Lake Panorama TIMES

AUGUST 2024

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LAKE PANORAMA'S FIRST CLUBHOUSE

A LOOK BACK AT THE WEST LODGE

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RECIPE: TAKE CAESAR SALAD BEYOND THE BOWL

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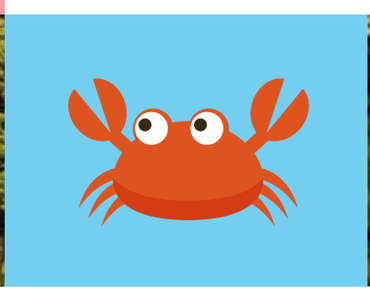

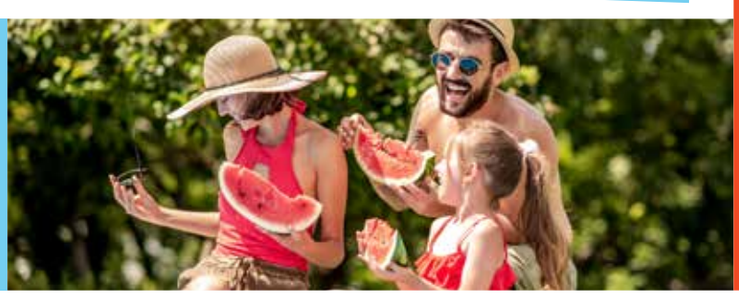

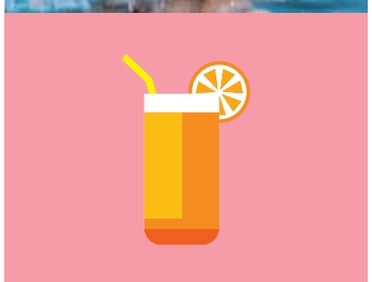

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ON THE COVER: For more than 13 years, from 1970 through 1983, Lake Panorama Association members enjoyed the West Lodge. This artist's rendering of the proposed building was used in promotional materials. When completed, this first Lake Panorama "clubhouse" offered a heated swimming pool, game room, meeting rooms, snack bar and restaurant. Photos from archives of the Lake Panorama Association

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ON THE LAKE

APPRECIATING THE WEST LODGE AND THE EARLY YEARS

West side versus east side. It's a common rivalry in cities across the nation with the dividing lines sometimes being obvious and other times not so much. Take a trip to the Iowa State Fair on East Side Night, and you will see the pride. Talk with Des Moines natives who refuse to go past 63rd Street into the suburbs. Listen to those who reside on the western portion of our state about how their needs and priorities differ from those who live on the eastern side. And even at Lake Panorama, there is a friendly rivalry among those who choose to live on the west side of the lake versus those on the east.

I often say those who choose to live on the west side of Lake Panorama are seeking nature and solace while those on the east side want the country club lifestyle. Some of you may agree, and some certainly disagree. Neither choice is wrong; it just depends on what you want out of lake life. And it has changed over the years. Some of us complain about how long it takes to drive from one side of the lake to the other, but imagine doing so on dirt roads.

Shane Goodman

I can't help but wonder what life was like in the early years of Lake Panorama. Before the conference center and party cove. Before smooth roads and GPS. Before the multi-million dollar homes and foreign sports cars. Before massive wake boats and jet skis.

Lake life had to have been much simpler, more family-focused, and humble. Many of the changes have been wonderful improvements, and I enjoy and appreciate the modern amenities much like many of you. Even so, it's a healthy practice to look back at the early years and appreciate the efforts so many made to build Lake Panorama to what it is today.

Like many of you, I have listened to and read stories about the West Lodge with its swimming pool, ping pong and pool tables, and snack shop. It was a popular gathering place for lake residents and an important part of the lake's history and culture. In this month's cover story, we take a look back at those simpler times and the wonderful structure and grounds that are now the home of the St. Thomas More Center and the Catholic Youth Camps.

East. West. Somewhere in the middle. In the big picture, it really doesn't matter. Those before us made it work so well, and their efforts are a wonderful reminder for us to work to improve all aspects of Lake Panorama for the benefit of everyone.

Have a great month and thanks for reading. ■

Shane

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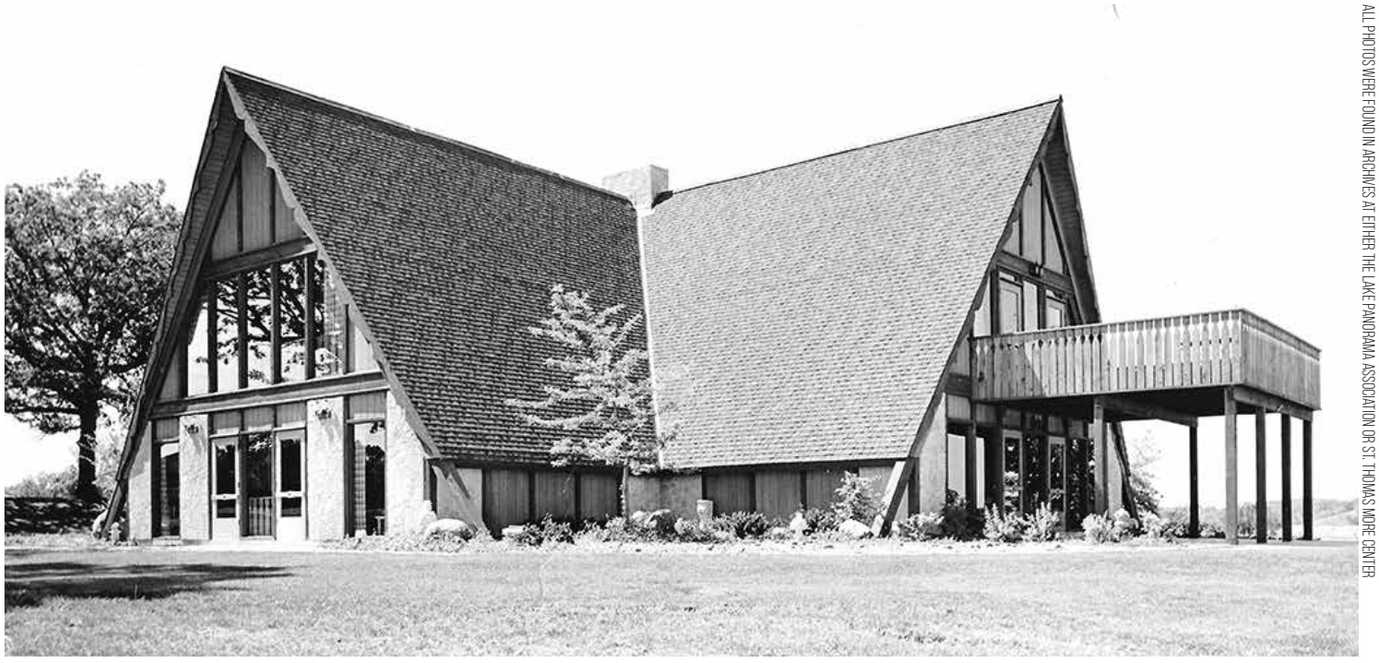
COVER STORY

LAKE PANORAMA'S FIRST CLUBHOUSE

A look back at the West Lodge

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

For more than 13 years, from the spring of 1970 through December 1983, Lake Panorama Association members enjoyed the use of the West Lodge. The focus of this story is how this building and nearby swimming pool came to be, how it was used, and what led to its sale.



This black-and-white photo was taken shortly after the West Lodge was completed in 1970.

ALL PHOTOS WERE FOUND IN ARCHIVES AT EITHER THE LAKE PANORAMA ASSOCIATION OR ST. THOMAS MORE CENTER

BUT FIRST, SOME LAKE PANORAMA HISTORY

Frequent flooding of Guthrie County land along the Middle Raccoon River was a problem for decades. In December 1931, the Lions clubs of Guthrie Center and Panora started discussions about the possibility of a lake near Panora.

In 1938, flooding north of Panora restarted those discussions. An article in the Guthrie County Vedette included a photo and banner headline. "A lake for Guthrie County that would cover a thousand acres and would be approximately 5 miles long and two and one-half miles wide is entirely a possibility," the story stated.

Less than two months later, World War II brought an end to discussions of a lake in Guthrie County. It was the early 1960s before the topic officially surfaced again.

In July 1961, the Panora Commercial Club invited members to a meeting on Aug. 3, 1961. It was the first of several public meetings held across the county to provide information about a potential lake project.

The main speaker was Louie O. Hansen, Guthrie County Extension director. Concerned about the county's loss of farmers and jobs, plus a declining tax base, Hansen has long been recognized as the visionary behind the project.

In the fall of 1961, Hansen and two others formed the Guthrie County Lake Development Corporation. Hansen was joined by Frank Miller and Wayne Andrews, both of Atlantic. Andrews was a roofing contractor; Miller was a radio station operator.

On June 25, 1965, articles of incorporation were filed with the Iowa Secretary of State for the Mid-Iowa Lakes Corporation. The four incorporators were Andrews, Miller, Hansen and John Donahey, a Panora attorney who had been providing legal assistance to the first development group.

At the first Mid-Iowa Lakes board meeting, these four men transferred the assets of their company to Mid-Iowa Lakes. These consisted of options acquired over the past four years to buy about 6,500 acres of land, feasibility reports, maps and charts.

In early 1967, Mid-Iowa Lakes started purchasing some of the land it held options on along the Raccoon River. In August 1967, the Iowa Natural Resources Council approved plans for the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam on the Middle Raccoon River north of Panora. On Jan. 10, 1969, the Council granted Mid-Iowa Lakes a permit to store water for recreational purposes. Securing this permit was one of the conditions that had to be met after approval of the dam two years earlier.

Expenses were mounting, and the sale of Mid-Iowa Lakes stock was lagging well behind expectations. Stock sales had been touted as the funding source for the dam. Engineering and design work needed to be completed. Lots needed to be surveyed, cleared and sold.

Some board members visited private lakes in Indiana and Illinois, which led to discussions about partnering with a company that had experience in private lake developments.

A special meeting of the Mid-Iowa Lakes board was called for Oct. 17, 1967. At that meeting, the board finalized a management contract with American Lakes and Land Co. (ALLCO) of Memphis, Tennessee. ALLCO's main task was to get lot sales started, while assisting in the overall development of the project.

The first lot was sold Oct. 28, 1967, to Louie Hansen, described in a Mid-Iowa Lakes newsletter as "the man who dreamed up the whole lake idea in the first place." In the first 11 days, 98 lots were sold. By late December, in the first 61 days since ALLCO was retained, lot sales brought in $706,643.

A CLUBHOUSE OF SWISS CHALET DESIGN

In early 1968, a letter to shareholders said the corporation had "determined additional facilities such as a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, beaches, boat docks, playgrounds, etc. be furnished and lot owners be permitted to participate in these additional facilities through membership in a property owner's association."

This was the first formal mention of what later in the year became the Lake Panora-

ma Association. Mid-Iowa Lakes had already set an annual membership fee of $50 and was including this in sales contracts.

Mid-Iowa produced four-page newsletters from 1968 through 1970. The front page of the July 1968 newsletter featured a drawing of the Lodge and a lengthy story about its design and planned amenities.

"Work is underway on the recreation complex area located on the west side of Lake Panorama. Property owners and their guests were considered carefully as plans for this area were being drawn up. The clubhouse is the first to be built on the property. A second clubhouse or lodge will be built on the east side of the lake adjacent to the main beach and 18-hole golf course. While our 'first' clubhouse will not be in the country club style, it will offer ample room to entertain guests, hold private parties and serve the swimmers at the adjacent swim pool with dressing rooms, showers, and restroom facilities.

"The two story clubhouse accurately pictured above is of Swiss Chalet design. Of frame construction throughout, it will contain approximately 6,500 square feet of space in two floors.

"Located in the very center of the ground floor is a massive octagon shaped stone column providing two fireplaces. One fireplace fronts the lounging area which in turn faces the swimming pool and, beyond that, Lake Panorama. The other fireplace will add warmth and atmosphere to the snack bar-restaurant immediately opposite the lounge area.

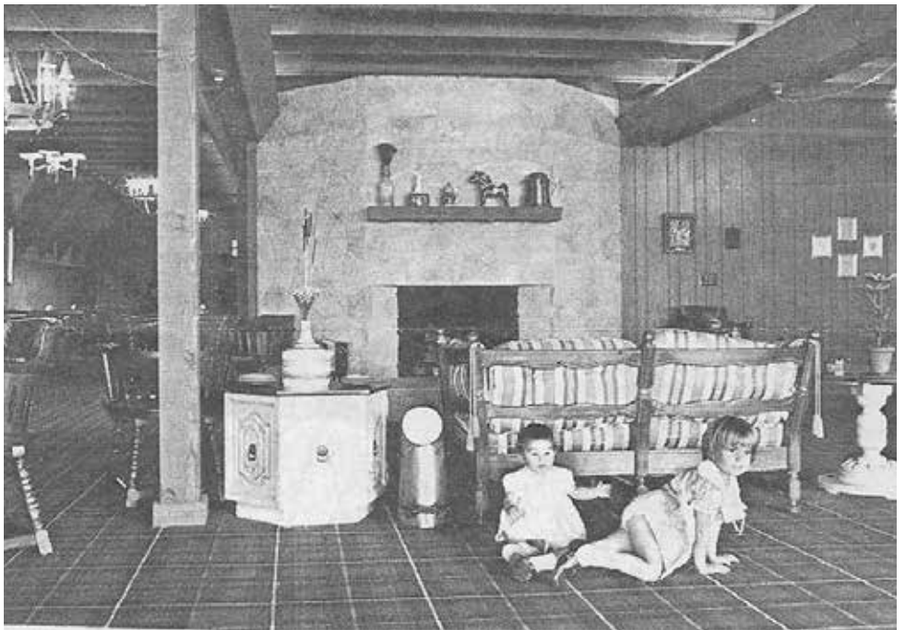
"To the rear of the lounge and snack bar are the dressing rooms and rest room facilities to serve swimmers in the pool. An outside access to the pool area is also provided.

