS

GENESIS DEVELOPMENT TO MOVE INTO WILLIAMS BUILDING

Expansion to add jobs in Guthrie Center

By AMANDA GIRRES
Lake Times staff

Ever since purchasing the Williams Building last fall, Main Street Guthrie Center has been working hard to renovate the two unused retail spaces and find new businesses to lease them. After months of repairs, renovations and volunteer work, an organization is finally preparing to move into the old Breadeaux Pizza location.

Genesis Development, a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing support for people with disabilities, hopes to be moved into the new location within the coming weeks.

Currently, Genesis Development has a small location at 2002 State Street in Guthrie Center, however, with recent growth and expansion in Guthrie County, the organization has outgrown its former office.

“In the past, all that’s been going on in Guthrie has been an extension of what’s happening in Jefferson,” explained Jesse Akers, newly appointed Associate Director of the Central Region. “Over the past year, we’ve really expanded a lot, mostly due to our employment services programs with the high schools and with adults, so Guthrie has gotten big enough now that we will become our own site.”

While Genesis already works with schools in Panora and Guthrie Center, the new location will allow the organization to begin programs at Audubon High School and West Central Valley as well.

“We help (adults and stu-

dents) obtain community employment if that’s possible,” Akers explained. “We work with high school juniors and seniors, helping them get job shadows, job placements and other types of vocational training so that they’re more prepared when they graduate.”

The expansion into Guthrie and Audubon counties is expected to create three to four new job positions that will be based out of Guthrie Center. Currently, Genesis is looking to hire for its school programs and its group home in Panora. The organization is also looking to hire a vocational trainer, who would take on many different roles. Positions will be posted at <http://genesisdevelopment.com/employment-opportunity/> as they are made official.

While a larger staff will now be based out of Guthrie Center, much of the work Genesis takes on does not require use of the office, and the space has been designed with this in mind. Genesis has worked closely with Main Street Guthrie Center to create an ideal setup to fit the organization’s needs. “We had looked at other places, but once we figured out a plan with (MSGC), there was no question that this was what we wanted to do,” said Akers. “We got to imagine our own offices, and they helped us create it.”

The retail space has been remodeled to feature an open front room, three offices and a large back room. Akers thinks the front space will include employee work stations while the back space could be used for staff meetings and training purposes.

In preparing the space for a renter, many community members have volunteered their time and efforts. Kirk Davis’ shop class at AC/GC High School

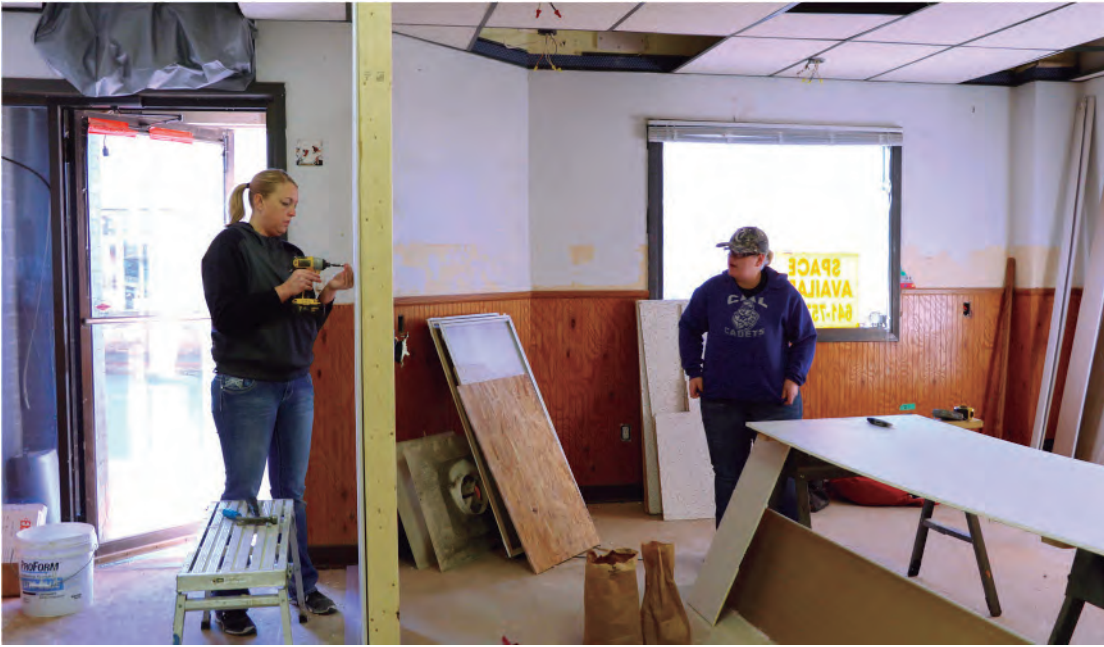
has spent much of their class time assisting with the project, and a volunteer group has been meeting on Saturday mornings.

