

🎀 The Power Of Pink 🎀



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Players and managers from the Glenwood Community School High basketball teams form a human pink ribbon chain during a Pink Out ceremony held Thursday night between the Rams' varsity games against Red Oak.

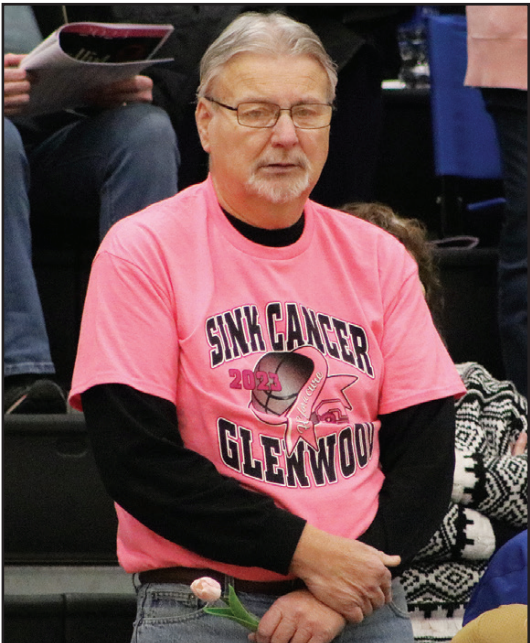
Annual GCHS Pink Out has become a community night to honor, remember those who have fought cancer battle

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

The annual Pink Out Night has become a winter tradition at Glenwood Community High School.

Thursday night, during the boys and girls varsity doubleheader against Red Oak, Ram basketball players, student managers, dance team members, cheerleaders, pep band members and spectators donned pink attire to promote cancer awareness and honor members of the community who have battled the dreadful disease.

GCHS PINK OUT, Page 3A



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Dave Wilson was presented a pink rose as one of several cancer survivors in the audience honored at Thursday's Pink Out ceremony.



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

The Ram student section had a pink look to it at Thursday night's basketball games.



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Members of the Glenwood dance team wore "Sink Cancer Glenwood" T-shirts during their Pink Out night performances Thursday.

Glenwood TeamMates celebrate Mentoring Month

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

Participants in the Glenwood Community School District's TeamMates program were recognized publicly last week in conjunction

with National Mentoring Month.

Nearly 50 mentors and mentees attended the Rams' basketball games with Red Oak Thursday night and were recognized at halftime of the boys game.

TeamMates spokesperson Jeni Kirsch introduced the group to the crowd, noting that

Glenwood has the second largest TeamMates program in the state of Iowa.

Around 50 Glenwood students in grades 3-12 are matched with adult mentors. The mentors

TEAMMATES MENTORING, Page 3A



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Participants in the Glenwood TeamMates mentoring program pose for a photo with Glenwood Mayor Ron Kohn at a recent basketball game.

Sieck, Costello cast contrasting votes on private school legislation

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed legislation into law Tuesday that will provide families nearly \$7,600 per child to cover private school expenses.

The controversial Students First Act was passed by lawmakers overnight on Monday without the support of nine Republicans in the House of Representatives, including David Sieck of Glenwood.

Sieck has publicly voiced his opposition to the legislation in the past and stuck to his word when it came to a vote Monday.

"If I'm voting my district, my district says they're liking their public schools and I don't have any private schools, so why would I change," Sieck stated in an interview with *The Opinion-Tribune* on Sunday.

Reynolds made the legislation a top

PRIVATE SCHOOL DOLLARS, Page 3A

Ag land values in Mills, Fremont, Montgomery, Page counties soared in 2022

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

Mills, Fremont, Montgomery and Page counties in southwest Iowa all reported a 21.6 % increase in the value of farmland from 2021-2022, the highest percentage in the state of Iowa, according to results of the Iowa State University Land Value Survey.

The survey showed agriculture land values increased in Mills County from \$8,966 per acre in 2021 to \$10,900 in 2022. Meanwhile, Fremont County ag land values increased from \$8,147 per acre to \$9,904. During the same time period, the values went up from \$7,484 to \$9,099 per acre in Montgomery County and \$6,824 to \$8,296 in Page County.

Statewide, the survey showed an average acre of farmland in Iowa increased in value by 17 percent in 2022, from \$9,751 to \$11,411.

David Sieck, a Mills County farmer who serves in the Iowa House of Representatives, said he isn't surprised by the substantial increase in ag land values for the four counties in the southwest corner of the state.

"We're probably behind," Sieck said during an interview Sunday. "If our counties were behind others, everything usually equals out. If I'm ahead of everybody else, usually it doesn't rise as much. If I'm behind everybody, it may rise more because people say, 'Heck, the land's cheaper over here, we're going to buy it.'"

"That would be how I would understand that. Maybe we haven't risen as much as some other areas of the state and we're just catching up."

All 99 counties showed an increase in ag land values. While the four southwest Iowa counties had the highest percentage increase, O'Brien County in the northwest part of the state experienced the highest actual dollar increase, rising \$2,818 per acre to \$16,531. Decatur County, in south central Iowa, reported the lowest ag land value in the state with an average of \$5,566 per acre.