"In the entrance wing can be found card rooms and a meeting room, separated by a stone wall which supports the stairs leading to the second floor. The second floor is divided into two large private party rooms with double two-way service bars for convenience, plus an equally large game-recreation room for the teenage crowds. This room will have a juke box, table tennis and other games the younger set will enjoy.

"Probably the most important details found on the second floor are the ample sized balconies at each end of the floor, which offer ground views of the lake and pool."

A year later, the August 1969 newsletter carried the very same headline, drawing and description of the Lodge.

The first annual meeting of the Lake Panorama Association (LPA) was Nov. 1, 1969. Harold Castle, Mid-Iowa Lakes president, outlined progress of the lake development. Dam construction was underway. The West Lodge also was under construction, and would be the clubhouse for LPA members on the west side of the lake.



In 1971, the West Lodge was a busy place. The snack bar was popular, with 3,000 hamburgers served the first nine months of the year.

Many of the promises made by early Lake Panorama planners finally were coming true. The dam was completed after 13 months of construction. The gate was closed June 8, 1970, and Lake Panorama filled in 30 days.

Construction on the West Lodge wrapped up in late spring 1970. Built at a cost of $110,000, this first clubhouse was patterned after an Alpine ski lodge. The nearby heated swimming pool opened later that summer.

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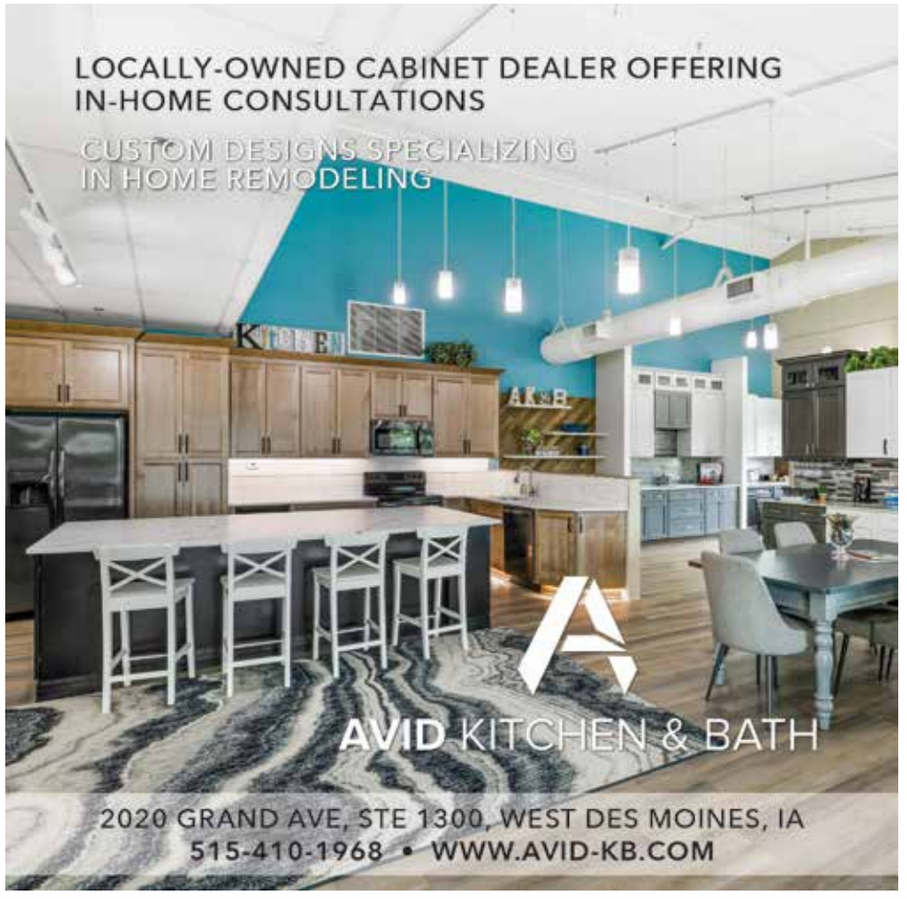

This undated photo of the West Lodge shows the deck that was positioned to provide a view of the pool. In those days, Lake Panorama also could be seen from this deck, before trees grew big enough to block that view.

The LPA office was located in the West Lodge, and monthly LPA board meetings were held there. The association was responsible for the operation of the West Lodge, even though Mid-Iowa Lakes still held the title to the building.

There was a desire by the LPA board, based on feedback from members, to make improvements. One big project proposed was the construction of a bathhouse near the pool. But without the property deed, the board was reluctant to move forward.

THE TAXES CONTROVERSY

Not only did Mid-Iowa expect the LPA to cover expenses for the building and surrounding grounds, it also wanted reimbursed for property tax payments made by the corporation. In multiple board meetings over a two-year period, the LPA board stood its ground, refusing to pay property taxes until the deed was in hand.

At its June 16, 1974, meeting, the LPA board finally received the deed and paid Mid-Iowa $4,200 to cover taxes for the past two years. Also in 1974, the LPA moved its offices to Panora's Main Street, to be in a larger and more centralized location for its growing membership.

THE WEST LODGE WAS A BUSY PLACE

Prior to the LPA's second annual meeting in November 1970, an eight-page newsprint report to property owners was distributed. It was filled with news items, financial statements, annual operating budget and photos. Several of those were of the West Lodge, next to a written report on activity at the lodge.

"The two party rooms at the Lodge have come through the summer's activities with flying colors. Nearly 2,000 people have used the rooms during the period from June 20 through Oct. 31, with 55 separate reservations. Most of the groups have been sizeable, but quite a few smaller groups have been accommodated without reservations whenever possible during slack times or inclement weather. Reservations have been booked as far ahead as the second Sunday in August 1971, and our first wedding reception has been scheduled for this December."

The report went on to say the pool had a short season, but "demonstrated how popular it will be next summer."

During the months of December 1970, and January and February in 1971, the Lodge was open only on Sundays or by reservation. A reservation had to be at least four adults and no less than 10 people. There was a charge of $5 per hour after 9 p.m.

The final paragraph about the Lodge in that 1970 report was about the snack bar.

"The snack bar has been a busy place. It was open only on weekends this past summer, but quite possibly it will be open some during the week during the summer of 1971 to accommodate the heavy daily traffic that is anticipated with the pool and the par-3 golf course open."

As predicted, in 1971 the West Lodge was a busy place. The snack bar was popular, with 3,000 hamburgers served the first nine months of the year. New features added that first full year were an outdoor pop machine, electric stove, cash register,

Once the sale of the West Lodge was final, the building was renamed the Dingman Lodge. The building got a new roof in 1985, and two "wing" additions were added in 1994.

refrigerator, resuscitator, pool furniture, four card tables with chairs, 18 folding chairs, two large folding tables and parking lot lights. Soon to come were a drive-up telephone booth, floor covering upstairs and an office photocopier.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DEBATED

One issue discussed since the West Lodge opened was whether to offer alcoholic beverages for sale. In the beginning, those using the clubhouse were allowed to bring their own. After a time, enough legal and liability concerns were raised that the LPA board put an end to the practice.

In 1973, the topic was mentioned on the floor of the LPA annual meeting. At its first meeting of 1974, the LPA board asked staff to investigate what it would cost to provide sales of "liquor by the drink" at the Lodge. The minutes of the next meeting state there was "lengthy discussion and consideration." Eventually there was agreement alcoholic beverages could be offered, as long as the start-up costs didn't exceed $2,500. By the board's March meeting, the Lodge bar was open. Gross bar sales the first weekend were $54.

In 1976, the LPA board approved the purchase of a new Signature microwave oven for the restaurant at a cost of $325.

SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR BOATERS

One innovation for the summer of 1979 was the installation of a CB radio at the dock near the lodge. Boaters could use the radio to communicate with lodge personnel who were operating a shuttle service between the dock and the lodge.

Plans for this new service were controversial with the LPA board. After discussions during three different board meetings, it was decided to try it for 12 days surrounding the Fourth of July holiday.

A report at the July 18 board meeting showed 100 people were transported in 12 days, including July 4, with two days having 15 passengers each. The service, which was a wagon pulled by a tractor, operated 5-9 p.m. on Fridays and noon to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The board minutes reported "a record had not been kept of income generated by the extra service." The board voted to discontinue the service

At its first meeting of 1974, the LPA board asked staff to investigate sales of "liquor by the drink" at the Lodge. Eventually, there was agreement. Gross bar sales the first weekend were $54.

When the West Lodge was built, it included two decks. One provided a view of both Lake Panorama and the pool, as shown in this photo.

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The heated pool at the West Lodge was a popular place for members and guests. A big drawback was the only restroom facilities available were in the lodge, which wasn't designed to handle crowds in swimsuits.

This is a recent photo of the St. Thomas More Center pool, with what used to be the West Lodge and now is Dingman Lodge.

immediately, although it was provided again a few weekends the following year.

The West Lodge was both a source of community pride and a venue for fun and entertainment. In the early days of Lake Panorama, it gave residents a place to socialize and get to know their neighbors. It also gave potential buyers the opportunity to imagine their family and friends enjoying what the lodge had to offer.

WET BATHING SUITS

The heated pool at the West Lodge was popular with members and guests. A big drawback was the only restroom facilities available were in the lodge, which wasn't designed to handle crowds in swimsuits.

A regular column written by LPA staff titled "News for Panorama Property Owners" published in the Aug. 1, 1974, Guthrie County Vedette, had this to say.

"The number of people coming through the Lodge with wet bathing suits without even bothering to dry themselves at all, is increasing, with little thought for the consequences of sitting on the furniture in such wet condition. We request that all swimmers with wet bathing suits use the North Door to the Lodge for entry. This is the door back by the rest rooms."

FOOD SALES

Hours of operation of the snack bar and restaurant varied by the season. An undated menu found in LPA files shows, for at least one year, breakfast was available. The most expensive item on the menu was two eggs made to order, with choice of bacon, ham or sausage, plus toast and coffee for $1.65. A cheese omelet was 85 cents, with pancakes and French toast each 55 cents.

On Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a special entrée was served weekly, along with potatoes, two vegetables, choice of two salads, hot roll, coffee or small soft drink and a dessert for $2.75. Another dinner option was chicken or shrimp basket with fries and Texas toast for $1.95. A variety of sandwiches, salads, pizza and sides rounded out the menu.

Sales of Lake Panorama lots began on the west side near the dam and contin-

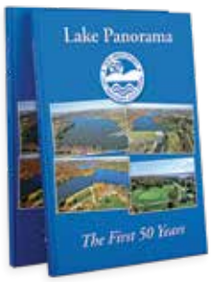
LAKE PANORAMA HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Those who enjoyed reading about the history of the West Lodge might be interested in purchasing a copy of the book "Lake Panorama – The First 50 Years." The book was published in 2019 in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Lake Panorama Association.

The full-color, hardcover 112-page book includes both historic and contemporary photos. Chapters in the book describe six decades of planning and development. There are special topic chapters on Lake Panorama's golf courses, infrastructure and water quality efforts. Sidebar stories highlight various groups and activities such as Lake Panorama ski team, Fin and Feather, Fourth of July fireworks and more.

The LPA financed the book's production. About 1,000 books were printed, and now just 80 books remain in stock. The book's cost is $25, which includes tax.

Books are available for direct purchase at the LPA front desk Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and in the Lake Panorama National Resort pro shop during business hours. Purchases can be made at the LPA and LPN via cash, check or credit card.



Just 80 copies of "Lake Panorama – The First 50 Years" remain available for purchase, at a cost of $25.

The book also is available at the Panora Library, with purchases cash or check only. The library also has two copies of the book available for checkout.

LPA will ship at an additional cost of $5 per book. Once ordered online, books will be shipped from Panora in 7-10 business days. Here is the link to order online and have one or more books shipped: https://lakepanorama.formstack.com/forms/order ■

ued northwest to the area where the West Lodge was built. As the lake development continued to grow, more lots were being sold and houses built on the east side of the lake. While the West Lodge was the center of Lake Panorama activity for many years, its use began to decline as LPA members found closer places to gather.

THE SALE OF THE WEST LODGE

Concerns about operating losses at the West Lodge and pool were discussed at two board meetings in late 1979. At the December meeting, representatives of the Des Moines Catholic Youth Organization raised the possibility of purchasing the West Lodge. They also were interested in purchasing one lakefront lot and 14 lots near the lodge and wanted to lease 40-60 acres for five years. The package was valued at $366,000, plus annual commercial dues and assessments.

Yet, at its January 1980 meeting, the board was told no offer was forthcoming, so they voted to list the lodge, swimming pool and tennis courts for sale, plus water access, at a price of $300,000.