Even though there is work yet to be done, Genesis is already making plans for furniture and office decorations.

“Some of our office furniture is going to be interesting because we are reutilizing some things that either belonged to the county or one of the schools,” said Akers. “So we’ll have little pieces of Guthrie Center all throughout our building once we get everything moved in here.”

Even a small part of Breadeaux Pizza will remain in the building. The lights that once hung in the restaurant have been painted and will be reused by Genesis.

A tentative move in date is slated for February 15, but weather and other factors may impact when the renovations are complete. By expanding Genesis Development, Akers hopes that families who have children with disabilities will remain in the community instead of moving to a bigger city to



AMANDA GIRRES | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Volunteers hang drywall in the east retail space of the Williams Building on January 20. Genesis Development will be renting out the space once the renovations are complete.

receive the services they need.

“We’re definitely excited to get started in here,” said Akers. “I think we’re just going to keep growing and expanding because the types of services that we provide are being offered more and more. Everything that the big city has, we’re going to be able to offer on a smaller scale.”



Volunteers remove flooring at the Williams Building on October 21 as part of a volunteer day.

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ISU Extension and Outreach in Guthrie County elects county extension officers

Four officers were elected during the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Guthrie County extension council organizational meeting Jan. 18. The nine-member county extension council annually elects officers to comply with Iowa law. Barbara Gigar, Guthrie Center, is the re-elected chairperson. Gigar will preside at all meetings of the county extension council, have authority to call special meetings and perform duties as performed and exercised by a chairperson of a board

of directors of a corporation. Bret Hodges, Coon Rapids, was elected vice chairperson. Sheree McClellan, Guthrie Center, was re-elected secretary and has the responsibility of keeping the minutes of all county extension council meetings and signing required papers for the council. The council re-elected Jim Calvert, Guthrie Center, to the treasurer position. The treasurer is in charge of all of the funds of the county extension council; receives, deposits, pays and

disburses. The treasurer insures an accurate record of receipts and disbursements and submits reports to the county extension council. As elected officials, the county extension council is the governing body of ISU Extension and Outreach. The county extension council hires county staff, manages the county extension budget of approximately \$250,000 and helps determine programming. In partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach, the

council provides educational opportunities that bring university resources to the needs of the county and region. Local county extension programs include the 4-H and Youth Development program, Iowa Master Gardeners and Women In Agriculture. The county extension office is located at 212 State Street in Guthrie Center. To learn more about ISU Extension and Outreach in Guthrie County, visit www.extension.iastate.edu/guthrie.

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DENNIS FLANERY PROMOTED TO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF PEOPLES TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

GUTHRIE CENTER

Bank President & COO, John Riegler III is pleased to announce the promotion of 23-year employee, Dennis Flanery to Senior Vice President.

Flanery is a banking professional with over three decades of experience. In the role of Market President in Guthrie Center, Flanery has specialized in agri-



cultural and commercial lending. Working within a quality banking organization has allowed Flanery to achieve tremendous career growth, while supporting and enriching his hometown community.

Continuing his community driven efforts, Flanery sits as Board President for the Guthrie Center Development Corp. and Guthrie Activity Center. He is past president of the Guthrie County Hospital Foundation, Guthrie Center Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, and Midwest Partnership. Flanery has a strong history of dedication and accountability. His philanthropic values rest at the core of his professionalism, and equally dedicates his time and ability to each project he contributes to.

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