DEATH NOTICES

Robert Wayne West, 74

Obituaries Published On Page 2A

\$1.00



OBITUARIES

Robert Wayne West, 74

Oct. 6, 1948 – Jan. 20, 2023

Robert Wayne West, 74, of Malvern, passed away Jan. 20, 2023, at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs. Funeral services were held Jan. 24 at the Charles E. and Florence M. Lakin Community Center in Malvern with military honors and burial in the Malvern Cemetery.

West is survived by his wife Carolyn of Malvern; children, Cheryl Ahrens (Ron) of Linn Creek, Mo., Nicole West (Kirk Anderson) of Malvern, Brian West (Krystal) of Glenwood and Nathan West (Mellisa Sanchez-West) of Sioux City.

Loess Hills Funeral Home in Malvern was in charge of arrangements.

POLICE REPORT

Accidents

Jan. 17 – A vehicle driven by Mark Plutschak was westbound on Sharp Street and struck a vehicle turning left into the alley off Sharp Street driven by Jennifer Tallmon of Glenwood. No

injuries were reported.

Jan. 12 – A legally parked vehicle in front of a residence at 108 So. Hazel St., was the victim of a hit-and-run. Glenwood Police are investigating the incident.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Accidents

Jan. 16 – A vehicle driven by Martin Plascencia-Marquez of Omaha was eastbound on Highway 34 when the vehicle began to malfunction and driver pulled over. The engine of the vehicle then caught fire. No injuries were reported.

Jan. 18 – A vehicle driv-

en by Ian Rieple of Omaha rolled into the north side ditch off Lambert Avenue due to icy road conditions. No injuries were reported.

Jan. 17 – Vehicles driven by Jennifer Barbour of Tabor and Alicia Pratt of Glenwood collided on westbound Highway 34. No injuries were reported.

DISTRICT COURT

Judge Justin Wyatt

Tyler M. Study, Glenwood – O.W.I., pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two days in county jail with credit for time previously served (allowed to participate in Second Chances program), ordered to pay \$1,250 fine (one half waived with proof of driver's license), court costs and fees.

Kim Jack Douglas Trost, Omaha – driving while license is barred, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$855 fine, court costs and fees.

Justin Paul Parker, Adair – third-degree burglary, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two years in prison, ordered to meet DNA requirement, pay court costs and fees.

Alicia Marie Bienka, Lincoln, Neb. – second-degree theft, sentence suspended to nine months probation, ordered to undergo mental

health evaluation, pay court costs and fees.

Bryan Allen Dennis, Council Bluffs – driving while license is denied or revoked, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two days in county jail, ordered to pay \$1,000 fine, court costs and fees.

Cole Joseph Nothwehr, Clarinda – possession of a controlled substance – canabidiol (second offense), pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$430 fine, court costs and fees.

Michael Anthony Monson, Glenwood – driving while license is denied or revoked, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$1,000 fine, court costs and fees.

Nathaniel Barnabas Madden, Sioux City – driving while license is denied or revoked, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$1,000 fine, court costs and fees.

Judge Margaret J. Popp Reyes

Ruben NMN Rodriguez – Sigala Jr., Omaha – O.W.I., pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two days in county jail with credit for time previously served, nine months probation, ordered to pay \$1,250 fine, court costs and fees.

James Edward Pontow, Malvern – driving while license is barred, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two days in county jail, ordered to meet DNA requirement, pay court costs and fees.

Brian J. Anderson, Omaha – violation of probation on original charges of first-degree theft and possession of a controlled substance (second offense), deferred judgment revoked, ordered to serve a combined 12 years in prison with credit for time

previously served, ordered to meet DNA requirement, pay court costs and fees.

Nicholas Sebastian Turnbull, Red Oak – possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$100 fine, court costs and fees; O.W.I., pleaded guilty, deferred judgment, nine months probation, ordered to pay \$1,250 fine (one half waived with proof of driver's license), court costs and fees.

Magistrate Keith Tucker

Tonya Marie Glathar, Glenwood – possession of drug paraphernalia, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees.

Arrington L. Blackwell, Papillion, Neb. – obstruction of emergency communications, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees.

Obituaries may be submitted to sports@opinion-tribune.com



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Advanced Grain Marketing for Women is taught in the tradition of Annie's Project. The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversityand.

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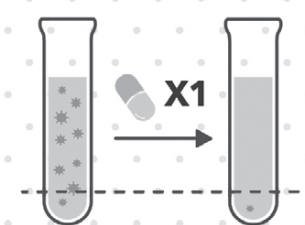
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Thank You

To our friends, loved ones, and the Glenwood community:

We are very thankful for the outpouring of love and support we have received during this extremely difficult time. Words do not adequately convey our heartfelt gratitude. It is an unbearable loss for our family and the many people whose lives have been touched by both our beloved Donnie and Travis.