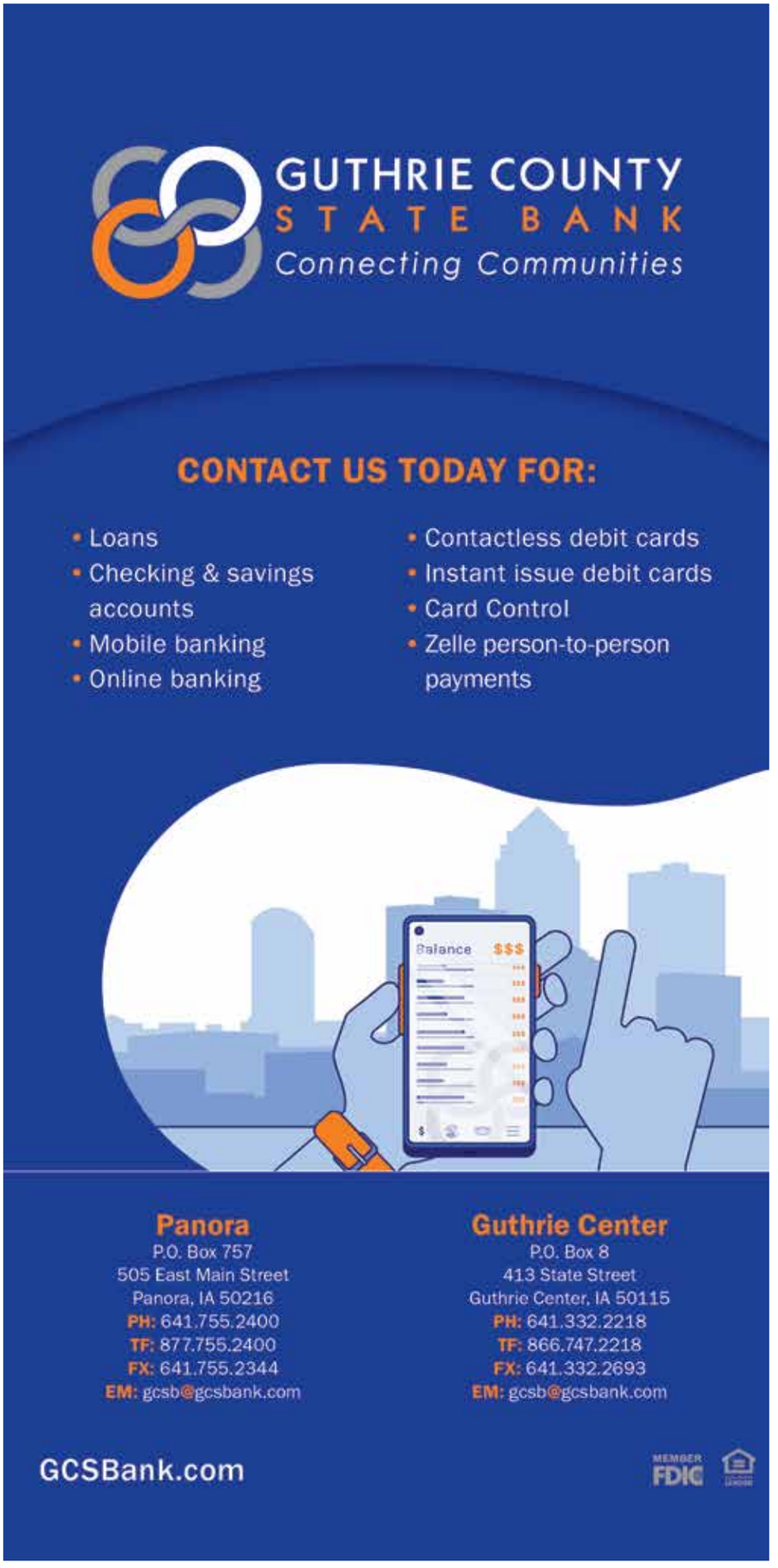
The board also decided to hold a referendum on the possible sale, and ballots were mailed to all members. Less than 500 ballots were returned, with 264 opposed and 228 in favor.

At the September 1982 board meeting, the Des Moines Catholic Diocese presented an offer to buy the West Lodge. Pros and cons were discussed, along with whether a vote of the membership was required. It was decided the board had the right to proceed without a vote, and a counter offer was made.

For more than four years, the LPA board had discussed selling the lodge. Despite significant efforts to increase revenues, the operation was losing $25,000 to $45,000 annually. On April 20, 1983, the LPA board voted to sell the West Lodge to St. Thomas More Catholic Youth Camp for $267,900. Three days later, the sale was announced at the association's annual meeting. The purchase of up to 14 additional lots needed for dormitories and recreational facilities would be negotiated later.

The facility would be used mostly for youth camping in the summer, but retreats would be held year-round. The new owner would pay $2,500 annually in commercial dues and special assessments and take possession no later than Jan. 1, 1984.

In its final summer season as an LPA amenity, no meals or liquor were served at the Lodge. Sandwiches, soft drinks and coffee were available at the snack bar with the building open Fridays through Sundays. ■



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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The Aug. 11, 1972, wedding rehearsal dinner for Vanessa Wickland and Barry Branson was held in a meeting room on the second floor of the West Lodge. Two doors at the back of the room opened onto a deck that overlooked Lake Panorama. Seated at the table in front of the doors is Mark Olson, who was a groomsman, and Barry's parents, Bob and Mary Branson.

WEST LODGE WAS VENUE FOR WEDDING REHEARSAL DINNER 52 YEARS AGO

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

It was 52 years ago this month when the wedding rehearsal dinner for Vanessa Wickland and Barry Branson was held in the West Lodge.

"Our wedding was Aug. 12, 1972. We were married in the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center, and the rehearsal dinner was the night before," Vanessa says.

Both families lived in Guthrie Center, and neither had property at Lake Panorama.

"It was in a special room on the second floor. There was a beautiful deck, and the views were pretty. We thought it was kind of fancy," Vanessa says. "I remember we were able to order the food for the meal ahead of time, and there were employees serving us."

Vanessa had just turned 18 years old a week earlier after graduating from Guthrie Center High School. Barry was 19 and had graduated a year earlier.

"He had one year at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, under his belt," Vanessa says. "He was the kicker for the football team. We had three fun years there. It was good for us to be away from our parents and rely on each other from the beginning. While he went to school, I worked at an insurance agency, which led me to work in the insurance industry until 2002."

Vanessa Wickland and Barry Branson were married Aug. 12, 1972, in the First Christian Church in Guthrie Center.

Branson says she doesn't remember how the lodge was chosen for their rehearsal dinner.

"I do remember wherever it was going to be, there needed to be a bar. Not

for Barry and me, but for our parents," she says.

Records show alcoholic beverages weren't available for purchase in the Lodge until 1974. But in the early days, those using the lodge were allowed to bring their own, which probably was the case for the Wickland-Branson rehearsal dinner.

That 1972 rehearsal dinner wasn't the last tie to Lake Panorama for the family.

Barry's parents, Bob and Mary Branson, lived in Guthrie Center for 35 years. They moved to a home on the west side of Lake Panorama in 1983. In 2010, they became residents of Lakeside Village on the lake's main basin until July 2012, when they moved to New Homestead in Guthrie Center. Bob passed away in November 2012. Mary Branson passed away this past March.

During their 52 years together, Barry and Vanessa Branson have lived many places. After Barry graduated from Augustana, they moved to Pierson, Iowa, where he was a junior high life and science teacher. He also was assistant coach for high school girls basketball, football and baseball, plus junior high football, wrestling and track. The couple called Kingsley-Pierson home for four years, and it is where their two children, Ben and Mandy, were born.

The family moved to Manning, where Barry taught physical education and coached high school football and track. The family moved to Atlantic where Barry started Branson Painting. After five years, they moved to the Panora area, where he continued the painting business for more than 17 years. When the couple decided it was time for a change, they bought a family fishing resort in northern Minnesota.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Barry and Vanessa Branson will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary this year on Aug. 12. The night before their wedding, their rehearsal dinner was held at Lake Panorama's West Lodge.

They sold that after five years, returned to Guthrie County and built a log home near Monteith. The itch came to return to northern Minnesota, and they purchased a seasonal cabin on a small lake in the Chippewa National Forest, where they spent six months each year. For eight winters, they stayed in the home of Frank and Sandi Teale near Boulder Beach while the Teales were in Mexico.

In April of this year, after nearly 52 years of marriage that began with a rehearsal dinner at the West Lodge, the Bransons purchased a home at Lake Panorama. Their ranch house on four lots on the east side is surrounded by timber, wildflowers and wildlife. After all their wandering, they now call Lake Panorama home. ■

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LOCAL FILM REVIEWS

A LONG-LOST LOVE, A SERIAL KILLER, HOMELESS KIDS, A FAKE MOON MISSION AND TWO TORNADOS

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Lake Panorama Times

With summer blockbusters hitting the theaters every weekend, there aren't a lot of other movies being released right now. I managed to get out and see a handful, but, on many weekends, it has been slim pickings.

"TOUCH"

(should be heading to the streaming services)

I love getting surprised by movies I have never heard of. "Touch" tells the story of a young man who drops out of college and takes a job washing dishes in an Asian restaurant. He needs the money, but he is also very much smitten with the owner's daughter. This story is entwined with the current day situation of this boy, now an old man, searching for his now long-lost love. This is a charming story of this man, near the end of his life, wanting to reconnect with this woman who disappeared so many years ago. It is a sweet story, told (and acted) very well. **Grade: A**

"LONGLEGS"

(in theaters)

I am not a fan of serial killer films, but this one is so over-the-top creepy and very well produced that it sucked me in. "Longlegs" is well made, well-acted and so frightening. Nicolas Cage stars, but good luck recognizing him in the film. This one will haunt you long after leaving the theater. **Grade: A-**

"SOUND OF HOPE: THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT"

(in theaters)

This faith-based story from the people who last year gave us "Sound of Freedom" is based on a true story about a small town that single-handedly tries to solve the issue of homeless kids in the system. An amazing true story, this movie is better than you might expect. **Grade: B+**

"FLY ME TO THE MOON"

(in theaters)

This cute movie tells the story of a fake U.S. moon mission. Rumors have floated that one of our moon missions was faked, but here we get a romantic comedy taking on that story. Channing Tatum and Scarlett Johansson play two people trying to pull off this hoax that has been deemed too dangerous and too important to fail. Woody Harrelson is excellent as the bad guy. Not a great movie but definitely a fun one. **Grade: B**

"TWISTERS"

(in theaters)

"Twisters" is not a sequel to the 1996 movie (maybe best described as a companion piece?) that was partially shot in Iowa. "Twisters" takes the tornadic action to Oklahoma and doubles the fun with not one but two tornados. Glen Powell (who seems to be in every other movie these days) and Daisy Edgar-Jones star. I saw this at the IMAX Theater in Waukee, and it was like a carnival ride — fun while you are there but not entirely memorable. Still, I recommend it for the su-

"Touch"

NEW MURAL COMING TO GUTHRIE CENTER!

Dear Friends,

The Guthrie County Arts Council is excited to announce that Guthrie County native Chad Elliott has been commissioned to paint the mural pictured here honoring Guthrie County. This mural will be placed on the east side of the Guthrie Center Fire Hall, where it is visible for almost twelve blocks along Highway 44 of the Western Skies Scenic Byway.

In addition to funds already collected from a previous benefit concert by the artist himself, the Arts Council invites you to help fund this project by mailing a donation to Art on State, 320 State Street, Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115 (checks payable to GCAC Mural Fund) or by scanning the Venmo code.

With gratitude,
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"Longlegs"

"Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot"

"Fly Me to the Moon"

"Twisters"

per-crazy action scenes. **Grade: B**

I've been posting recent movie reviews on my Facebook page "Mr. Movie Reviews" if you wonder what I do with my spare time. Comments, good or bad, are welcome. ■

Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Lake Panorama.

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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Jolene Wright adopted the 14th hole at Lake Panorama National two years ago. She has perennials growing in several areas, plus pots filled with annual flowers for extra color.

VOLUNTEERS KEEP LPN GOLF COURSES BLOOMING

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

With each new year, volunteers at the Lake Panorama National and Panorama West golf courses plant, weed and water throughout the golf season to provide additional beauty to the fairways, greens and tees.

At Panorama West, there are raised brick planters on each tee box. Volunteers for 2024 are Virgil and Barb Hoehne, first hole; Bill and Karen Eby, second hole; Lyle and Paula Hansen, third hole; Chan Rivera, fourth hole; Trent and Sheryl Crawmer, fifth hole; Dick Ellis, sixth hole; John and Sue Crawmer, seventh hole; Jim and Emily Spradling, eighth hole; and Jay and Sue Merryman, ninth hole.

Each spring, the Panora Garden Club does a general cleanup around the clubhouse. Virgil Hoehne manages the bluebird houses on the course. Another volunteer at Panorama West is Steve Brannan, who creates the wooden plaques given to golfers who have a hole-in-one on the course.

Those interested in helping in 2025 can contact Maureen Lubeck, Panorama West clubhouse manager, at mlubeck@lakepanorama.org, or call the pro shop at 641-755-2250.

At Lake Panorama National, volunteers Shanell Wagler and Bill Winkleblack removed much of the overgrown vegetation surrounding Spikes and incorporated perennials and mulch. In 2023, they planted three trees, one south of Spikes, one north of the scoreboard, and a third between the putting green and the first hole. Clean up in this area continues.

More volunteers are involved in planting and maintaining other areas around the LPN course and near the event center.

This spring, Wagler coordinated a group of volunteers to do a general clean up near the first tee. Volunteers included Danielle Navarro, Dawn Anderson, Doug and Dee Eckley, Bill Winkleblack, Sherri Miller and Sue Greiner.

Tricia Steffen handles the area on the back tees on the second hole. Doug and Dee Eckley manage the tee box on the third hole.

Sherri Miller keeps annual and perennial flowers growing on both tee boxes on the fourth hole. Bill Winkleblack manages the flower bed that runs along the rail fence behind the back tees on the fifth hole. Dave and Nancy Clawson manage perennial plantings along the pond on the fifth hole. Darwin and Janet Luing care for the forward tees on the fifth hole, plus the back tee box on the seventh hole.

The Kluster Klub has taken on the forward tee box on the sixth hole. Kathy Moline handles the front tee box on the sev-

PHOTOS BY SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

This raised flower bed on the fifth tee box at Panorama West features both garden art and colorful annuals and is maintained by Trent and Sheryl Crawmer.

Chris Duree planted and maintains these three pots of marigolds leading up to the ninth tee box at Lake Panorama National. Duree also has pots of pink petunias both at Spikes and the east side of the event center.

enth hole. Chris Duree tends the ninth tee box. He also has pots of pink petunias at Spikes and the east side of the event center.

Moving to the back nine, Ann Appleseth is managing the forward tee box on the 10th hole. Shanell Wagler has both tee boxes on the 11th hole, and Kim Kent has tee boxes on the 12th hole. Barb Wollner plants flowers behind the forward tee on the 13th hole. Jolene Wright adopted the 14th hole in 2022. Rod and Pam Robson adopted the back tee on the 15th hole, and Carla Fitzgerald has the forward tee on that hole. Matt and Marilyn Schultes have the 16th tee, and Dee Tometich and Deb McDermott manage the tees on the 17th hole.

Near the east entrance to the LPN event center, volunteer Sue Merryman and Chris Cox, LPN maintenance, continue to manage the area where two new trees and several perennials were planted in 2023.

Merryman also tends to the landscaped area next to the building and the Irv Gerlich Memorial area north of the building. Mare and Rick Langel manage the area under the LPN sign on the east side,

John and Sue Crawmer planted and maintain this flower bed on the seventh tee box at Panorama West.

plus two landscaped areas on the west side of the building near the pro shop.

Bill Winkleblack cares for landscaped beds around the swimming pool, and Shanell Wagler cares for areas along the sidewalk to the pro shop.

Anyone interested in helping with landscaping at Lake Panorama National can contact Wagler at Shanell.wagler@gmail.com. ■

This cardinal and gold flower bed on the ninth tee box at Panorama West was planted and is being maintained by Iowa State University supporters Sue and Jay Merryman.

Shanell Wagler manages the landscape beds near both tee boxes on the 11th hole at Lake Panorama National. This bed adjacent to the forward tee box includes both perennials and annuals.

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LAKE PANORAMA NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

LPN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PUSHES TO RAISE $150,000

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

In an effort to get some Lake Panorama National golf course tee box renovations completed this fall, the LPN board of managers is making a push to raise at least $150,000 by the end of August. This would allow time to get bids, choose a contractor and get a portion of the needed work done in 2024.

Friends of Lake Panorama is partnering with the LPN Resort on this effort. All contributions are tax-deductible, and donors receive a letter of thanks that serves as a receipt. Donations can be made in memory or recognition of others.

So far, $50,000 has been raised with $20,000 from private donors and $30,000 from the 2024 Friends Beach Ball.

Donor levels are **Sponsor:** $50,000 and above; **Champion:** $25,000-$49,999; **Leader:** $10,000-$24,999; **Benefactor:** $5,000-$9,999; **Steward:** $1,000-$4,999; and **Friend:** $500-$999.

To raise at least another $100,000 by the end of August, two promotions are underway. One is for businesses, couples and individuals making donations at the Sponsor or Champion levels.

Donors of $25,000 or more by Aug. 31 will receive three 2025 season passes — one each at the LPN golf course, Panorama West golf course, and LPN Resort pool; golf entry for four, meal tickets for four, and recognition at the tournament and 20-Men-Who-Can-Cook fundraising event planned for Oct. 20; and special recognition on social media posts.

A separate promotion is limited to donations by individuals, couples or families and cannot be combined with fundraising events. Anyone who donates $500 or more by Aug. 31 is entered into a drawing to win a 2025 LPN single golf pass plus either a trail fee or cart seat. For every $500, donors receive one entry. There's no limit on the number of entries donors can earn.

When the LPN capital campaign is complete, donors of $500 or more will be recognized on a display wall in the Spikes snack shop, featuring names and sponsorship levels. Donors currently are recognized on the LPN Resort and Friends websites.

Donations can be made by check payable to Friends of Lake Panorama and sent to P.O. Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216. Direct donations also can be made via Venmo @Panorama-Friends. Credit card donations can be made online at www.friendsoflakepanorama.org/donate. Credit card donations must include an extra $15 for every $500 donated to cover processing fees.

Donations of securities (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) are welcome, as are direct IRA qualified charitable distributions. For more details, email staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org.

A fundraising event that includes an 18-hole golf tournament and a 20-Men-Who-Can-Cook food spread is being planned for Oct. 20. The four-person best-ball tournament will be open to the first 36 teams. A donation of $1000 will include a tee box recognition sign, golf and carts for a foursome, and four tickets to the food event. A donation of $500 will cover golf, carts and tickets to the food event for a foursome. Watch for more details soon on Facebook and in the LPN Weekly e-newsletter.

The LPN capital fundraising campaign began this spring with a focus on Priority 1 projects identified in the LPN Golf Course Master Plan. These projects include expanding forward tee boxes, leveling and resodding main tee boxes, removing all railroad ties and where needed, replacing ties with block retaining walls, updates to the driving range and new tee signs and ball washers.

Future projects included in the LPN golf course master plan include needed improvements to the maintenance shop and equipment storage, irrigation pumps and pump house, bunkers, the pond that impacts holes 12 and 13, the pond on the ninth hole and cart paths.

Questions can be directed to Royce Shaffer, Lake Panorama National Resort director of operations, rshaffer@lakepanorama.org or 641-755-2080 ext. 219. ■

DAVE GROVE | SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

In 2023, the two-mile walk began at Michael Mills Memorial Park and headed east toward the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The same route will be used for the 2024 Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S IN PANORA SEPT. 21

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

For the fourth year in a row, Panora will host the Raccoon River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year's walk is Saturday, Sept. 21. These fundraising events are held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide and constitute the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

There are 19 walks scheduled in Iowa this fall, with the Panora walk being the smallest town to host one. Others are in cities such as Ames, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Mason City, Ottumwa, Sioux City, Dubuque and more.

The Raccoon River Valley Walk begins at the Michael Mills Memorial Park at Southeast Fifth Street in Panora. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. A special ceremony will be at 9:30 a.m. The opening ceremony will immediately be followed by the two-mile walk that involves walking on a portion of the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

Alzheimer's kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. More than seven million Americans are living with the disease. In 2024, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the United States $360 billion, a number that is projected to rise to more than $1 trillion in 2050.

Edwards Jones is a national presenting sponsor of the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Dave Grove, an Edward Jones financial advisor based in Panora, has been involved in the walk since its inception.

"We had a great turnout last year and grew the walk substantially over 2022. This is such an important cause to get behind, and I am pleased to see the research and development is paying off," Grove says. "Earlier this month, the third Alzheimer's treatment was approved by the FDA. Two years ago, there were no treatments available. This is real progress and gives us hope for a world without Alzheimer's."

Grove is the captain for Team Panora and invites those looking for a team to join him for the 2024 walk.

While there is no fee to register for the walk, all participants are encouraged to raise funds that allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support and advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure. The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Every registered participant who achieves the fundraising minimum of $100 receives an official Walk to End Alzheimer's T-shirt.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the Sept. 21 walk, or who would like to start a team, join an existing team, or make a donation, can get more information and register online at https://act.alz.org. Under "Find a Walk," enter the Panora zip code of 50216. ■

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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Sunset Realty is a new member of the LPN Granite Club after joining earlier this year. The Sunset Realty sign is on the 12th tee box.

LPN GETS SUPPORT FROM GRANITE CLUB

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

In 2008, 12 businesses made monetary or in-kind contributions to Lake Panorama National to support the construction of Spikes, the snack and restroom facility located near the first tee. In exchange, the businesses received a sponsorship sign on an LPN tee box. Four of these businesses have maintained their sponsorship since.

The original Granite Club members that renewed for 2024 are Panora Fiber on the third hole, Guthrie County State Bank & GCSB Investment Center on hole five, Exterior Sheet Metal on the eighth hole, and Bryton Insurance on the ninth hole.

Other Granite Club members include R&K Bristle Farms, first hole; Kluster Klub, second hole; Iowa Trust, fourth hole; Hawley Insurance, sixth hole; Lake Panorama Barge Service, seventh hole; Lake Panorama Realty, 11th hole; Sunset Realty, 12th hole; Jensen Sanitation & Pumping Service, 13th hole; The Trash Man - Neil Wright, 14th hole; Robert Carr Insurance Agency - State Farm, 16th hole; Tometich Engineering, 17th hole; and Minnesota Cabinets, 18th hole.

Two holes remain available for sponsorship — 10 and 15. Annual sponsorships are $500. New sponsors also are asked to pay the cost of the sign. Granite Club members receive a free round of golf for a foursome, including carts, when they purchase or renew their annual membership. Club members also are recognized on the LPN website and in the LPN Resort Weekly newsletter.

More details of the Granite Club are online at www.lakepanoramanational.com/granite-club. Or call Royce Shaffer, LPN director of operations, 641-755-2080. ■

GOLF

HANSEN EARNS HOLE-IN-ONE AT PANORAMA WEST

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Another hole-in-one at the Panorama West golf course was scored June 25. During Tuesday evening men's league play, Chip Hansen made a hole-in-one on the ninth hole, using his 5-wood for the 214-yard shot from the par-3 tees. Witnesses were his father, Lyle Hansen, plus Jerry Armstrong and Tim Rickert.

"This was my first hole-in-one after quite a few close ones through the years, but certainly worth the wait," Hansen says. "From the start, the ball was on target with the pin. It landed softly on the fringe, rolled toward the pin and disappeared. I was hopeful but didn't fully believe it until we got to the green."

This isn't the first ace for the Hansen family. Chip's mother, Paula, has had three hole-in-ones at Panorama West. His sister, Carrie, got one at the Audubon Golf and Country Club.

"We're a competitive family, and I'm glad to finally get one. Now only my dad, Lyle, is chasing his first one," Chip says.

Each year, individuals who achieve a hole-in-one at Panorama West have their names added to a sign in the pro shop and receive a handmade plaque in recognition of their achievement. ■

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Chip Hansen scored a hole-in-one June 25 on the ninth hole at the Panorama West golf course. It happened during the Tuesday evening men's league.

One of the witnesses for Chip Hansen's hole-in-one at Panorama West was his dad, Lyle Hansen. Others were Jerry Armstrong and Tim Rickert.

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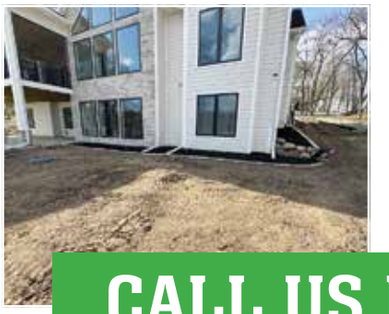

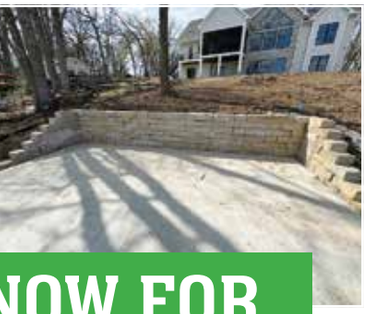

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BUSINESS FEATURE

LAKE PANORAMA OPTOMETRIST SERVES PATIENTS IN 4 COMMUNITIES

Dr. Cassie Martinson says she likes the technological and material advances in optometry and the benefits these provide to her patients.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Dr. Cassie Martinson sits in one of the examination rooms at the Panora location of Eye Care Associates. Martinson began working at Eye Care Associates in 2013, purchased a share of the business in 2016, and became the sole owner in 2018.

Growing up in Coon Rapids, Cassie Martinson knew she valued small-town living and family and had a passion for health care. Fast forward and she is now an optometrist and owner of Eye Care Associates, a four-location business that serves several surrounding communities with quality eye care.

Martinson and her husband, Jake Martinson, who is from Northfield, Minnesota, live at Lake Panorama with their two children, Lyla and Landon. Her large Iowa family all are within 30 minutes or less, living in Coon Rapids, Guthrie Center and Panora.

Martinson completed her undergraduate studies in biology at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She continued her education at Southern California College of Optometry, graduating summa cum laude and receiving her doctorate in optometry.

"I always knew I wanted to work in health care, and I was interested in optometry," Martinson says. "My decision was confirmed after an optometry mission trip to South Africa with Blessman International. I really saw the difference I could make in someone's life."

Martinson worked at Eye Care Associates one summer while home from college.

"I started working there full-time right after graduation in 2013," she says. "Dr. Jim Koch, Dr. James McCauley and Dr. Kyle Stalder worked there at that time. I always had aspirations of owning my own clinic and made it a goal after graduation."

Doctors Koch and Stalder owned Eye Care Associates until Martinson purchased a share in 2016. She became the sole owner in 2018.

"Dr. Koch and Dr. McCauley were wonderful mentors and really helped me learn the business," she says. "I was lucky to be able to work with them for several years before I purchased the practice."

Martinson has a second optometrist working with her. Dr. Trisha Smith graduated from Central College in Pella, receiving a bachelor of arts degree. Then she graduated from the University of Missouri – St. Louis College of Optometry, receiving her doctorate in optometry with the class of 2020. Smith is originally from New Hampton. She joined the practice in fall of 2020, right after graduation.

When Martinson first purchased the business, it included locations in Panora, Stuart and Perry. She purchased a fourth location in Jefferson in February 2023.

"Since purchasing the Jefferson office, we have been keeping ourselves very busy. We are hoping to add a new doctor to our team soon," Martinson says. "With our excellent and devoted staff, we are working on ways to expand our hours to better serve our communities."

Current hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday in Jefferson and Perry. The Panora location at 102 East Main St. is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with the Stuart location open Tuesday and Thursday.

Martinson is in Panora Monday and Wednesday with every other Tuesday and Thursday in either Jefferson or Perry. She works where needed on Fridays. Smith is in Perry Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She works in Perry or Jefferson every other Tuesday and is in Stuart on Thursdays.

"We also offer remote doctor exams in Jefferson to healthy patients needing new glasses or contacts. Patients come into the office and use all the same equipment," Martinson says. "Every aspect is recorded and a doctor reviews all of the findings and reviews everything with the patient at the time of the exam. If there are any medical findings, patients then are scheduled for an exam with either myself or Dr. Smith."

Martinson says each Eye Care Associates location offers a wide range of services.

"We provide both medical and vision exams, which include glasses, contacts, evaluation for cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic exams, hypertensive retinopathy and many other diseases," she says. "An eye exam can diagnose over 170 diseases."

Martinson and Smith provide options for myopia management, to slow the progression of near-sightedness in children. They also provide treatment and management for dry eye disease.

"We treat many symptoms that come with eye misalignment such as headaches, neck and shoulder pain, dizziness, eye strain and light sensitivity," Martinson says. "We do not

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Jake and Cassie Martinson and their children, Landon and Lyla, are shown on a recent family trip to Wyoming.

do surgeries, but we do co-manage cataract and glaucoma surgeries with ophthalmologists. This includes Dr. Brandon Menke, an ophthalmologist who sees patients at Guthrie County Hospital, Wolfe Eye Clinic, Des Moines Eye Surgeons and Iowa Retinal. We also work with the University of Iowa in Iowa City when needed."

Martinson says she likes the technological and material advances in optometry and the benefits these provide to her patients.

"We have several pieces of equipment that allow us to test a patient's eyes for various things. For instance, Optical Coherence Tomography, known as OCT, allows for non-invasive imaging tests. It uses light waves to take cross-section pictures of a person's retina," she says. "This and other tests allow us to follow, manage and treat any disease until it reaches the point where a surgeon is needed."

While completing her undergraduate degree, Martinson played on the Saint Olaf women's golf team. She met her husband, Jake, at Saint Olaf. He works in Coon Rapids at ET Products as a sales manager, as well as helping her at the office as an IT man and handyman.

Dr. Trisha Smith graduated from the University of Missouri – St. Louis College of Optometry, receiving her doctorate in optometry with the class of 2020. She joined Eye Care Associates that fall, right after her graduation.

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SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Dr. Cassie Martinson stands near a display of eyeglass frames in the Panora location of Eye Care Associates. The business offers both medical and vision exams plus a wide range of glasses, contacts and supplies.

"We purchased our home at Lake Panorama in 2013," she says. "We love the community. We have met many great people since moving to Panora and enjoy our time on the water."

Martinson says Eye Care Associates embodies the values she wants for her business.

"It is a family and community-oriented business. Each location is unique. Being a part of and working in a small community allows for a personalized and meaningful experience," she says. "It allows us the opportunity to give back to and serve these communities, and to know and connect with our patients."

More information about Eye Care Associates, including locations and phone numbers, is on the company's website at www.eyecare-associates.com. ■

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EDUCATION

LPN JUNIOR GOLF SCHOOLS TEACH FUNDAMENTALS, ETIQUETTE AND RULES

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Twenty-two young golfers participated in the June session of the 2024 Lake Panorama National Junior Golf School. Another 30 participated in July. Young people ages 5 to 17 are eligible to attend the annual school, held on three Wednesdays each session.

Rob Riggins, LPN head golf professional, and Michael Kleinwolterink, LPN pro shop manager, led the golf school. The juniors learn full swing, pitching, chipping and putting fundamentals along with golf etiquette and rules of golf. Participants are divided into age groups and rotate between the putting green, chipping area and driving range.

New this year was a fourth station, where the junior golfers played with large plastic golf clubs and whiffle balls they hit into large buckets.

"This is a way for the kids to have a better chance of hitting the ball, and it teaches them to follow through with their swing," Riggins says. "It's another way we try to keep things interesting and keep the kids engaged in learning."

At the end of the first two days, the juniors head to Spikes to choose a free drink. The third week of each session is held at Panorama West, with the juniors playing a few holes before a pizza party and receiving a gift bag.

Two sponsors have supported the school for many years — Lake Panorama Association and Guthrie County State Bank. Sponsor funds make it possible to give the junior golfers a gift bag on the final day of each session. This year, each student received two sleeves of golf balls, two packages of golf tees and two ball markers. Sponsor funds also were used to purchase the bucket golf wiffle ball game, plus candy bars and chips as prizes for kids who won contests at each station.

Assisting Kleinwolterink and Riggins with the 2024 LPN junior golf schools were Austin Block, Tyme Boettcher, Joel Cooper, Maddox Hammerstrom, Zander Hammerstrom, Melissa Hochstetler, Miranda Laabs, Ethan Olsen and Kaden Thompson. ■

PHOTOS BY SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Golfers who participated in the July LPN Junior Golf School are shown with their instructors after a final golf tournament and pizza party at Panorama West.

Zander Hammerstrom works with a group of girls on the putting green to help them determine which way their ball will break to the hole.

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On the final day of the June LPN Junior Golf School, the junior golfers and their instructors posed for this group photo at the Panorama West clubhouse.

Mike Kleinwolterink, LPN pro shop manager, watches as one of the junior golfers launches a ball on the driving range.

On the final day of their junior golf school session, students gathered at the Panorama West golf course and played a best-ball tournament. Here girls in the July session take turns chipping to the green on the second hole.

Mike Kleinwolterink, LPN pro shop manager, talks with a group of junior golf school boys before they take their turn on the driving range. He talked about the proper grip and stance when using three different clubs. Assisting him was Tyme Boettcher.

Rob Riggins, LPN head pro, helps a junior golfer learn the proper way to swing a pitching wedge.

Ethan Olsen watches a group of boys take turns on the LPN putting green. Those who got a hole-in-one earned a prize during this putting challenge.

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Q&A WITH LAKE PANORAMA ASSOCIATION GENERAL MANAGER JOHN RUTLEDGE

PROCESS TO UPDATE LPA BYLAWS UNDERWAY

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

At its July meeting, the Lake Panorama Association (LPA) board of directors voted to move forward with proposed changes to the association's bylaws. In this month's Q&A, John Rutledge, LPA general manager, answers questions about the reasons for the proposed changes and the process for amending the LPA bylaws.

Q: AT THE JULY 23, 2024, LPA BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD APPROVED A PLAN TO PROPOSE AN LPA BYLAW AMENDMENT FOR A 2024 VOTE. FOR BACKGROUND, CAN YOU REVIEW HOW THE BYLAWS FIT INTO LPA'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS?

A: LPA's governing documents are best described as being three tiers. The bottom tier, or foundation, is the LPA Covenants. As members may remember, the covenants were reaffirmed at the May 14, 2022, annual meeting. This vote was 484 yes, and 20 no, resulting in an affirmative vote of 96%.

The second tier of the LPA governing documents is the LPA Bylaws. The bylaws convey certain authorities from the LPA membership to the LPA board of directors. These cannot be changed by the board and must be sent to the membership for amendment.

john rutledge

The third tier of LPA's governing documents is the LPA Rules and Regulations, which also include the LPA building codes. These can be changed by the LPA board of directors. This process always follows a diligent study and review by committees made up of members, such as the building codes committee or water safety committee.

Q: WHY IS AN AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS BEING PROPOSED, AND WHAT DOES THE AMENDMENT INCLUDE?

A: The last time the LPA Bylaws were amended was 15 years ago. Although most have aged well, there are some sections where updates are warranted. Several changes are minor "housekeeping" adjustments, while others are more substantive. All changes have been reviewed by LPA's attorney. Here are some highlights:

Definition of membership – LPA's Bylaws currently define a "member" very narrowly. This was a good definition when properties were owned by an individual, or a married couple. Now a large number of properties are titled to a trust or a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). LPA's rules and policies ensure all members are treated equally, regardless of whether they are titled to an individual, a couple, a trust or an LLC. This change simply recognizes the estate planning most members use as it relates to how their properties are titled.

Term limits for directors – The bylaws prohibit a director from serving more than two full terms on the LPA board. The amendment to this section of the bylaws does not seek to change this but rather to clarify it. On occasion, a board member is unable to complete a term due to unforeseen circumstances. When this happens, that open seat is filled by appointment by the remaining board members. The appointment only lasts until the next election, which creates a "short term" for one of the directors elected. This amendment clarifies the "short term" is not counted toward the term limit, and the board candidate still is eligible to serve two full terms of three years each. Legal analysis of our existing bylaws determined this already is permissible under current language, but we believe clarification is beneficial to avoid confusion.

Informational meetings for ballot measures – The bylaws require a lengthy process for presentation of any ballot measure. This timeline is representative of an era where everything was done via the U.S. postal service, and long lead times were necessary. This results in informational meetings being held in February, while many members are still traveling for the winter. We are proposing a change that would allow informational meetings to be held three weeks prior to a special or annual meeting, instead of two and-a-half months prior to the meeting.

Also included in the elections category is a confirmation the committee of ballot counters can perform a preliminary count prior to the annual or special meeting. This has been a longstanding LPA practice, as it is impractical to count hundreds of ballots during the meeting itself. The committee meets on the day prior to the annual meeting and performs a confidential, preliminary count of all ballots received. They then tally the few remaining ballots that arrive at the meeting itself, which allows for announcement of the election results at the meeting and in a timely fashion. This change confirms the practice that has been in place for many years.

Finally, there is a new provision that highlights how a tie vote will be handled in the case of a director election. If two directors tie for an

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election, the board may order one recount of the vote to confirm the vote total. If a tie remains after the recount, the winner of the election will be drawn by lot.

Member feedback at monthly board meetings – The current bylaws require members to submit a written request 10 days prior to the board meeting, asking to be placed on the agenda. The board has provided an open forum for years and this change provides a less onerous process by which members can address the board.

Future changes to the bylaws – The current bylaws do not specify the voting threshold required for the membership to amend or change the bylaws. For this reason, the threshold defaults to Iowa Law, which is a very high bar. Iowa Code requires two-thirds of the votes cast, or a majority of the voting power. Because LPA's voter turnout ranges between 20% and 30%, we will never achieve a majority of the voting power. Thus, we are operating with a threshold of two-thirds of the votes cast.

I have studied elections of this nature, and a two-thirds threshold is nearly impossible if the issue at hand is even the least bit controversial. As a result, the governing body repeatedly puts the question to the voters, until the voters are exhausted and eventually give in and approve the changes. The process is prolonged, divisive and costly. This is not how LPA should seek to govern itself. For this reason, we are proposing the bylaws be amended to explicitly state any future changes to the bylaws must achieve a majority of the votes cast to be approved.

To be clear, this ballot measure regarding proposed changes to the bylaws will require two-thirds of the votes cast to be "yes" votes for the changes to be approved. If approved, all subsequent ballot measures would require a simple majority of votes cast.

Q. WHAT IS THE CALENDAR FOR THIS PROCESS?

A. The informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Aug. 12 at the Panorama West Clubhouse. The special meeting and corresponding ballot deadline will be at 6 p.m. on Oct. 15 at the Links Lounge + Events. Ballots will be mailed in late September to ensure members have ample time to cast their vote and return it to LPA.

Q. WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS?

A. In early August, LPA will provide information about the proposed changes and voting process in the weekly Panorama Prompt e-newsletter. This will include a link to an online, redline version of the LPA Bylaws showing the proposed changes. This will allow time for member review, feedback and questions in advance of the Aug. 12 informational meeting.

Q. ANY FINAL THOUGHTS ON THIS TOPIC?

A. I am in my 17th year as LPA general manager and my 20th year of public service. Saying that makes me pause and reflect on how quickly time passes. But in nearly two decades, I've learned one critical lesson about our work — good government is boring. I recognize this may not be the most interesting Q&A you'll read this year, but I can assure you it is part of a continuous and important effort by the LPA board, staff and attorney to make sure our governing documents remain current and protective of your investment at Lake Panorama. ■

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WHAT'S IN YOUR GARAGE?

50TH ANNIVERSARY THUNDERBIRD WAS RETIREMENT GIFT

Kathy DeLucca's 2005 Ford Thunderbird boasts a shiny black exterior with an all-black interior that includes leather upholstery.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The first Ford Thunderbird was introduced in 1955 as a sporty two-seat convertible and was Ford's response to the popular Chevrolet Corvette. It wasn't marketed as a sports car but rather as a "personal luxury car." In its first year, the Thunderbird outsold the Corvette by more than 23 to one.

Production ended in 1997, then resumed in 2002 and continued into 2005. That year marked the 50th anniversary of the Thunderbird and called for a special design. It was unveiled at the Miami Auto Show on Nov. 5, 2004. Just 1,500 of the 50th anniversary cars were manufactured, which also were the last Ford Thunderbirds ever made.

Most of those final 1,500 Thunderbirds were snapped up by car enthusiasts who recognized the unique opportunity to own the 50th anniversary edition. That wasn't the case with Kathy DeLucca.

"I was planning to retire soon and wanted to celebrate by purchasing a convertible for myself," DeLucca says. "I considered both the Chevrolet Corvette and Ford Thunderbird. The Corvette was a little closer to the ground, so I decided on a Thunderbird. In the spring of 2005, I walked into Charles Gabus Ford and saw a black Thunderbird in the showroom. I pointed at it and told the salesman I wanted to buy that car," she says.

When DeLucca was a senior in high school, her parents owned a Chevy Impala

SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Kathy DeLucca's 2005 Ford Thunderbird is a two-seater. The black interior features leather upholstery. The soft convertible top folds behind the seats with the push of a button.

convertible.

"It was red with a white top and beige interior," she says. "My two older sisters were gone from the house, and I was the only child left. My parents let me drive that convertible quite a bit my senior year, and I really enjoyed it."

DeLucca's 2005 Ford Thunderbird boasts a shiny black exterior with an all-black interior that includes leather upholstery. It has a soft black top that opens and folds behind the seats with the push of a button. A hard top covered in canvas sits in the garage.

"It takes at least three people to lift it and put it on the car," DeLucca says. "I haven't done that for several years. I don't drive it in the winter, so I really don't need the hard top."

DeLucca has one granddaughter, who was born in 2002.

"It wasn't long after I got the car, and I was picking her up to bring her to the lake for a visit," she says. "She wasn't very old and still needed a car seat. As I was getting it into the passenger seat, she said 'Grandma, I need to sit in the back.' I laughed and had to show her my car doesn't have a back seat."

DeLucca and her long-time partner, Larry Bergemann, bought a home at Lake Panorama in 1992.

"Larry already owned a C lot so he could boat," DeLucca says. "We were both working in the financial services industry in downtown Des Moines and renting. One day he called to say he had found a place he thought would work for us."

They toured the small, one-story home on the east side of the lake.

"You could definitely tell bachelors lived there," she says. "It had red shag carpeting and a red bathroom."

Despite the poor condition of the house, the couple purchased it and did a major overhaul. They added a full story on top of the existing home, turning the bachelor's pad into an expansive, well-appointed home with beautiful woodwork and great lake views.

Bergemann passed away in June 2023.

"He very seldom drove the Thunderbird and never rode along with me," DeLucca says. "It's always been my retirement car, even though I didn't retire until two years after I bought it."

Purchased brand new in 2005, DeLucca's Thunderbird now has 47,000 miles on the odometer.

"I only drive it in good weather, probably 300 to 500 miles each year," she says. "Sometimes I drive it to Des Moines. Usually it's just around Panora, sometimes to Panorama West for women's golf league on Tuesday mornings. The trunk is small but just big enough for my golf bag.

"It's been a good vehicle. I've never had any problems with it," DeLucca says. "One year, mice got under the hood and I had to have some repairs done. I just replaced the battery, and it probably is time to consider new tires."

SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

Kathy DeLucca's Ford Thunderbird is one of just 1,500 built and sold in 2005 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Thunderbird manufactured in 1955

The other car in DeLucca's garage is a 2017 Lexus 450 Hybrid. While most of her driving happens in the Lexus, she enjoys getting the Thunderbird out on nice days. She gets comments from onlookers sometimes, but so far, no offers to buy.

"I always thought I might give it to my granddaughter, but it's really not a very practical car with such a small trunk and only two seats. I suppose, someday, I will sell it but not yet," she says. "As I get older, it does get harder to get in and out of the driver's seat."

DeLucca will turn 81 years old at her next birthday. That may surprise those who watch her play competitive golf, participate in classes at ReShape Fitness Studio, listen to details of her latest overseas travels, and get in and out of her Thunderbird with ease. ■

LIBRARY

VISITING GRANDKIDS CREATE SNAKE MADE OF ROCKS FOR PANORA LIBRARY

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Three cousins visiting their grandparents in early July started a creative project for the Panora Library with the hope other children will add to what they started.

Mike and Joan Trebon live in a Boulder Cove townhome at Lake Panorama. Each year, two grandsons who live in Greenwood, Indiana, travel to Iowa to visit them the week before the Fourth of July. Joining the boys for this time with their grandparents is their cousin, Sydney, who lives in Urbandale.

"We saw this idea at a park in Indiana when I was visiting the boys earlier this year," Joan Trebon says. "I thought it would be fun for them to initiate the project when they came to Iowa over the Fourth of July."

The project was a snake made of painted rocks. Trebon talked with Kim Finnegan, director of the Panora Library, to see if she would be interested in her grandkids painting some rocks to get a snake started that then could be added to by children in the Panora community.

"It was placed outside the library along the sidewalk so everyone can enjoy it," Finnegan says. "We will have a craft day sometime in the future and paint more rocks to add to the snake. But anyone can stop into the library whenever they want and paint a rock to add. It doesn't have to be a craft day."

Trebon says her grandchildren chose from small rocks from a rock garden at the Trebon home to paint.

Jetson Keller, Sydney McIlhon and Dashel Keller pose with their snake made of painted rocks they helped install near the Panora Library.

"We had to search a while for a good rock for the head of the snake," she says. "I purchased acrylic paints for us to use and then shared the paint with the library for other children to use. The cousins had fun coming up with different designs."

PHOTOS BY SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

ABOVE: Cousins Sydney McIlhon, Jetson Keller and Dashel Keller gather around their grandparents' table to paint rocks for a project they hope Panora area children will finish. **RIGHT:** Rocco the Snake now is in place near the Panora Library sidewalk. A sign says "We hope Rocco the Snake makes you smile! Add a rock and make it a mile."

Jetsen Keller is 7 years old and his brother Dashel Keller is 5 years old. Sydney McIlhon is 12 years old. Trebon says she and the cousins hope Sydney's 2-year-old sister, Collins, will be able to join the fun next year. ■

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FUNCTIONAL GROUNDCOVERS — A NEW APPROACH TO WEED CONTROL

BY LYN KUHN
Special to Lake Panorama Times

Is your garden overwhelmed with weeds AGAIN? This happens to the best of us, but not if you have functional groundcovers. I'm not talking about vinca and creeping phlox here (although I have nothing against these lovely plants). I'm talking about the plants between the plants, the filler plants that complement the structural elements (trees, shrubs, focal points) of the landscape. It is as if these plants are putting a big warm hug around the structural plants and saying, "I'm here for you, doing my job. I'm reliable, and I won't complain." Let me introduce you to a few of these workhorses.

SEDGE (CAREX)

LEFT: Carex flacca "Blue Zinger" as groundcover in dry shade Photo courtesy perennialfarmmarketplace.com. **RIGHT:** Carex pensylvanica as fabulous groundcover at www.dmbotanicalgarden.com.

PRAIRIE DROPSEED (SPOROBOLUS HETEROLEPIS)

LEFT: Sporobolus heterolepis is a happily functioning groundcover, even when surrounded by concrete. **RIGHT:** Sporobolus heterolepis "Tara" functions as a drought-tolerant groundcover along this tree cookie path at the Brenton Arboretum (www.thebrentonarboretum.org). For best results, pack them in at 12 inches on center.

BLUE STAR (AMSONIA)

LEFT: Amsonia hubrichtii in the fall as a parking lot functional groundcover. **MIDDLE:** Amsonia hubrichtii in summer as a groundcover along a path. **RIGHT:** Amsonia tabernaemontana in summer provides weed control toward the front of this bed at the Brenton Arboretum in Dallas Center. www.thebrentonarboretum.org

HELEN VON STEIN LAMB'S EAR (STACHYS BYZANTINA)

Stachys byzantine "Helen von Stein" is a tough weed barrier and contrasts nicely with taxus on the east side of my home.

BEVAN'S BIGROOT GERANIUM (GERANIUM MACRORRHIZUM)

If you forced me to pick my all-time favorite functional groundcover, it would be Geranium macrorrhizum "Bevan's Variety." The red to orange to gold fall foliage is a bonus. Because Geranium macrorrhizum "Bevan's Variety" transitions well from sun to shade, it's happy growing amongst most shrubs, especially those that are rather naked at the bottom, such as Fine Line Rhamnus frangula "Ron Williams."

ANGELINA SEDUM, CROOKED YELLOW STONECROP (SEDUM REFLEXUM)

Sedum reflexum "Angelina" works well in full sun to part shade, compliments most shrubs, and prevents weeds, too. You'll love the apricot fall color.

PLANT COMMUNITIES AS FUNCTIONAL GROUNDCOVERS

So far we've discussed single species as groundcover options, a practical approach. Now let's rev it up. In the words of my friend Roy Diblik, "A plant community isn't a one-note samba. It's about composition. Do you listen to music because of a favorite note?"

Plant communities as functional groundcovers are a big topic and a topic for another article, perhaps. For now, check out the sun-loving plant community pictured below. I love combining Iowa na-

Liatris spicata "Floristan White," Ruellia humilis (Wild Petunia), Echinacea "CBG Cone 2" Pixie Meadowbrite, Sporobolus heterolepis "Tara"

tives and ornamental plants as a way to get people excited about using natives.

So tell me, what functional groundcovers are working for you? What challenging areas could you use a functional groundcover and just can't find one that works? Send your questions to me at lynn@conversationgardens.com along with any ideas you have for this column. I'd love to hear from you. ■

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

COMMUNTIY

TEN SQUARED WOMEN GIVE TO STUART POLICE

Special to Lake Panorama Times

The 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County held its second quarter meeting on Tuesday, May 28 at Twin Vines Winery in Panora. Fifty-two women attended in person and 12 members attended via Zoom.

After hearing presentations from Stuart Police Department Community Programs (SPDCP), Guthrie Center Lions Club and Little Panther Daycare and Preschool, the group announced a lump sum donation of $14,400 to SPDCP. This consists of member donations and several employer matches.

The SPDCP is a 501(c)3 non-profit that was incorporated in 2022 but has been serving the Stuart area for years. As a non-profit, SPDCP relies heavily on fundraisers, donations and grants. The mission of SPDCP is to improve relationships between law enforcement and the community through community programming, outreach, education and youth activities.

SPDCP programming includes Books & Badges, Bicycle Rodeo, National Donut Day, Summer Youth Programs, National Night Out and Shop With A Cop. SPDCP also participates in community events such as Good Egg Days, Trunk or Treat and Emergency Services Christmas, along with programming at West Central Valley Schools through their school resource officer program with Sgt. Katie Guisinger.

Books & Badges was SPDCP's first program, which began in 2019 in partnership with the Stuart Public Library. During Books & Badges, Sgt. Guisinger reads stories, gives away free books and has other activities or crafts for the kids to do.

Summer Youth Programs began in 2022, to offer local youth with fun activities during June. Summer Youth Programs consist of four camps that take local youth on trips to Springbrook State Park, the Blank Park Zoo and to an Iowa Cubs game.

Shop With A Cop also began in 2022, as a way to help at risk or economically disadvantaged youth in West Central Valley Schools with holiday shopping. Officers take youths on a fun-filled day of shopping, lunch and wrapping presents. The youths shop not only for themselves but also for any household members they reside with.

The Bicycle Rodeo was re-established in 2023, after an almost 10-year hiatus. During the Bicycle Rodeo, a book about bicycle safety was read, a STEM demonstration was completed, free helmets were handed out and a basic safety course was available for kids to participate in. A light lunch is served, and new bicycles are also raffled off.

"SPDCP wishes to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County for their generous donation. Funding for community programming and youth activities can sometimes be hard to come by, and this donation will allow SPDCP to not only enhance our current programming but also to expand with new programming," Guisinger said.

10 Squared Women of Guthrie County has donated $343,050 since its inception in 2017.

The 10 Squared Women's group holds meetings quarterly the fourth Tuesday in February, May, August and November. The group currently has 144 members and welcomes new members to help their communities and Guthrie County. To learn how to get involved, visit the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/10squaredwomengc, or email 10squaredgc@gmail.com. ■

TEN SQUARED PLUS MEN'S GROUP DONATES TO PANORA CHAMBER FOR DOWNTOWN SOUND SYSTEM

BY SHANE GOODMAN
Lake Panorama Times

The Ten Squared Plus Men's group met Thursday, July 25 at the Links Conference Center. Social time was sponsored by Mitch Johnk and Panorama Benefits.

Three presentations were made: Kirby Klinge presented on behalf of the Yale Fire Department, Dale Hochreiter on behalf of the Panora Chamber of Commerce for the downtown sound system, and Bill Messinger for equipment for ACGC tech courses.

The 43 members in attendance chose the new sound system project for the Panora Chamber of Commerce. Final details on the payout and a check presentation will be published at a later date.

The final meeting for 2024 for the Ten Squared Plus Men's group will be Nov. 19. For more information on Ten Squared Plus Men's group, contact Barry Monaghan at b.monaghan@gcsbank.com ■

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Q: CAN THE LPA IMPOUND A BOAT?

A: Yes, but only in limited situations. Section 5.1(f) of the LPA Rules and Regulations states that the LPA maintains the right to impound vessels under any one the following circumstances:

- Any vessel found in violation of any of the rules, regulations, covenants or restrictions of the Lake Panorama Association, any documents recorded at the Guthrie County courthouse, or any State of Iowa Boating Laws.
- Any vessel found to be docked overnight at one of LPA's community properties or docks.
- Any vessel, which in the reasonable judgement of LPA, is believed to be abandoned and/or unattended and which would pose an imminent safety concern to other LPA members.

Vessels shall be released to the owner only upon full payment of all associated fines and fees, as established at the sole discretion of LPA.

Q: HOW OLD DOES A PERSON NEED TO BE TO LEGALLY DRIVE A BOAT ON LAKE PANORAMA?

A: The short answer is 16, with some stipulations. The longer answer is from section 5.1(i) of the LPA Rules and Regulations, which states: "Any operator of a motorized vessel in excess of 10 hp must be at least sixteen (16) years of age AND if under 18 must have passed and have in their possession the boater education certification approved by the Iowa DNR or be accompanied by a responsible person of at least eighteen (18) years of age who is familiar with boating operation."

Q: I WATCHED A BOAT RACING AT A HIGH SPEED BY OUR HOME THIS EVENING. IS THERE A SPEED LIMIT AT NIGHT?

A: Yes. The speed limit between sundown and sunrise is 10 mph. No vessel is to operate at speed in excess of that from a half hour after sunset until sunrise. This is stated in 5.1(k) of the LPA Rules and Regulations.

Q: I HEARD THAT BOATS CANNOT HAVE PORTABLE TOILETS IN THEM? IS THAT TRUE?

A: Read closely. Section 5.1(x) of the LPA Rules and Regulations states that no vessel shall be equipped with sanitary facilities of any kind that are capable of discharging directly into the water.

Q: HOW LARGE IS LAKE PANORAMA?

A: Lake Panorama is the largest private lake development in Iowa with 1,160 acres of lake surface within the development and more than 30 miles of shoreline. About 1,100 residences have been built at the lake, and the Lake Panorama Association now represents more than 1,750 member/property owners. ■

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EVENT

LPN WOMEN'S LEAGUE RAISES $7,500 FOR TORI'S ANGELS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

For the seventh year in a row, the Lake Panorama National women's league held a fundraiser to provide financial support for the Tori's Angels Foundation. The foundation helps Iowa families who have children with life-threatening medical conditions.

The event was July 18, in place of league play, with more than $7,500 raised. A total of 76 golfers competed in a four-person best-shot tournament. Age of Aquarius was the theme with many participants dressing in garb of the 1960s and 1970s.

Several special events were held on the golf course with some designed to raise funds. For instance, on the fourth hole, Nancy Clawson and her granddaughter, Annabel Clawson, were dressed as fortune tellers. Through a series of card draws, they determined what location each team would tee from on that hole.

On the fifth hole, freewill donations bought golf shots over the pond to the green from Galen Redshaw and Jim Tibbles. On the sixth hole, Mark Jorgensen and Bill Vanderpool sold hole-in-ones for $20. Other events were closest to the angel on the ninth hole and the closest shot that landed within an angel outline on the third green.

After golf, the group gathered in the LPN event center for dinner. A silent auction was held with 26 gift items avail-

SUSAN THOMPSON | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

The theme for the Tori's Angels Foundation fundraiser was Age of Aquarius with many participants dressing in clothing from that era. A cardboard Volkswagen bus was available for photos. Left to right, Julie Tibbles, Gayle Shackelford, Sherri Miller and Karen Hanson.

FAR LEFT: For the second year, Julie Tibbles worked with a committee of volunteers to put on the Tori's Angels Foundation golf tournament fundraiser sponsored by the Lake Panorama National women's league. The July 18 event raised more than $7,500. **LEFT:** Paulette Chambers was one of 76 golfers who participated in the July 18 fundraiser at Lake Panorama National for Tori's Angels Foundation. She talked about her grandson, Dash, who is waiting for a heart transplant. Dash is one of the 157 children the foundation sponsors.

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

On the fifth hole, freewill donations bought golf shots over the pond to the green from Galen Redshaw and Jim Tibbles. Left to right, Jim Tibbles, Maggie Armstrong, Erin Gerlich, Dee Tometich and Galen Redshaw.

able for bidding. A Zodiac Challenge encouraged donations for astrological signs to determine which of the 12 groups was the most generous.

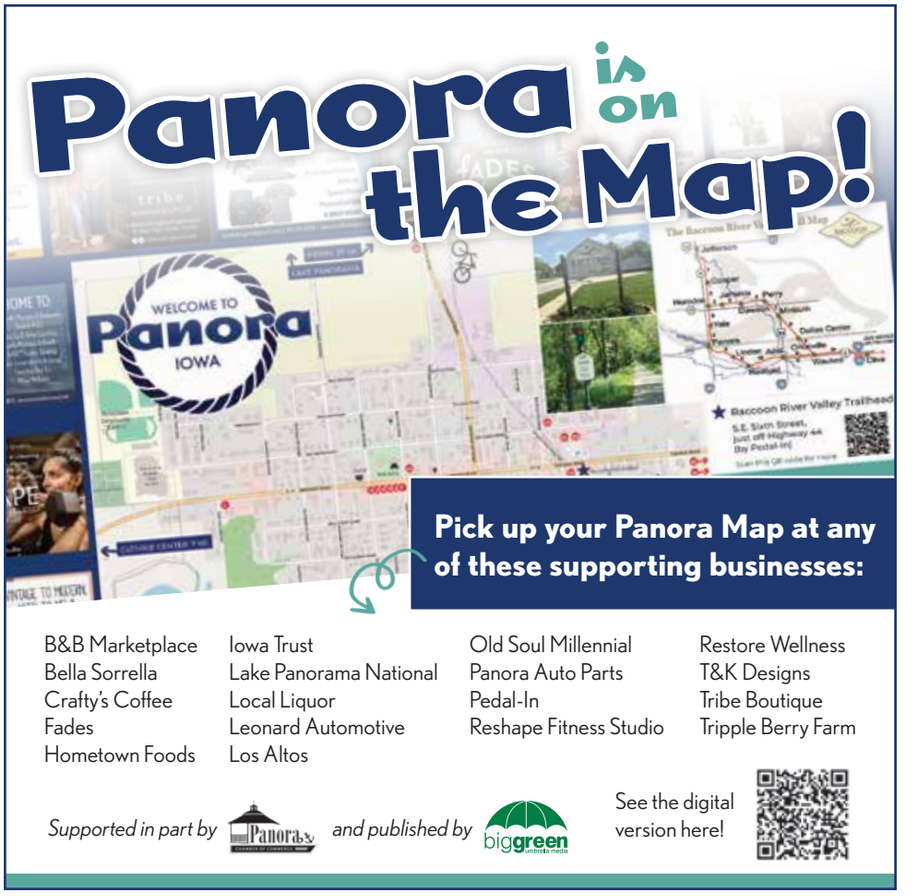
Jackie Wicks, a member of the Tori's Angels Council, talked about the children and families helped by the foundation. Her granddaughter is Tori Heckman, for whom the foundation is named. A community breakfast fundraiser was held in July 2010, hosted by the Panora United Methodist Church, to assist with the medical expenses of then-5-year-old Tori, who has had multiple heart surgeries since birth. The fundraiser was so successful the idea of a foundation to help other children with life-threatening medical conditions was born.

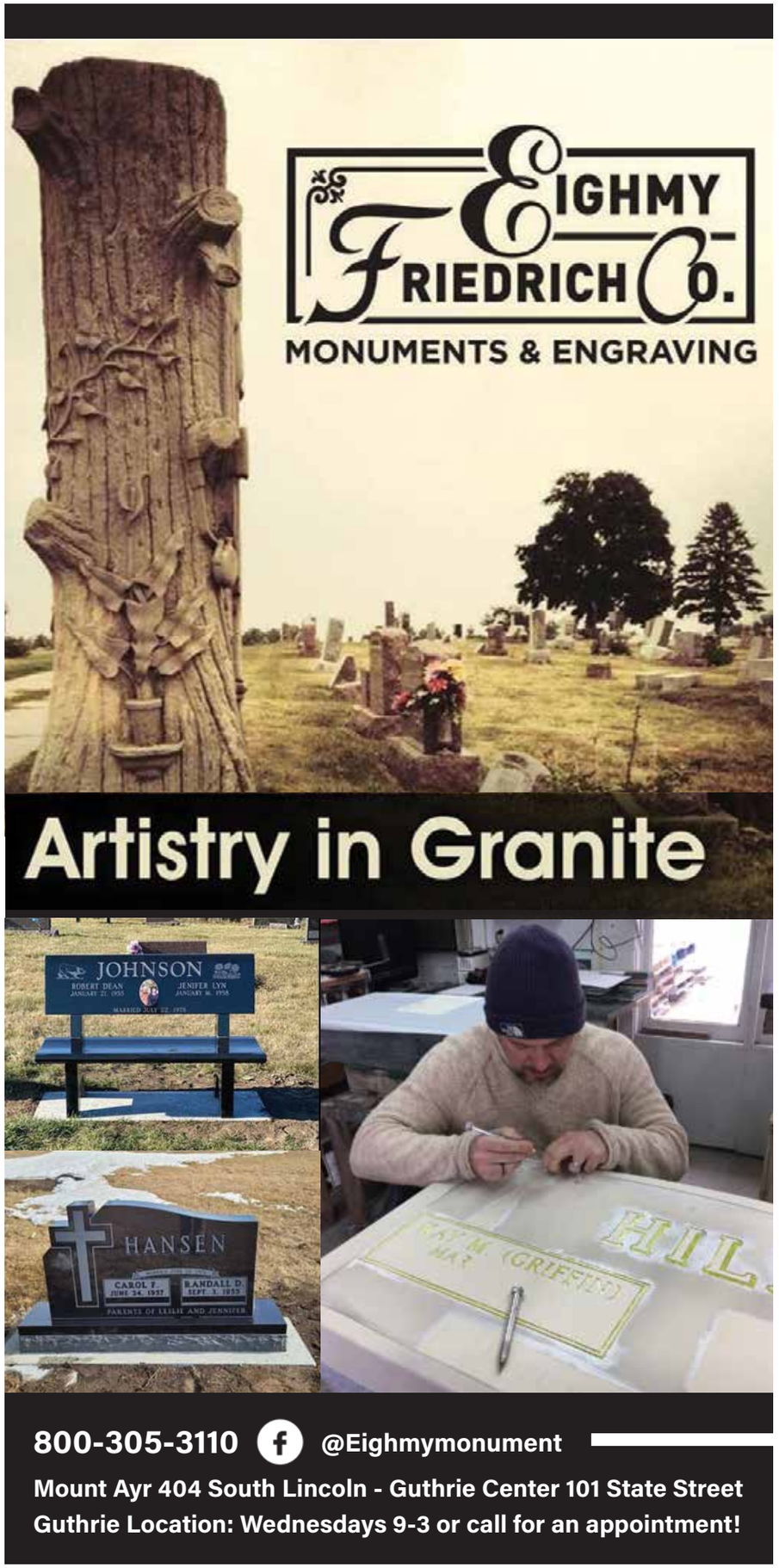
JoAnn Alumbaugh, vice chair of the Tori's Angels Foundation board of directors, talked about the types of expenses the nonprofit covers for ill children. She said, because of ongoing support from many, the foundation recently was able to accept its 157th sponsored child. Patty Reeves, a Tori's Angels volunteer, reviewed upcoming fundraising events.

Julie Tibbles and Shanell Wagler co-chaired the event, with Tibbles managing the golf tournament and Wagler managing the silent auction. Other committee members were Nancy Clawson, Dee Eckley, Sherri Miller, Kathy Moline, Deb McDermott, Jillian Ortner, Carol Redshaw, Gayle Shackelford, Deanie Thomas and Tracy Welberg. ■

There were 76 players in the four-gal, best-shot tournament July 18 at Lake Panorama National. After golf, everyone gathered in the LPN event center for dinner. A silent auction of 26 donated items raised $3,000.

Nancy Clawson and her granddaughter Annabel Clawson flash the "peace" sign from their location on the fourth hole at Lake Panorama National. Dressed as fortune tellers, they determined where each team would tee from on that hole.





TRISH HART'S NATURE PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

LAKE PANORAMA PROVIDES PLAYGROUND FOR WHITETAIL FAWNS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

There's no denying the adult whitetail deer population at Lake Panorama causes heartburn for many homeowners who can't keep them from munching on beautiful flowers and foliage. Yet, the spotted fawns born each summer always are fun to watch.

Trish Hart recently captured several photos of fawns on an evening Ranger ride with her husband, Scott. The Harts live on the east side of the lake near the Narrows.

Fawns are born about six months after mating, in late May to early June. Yearling does usually give birth to one fawn. Older does often have twins and sometimes triplets. Fawns average about 6 to 8 pounds at birth, and will weigh 60 to 70 pounds by their first winter.

Fawns are born with a reddish-brown coat covered with white spots, which helps them blend in with the sun-flecked ground. Fawns lose their spots at 90-120 days of age.

Does nurse their fawns about four times a day as newborns. At about two weeks of age, a fawn will start browsing vegetation and learn from its mother what plants to eat.

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

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LAKE DOGS

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | *Lake Panorama Times*

Names: Collins and Brooklyn
Breed: English Cream Golden Retrievers
Age: 10
Owners: Scott and Susan Hendricks

Meet sisters, Collins and Brooklyn. They love to swim and go for walks around the lake. Their favorite things are chasing the squirrels and keeping the geese off the docks. They tolerate other dogs but prefer attention from people, especially from their owners, Scott and Susan Hendricks. ■

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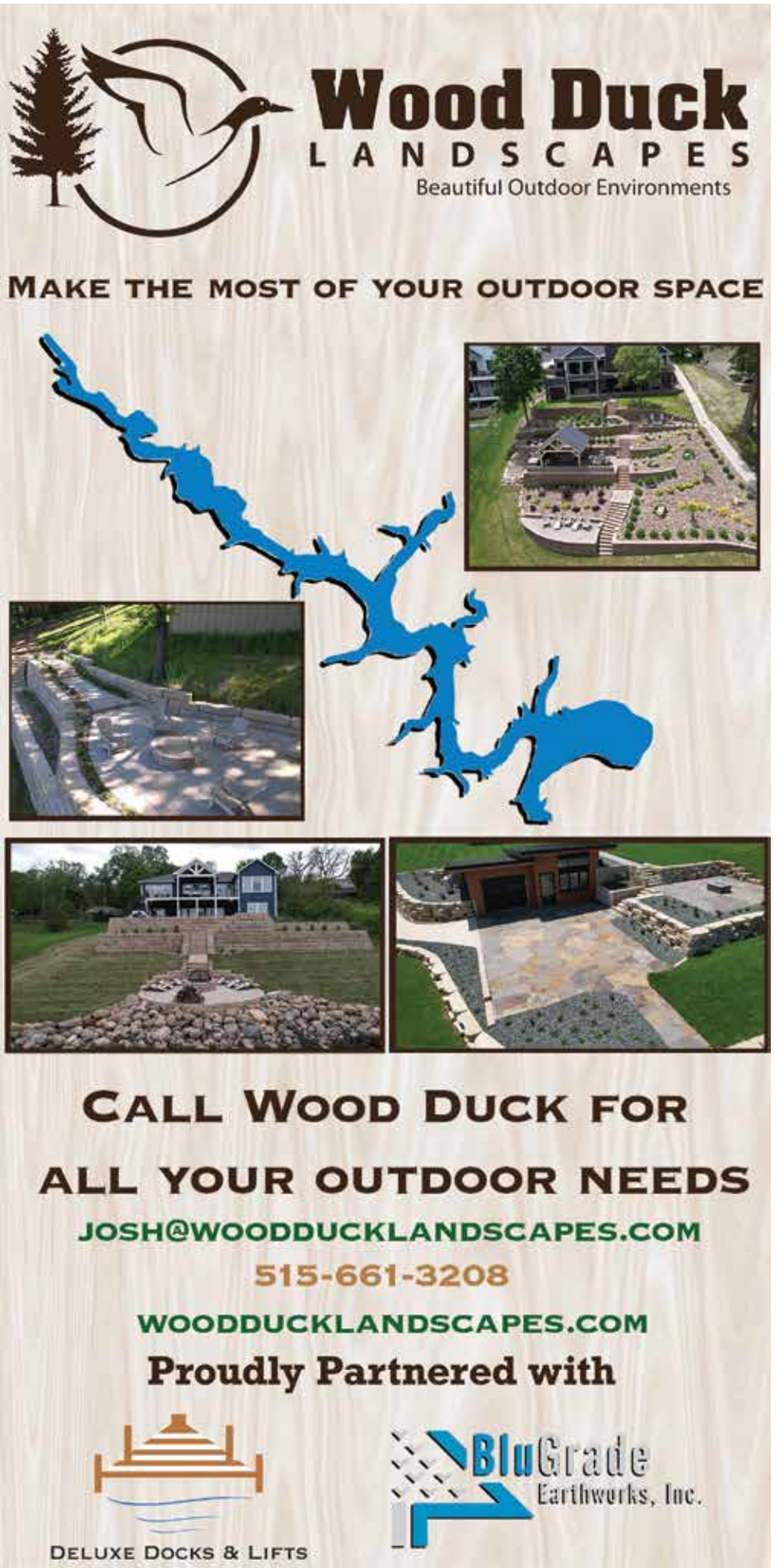
COVE CAT

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | *Lake Panorama Times*

Name: Ratatouille
Breed: Male domestic shorthair
Age: 1
Available for **adoption at:** Panora Pets

Ratatouille was a stray kitten that is currently in a foster home with other kittens. He's quite the character and will do well with other kitties and in an active home. He's a very happy-go-lucky guy that has been altered, vaccinated and microchipped. If interested in adopting him, fill out an adoption application on the Panora Pets website www.panorapets.com/adopt. Adoption fee currently is $25. ■



RECIPE

TAKE CAESAR SALAD BEYOND THE BOWL

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Lake Panorama Times

I love a good Caesar salad, especially at a restaurant. Enjoying this version of salad at home has been a disappointment for me over the years with store-bought varieties of the dressing — until now.

Say what you want about salad kits, but they changed how I prepare meals in recent years. The variety of salads available now have so many tasty ingredients and are perfect for a household of two — not to mention that I don't have to peel, chop or slice anything. I really like the Caesar salad kit, and you will, too. From putting a meal on the table after a long day of work or activities to hosting a large crowd at your next get-together, a seasonal favorite like Caesar salad can serve as the perfect canvas for creating quick, easy-to-prepare meals.

With more than 100 varieties of fresh, healthy and convenient ready-to-eat salads — including 11 Caesar salad varieties like the Caesar Chopped Salad Kit — Fresh Express provides tasty, versatile salad kits that can be modified to fit nearly any kind of meal you might be craving. Inspired by high-end dining experiences, the Fresh Express Twisted Creamy Truffle Caesar Chopped Salad Kit provides a gourmet twist to turn the recipe here of Creamy Truffle Caesar Pork Sandwiches into a culinary delight.

Jolene Goodman

These are ready in just 20 minutes and feature tender pork strips and a Caesar salad mix of garden-fresh crispy romaine lettuce, delicate sprinkles of truffle Parmesan cheese, crunchy garlic brioche croutons and creamy dressing. Be sure to add sauteed onions on a toasted bun. Every bite is a sensation to be savored. For recipes like this, I prepare large batches of cooked meat and then vacuum seal them in four-serving portions. This makes meal prep the day of your meal much faster. ■

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

CREAMY TRUFFLE CAESAR PORK SANDWICHES

(Family Features)
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients

- 2 pounds boneless skinless pork chops
- 4 tablespoons Italian seasoning
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 red onion
- 1 bag (9.3 ounces) Fresh Express Twisted Caesar Creamy Truffle Caesar Chopped Salad Kit
- 4 long sandwich rolls

Directions

Preheat pan on stove over medium-high heat. Season pork chops with Italian seasoning. When pan is hot, add oil and pork chops. Cook pork chops, turning halfway through, until they reach minimum internal temperature of 145 F, 6-8 minutes per side (depending on thickness). Once pork chops are cooked through, remove from pan and let rest a few minutes. Peel and slice onion. After resting, slice pork into strips; set aside. In same pan, sauté onion until translucent, about 5 minutes. Set aside. In large bowl, combine lettuce, dressing, croutons and cheese from salad kit. In separate pan, toast buns until golden brown; set aside.

To build sandwiches, place sliced pork on bottom halves of toasted buns. Top with prepared salad mixture and sauteed onions. Finish with top halves of buns. ■

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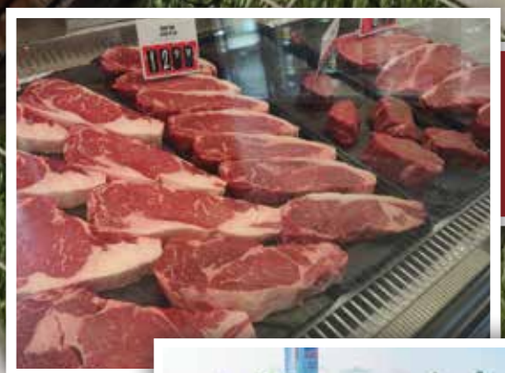

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Lutheran Church of Hope
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Saint Thomas Lutheran Church
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st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com
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United Methodist Church
119 E. Main St., Panora
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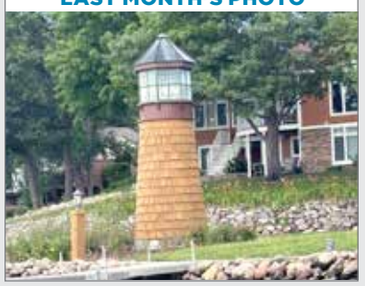
WHERE IS IT?

Believe it or not, there was not one correct answer on last month's photo. The photo is of the lighthouse at the Dan and Kelly Decarlo home at 5061 Panorama Drive. Have a guess on where the object in this month's photo is? Have one to submit for future issues? Send to shane@gctimesnews.com. ■

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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LPA JUNE BOARD MINUTES

LAKE PANORAMA ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 25, 2024

The Lake Panorama Association Board of Directors met June 25, 2024, at 5 p.m. at the Lake Panorama Association Office. Board members in attendance were David Finneseth, Dennis Flanery, Mark Jorgensen, Sue Thompson, Rachel Waldo, Dirk Westercamp and Jackson Whiton.

LPA Staff in attendance: Danna Krambeer, Corey Larsen, Lane Rumelhart, John Rutledge and Joel Williams (LPA attorney).

Visitors in attendance: Myron Danzer, Roy Hansen, Kay Kjergaard, John McDermott, Howard Natzel, Dave Nicholas, Jerry Pieper, Mark Reese and Brian Thompson.

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

Agenda Item 1 – Approval of the Agenda

Flanery moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

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

Agenda Item 2 – Open Forum

Jerry Pieper addressed the Board regarding safety issues concerning the removal of personal marker balls and boats traveling fast and in narrow areas. Rutledge clarified that the prohibition of personal marker balls was a DNR violation, and not an LPA violation.

Brian Thompson addressed the Board regarding safety issues that result from allowing towing in narrow areas in the lake. Thompson also spoke about the impact of wake boats on his dock and lift.

John McDermott addressed the Board regarding safety of operation of wake boats and associated shoreline damage.

Roy Hansen requested information from the Board regarding a lot agreement, which the board deferred to closed session.

Mark Reese and Kay Kjergaard addressed the Board on LPA management's approach to handling neighborhood complaints and concerns.

Myron Danzer addressed the Board regarding wake boats and the associated impact to docks, lifts and boating safety.

Howard Natzel addressed the board on multiple issues. Included in Howard's comments were concerns about the speed of vehicles near his home, errant golf balls entering his property from the No. 4 tee, and the conduct of golfers as it relates to their use of on-course bathroom facilities.

The board advised members that staff would follow up on their concerns, as needed, and following a review of the items in question with LPA management and the LPA attorney.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

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

Consent agenda to include:

a) LPA General Manager's Report

b) Approval of minutes from 05.28.2024 LPA Board Meeting

c) Acceptance of the 05.31.2024 LPA LPN Consolidated Financial Statement

d) Set date for next board meeting 07.23.2024

e) Accept minutes from 05.20.2024 LPN LLC Board of Managers Meeting

Agenda Item 4a – Treasurer's report

Flanery reported he had met with Krambeer and reviewed the financial statements, checking accounts, and credit card statements. All is in order, no questions.

Agenda Item 4b – Marina boat towing review with Phil Watson

Item postponed to future meeting. Watson is working on possible solutions for towing.

Agenda Item 4c – 2024-25 Deer Hunting Program

No substantive changes are recommended for this season's Deer Hunting Program.

Flanery moved to approve the hunting regulations for the 2024-2025 deer hunting season. Motion seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4d – Review of LPA By-Laws

Rutledge explained the process by which the membership could vote to amend LPA's bylaws. Rutledge explained the bylaws had not been updated for 15 years, and several housekeeping and strategic changes are warranted for consideration by the membership. Rutledge will continue to work on a proposal and bring it back to the board in July.

Agenda Item 5 – Other Business
None

Agenda Item 6 – Closed Session

The board entered closed session at 6:57 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Board exited closed session at 8 p.m.

Adjourn - With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. ■

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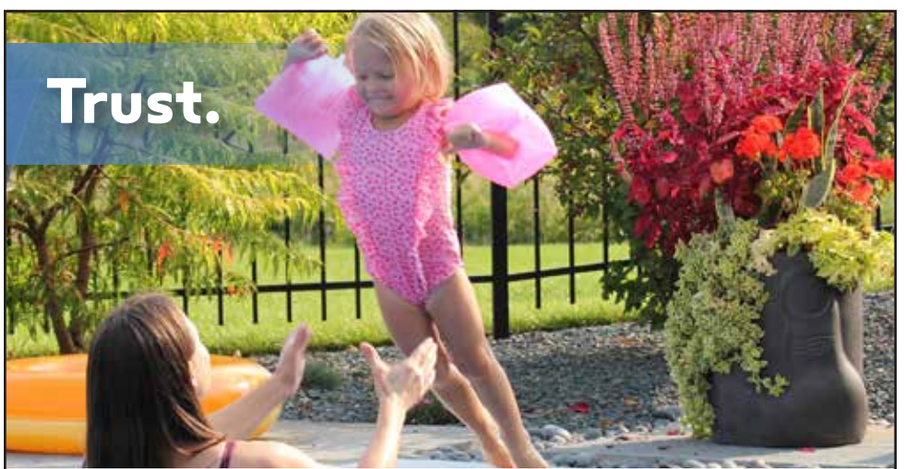

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