On behalf of my family we thank you for your prayers, support, and for allowing us the privacy and space we need during this time. A special thank you to Georganne Williams.

May God bless you and yours-

Sincerely,
Betty, Jackson, Hannah, & Ben Batten

A memorial fund has been established at Glenwood State Bank for Travis's children.

PRIVATE SCHOOL DOLLARS

From Page 1A

priority in her Condition of the State address on Jan. 10.

"I am thrilled that both the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate have passed the Students First Act and I look forward to signing it into law later today," Reynolds stated early Tuesday morning. "For the first time, we will fund students instead of a system, a decisive step in ensuring that every child in Iowa can receive the best education possible."

"Parents, not the government, can now choose the education setting best suited to their child regardless of their income or zip code. With this bill, Iowa has affirmed that educational freedom belongs to all, not just those who can afford it."

Opponents of the bill have argued that public tax dollars should be spent on public schools alone and the legislation will be harmful to school districts in rural areas of the state. Less than half of Iowa's counties have private schools.

Sieck said his view on the matter has never wavered.

"When I first started running, I said all I have is public schools so I'll always support them. That still stands today," he said. "I don't have anything (private schools) in my district. We've got St. Albert just outside of my district, which might gain in this. I guess they can take on another 100 kids, which is



State Rep. David Sieck



State Sen. Mark Costello

what I'm being told.

"I put my stake in the sand this summer and said, 'Look, I'm not going to change my vote for this.' You've already got open enrollment so why would you change your theory on it?"

Sieck said around 70 percent of the e-mail communication he received from residents of his legislative district was against passage of the legislation.

Mills and Fremont County's representative in the state senate, Mark Costello, voted with the majority. He voiced his support for the legislation in a letter to constituents earlier this month.

"The governor's bill gives parents those options by expanding school choice beyond just wealthy parents with the means to afford to pay taxes and school tuition. It means

all parents have choice," he said. "Her plan phases in low- and average-income families currently in a non-public school and kindergartners. It expands over the next few years to eventually include all families."

Costello added, "The governor's proposal also includes more than \$1,200 per student in new money to the resident school district of any student in a private school that has an education savings account. This money is in addition to the property tax revenue schools currently receive for a student who resides in the school district, whether students are attending a public school or not."

The voucher program for private school families is projected to cost the state of Iowa more than \$900 million over the next four years.



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Pink Out night at Glenwood Community High School.

GCHS PINK OUT

From Page 1A

Coordinated by the Reach/SADD chapter at GCHS, Pink Out has evolved into a community night to honor and remember loved ones who have battled the disease in one form or another.

"It has just become a really neat community event," GCHS guidance counselor and Reach/SADD sponsor Kathleen Loeffelbein said. "It seems like it's a really nice evening for the community to support those individuals that have gone through the fight against cancer or who are in that right now."

Pink Out Night started out as a Hawkeye 10 Conference initiative, spearheaded by the FCCLA chapter at Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll. The student group raised money for a set of pink basketball uniforms that each girls team in the Hawkeye 10 Conference was allowed to wear once during the season to promote cancer awareness.

"Each school would choose a time they would use those pink jerseys," Loeffelbein said. "The years have gone on and we no longer use the pink jerseys but we still carry out the Pink Out tradition."

Loeffelbein said Pink Out Night is usually scheduled on an evening when both the Glenwood boys and girls teams have home games. In between the varsity games, players, managers and coaches from both teams form a human ribbon and the names of loved ones that members of the teams have chosen to honor are read aloud. If the honoree or a representative of that person is in attendance, he or she is



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Glenwood basketball players honored friends and family members who have fought cancer during the Pink Out ceremony.



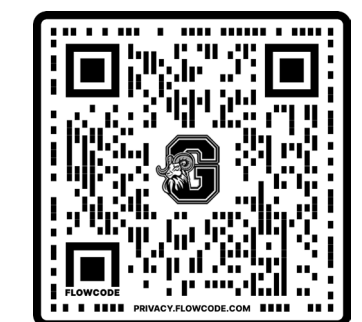
JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

The Pink Out message on the video board in the gymnasium at Glenwood Community High School.

presented with a pink flower, often with a hug and tears.

"That's a pretty meaningful thing that happens," Loeffelbein said.

Following Thursday night's ceremony, donation buckets were passed around the audience with the funds going to the Mills County Relay For Life, an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The theme of Thursday night's Pink Out was "Sink Cancer Glenwood."



Glenwood fans can scan this special QR code to support the Rams' fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society.

TEAMMATES MENTORING

From Page 1A

spend 30 minutes per week with their mentee during regular school hours.

Each school in the district has a designated mentoring room or space for mentors and mentees to meet. A weekly session might include playing a board game, shooting baskets, playing ping pong or just conversation.

Some group activities also take place for all participants in the program, like last week's basketball game outing, a pizza party or a picnic in the park.

TeamMates, founded in 1991 by former University of Nebraska football coach Dr. Tom Osborne and his wife Nancy, is a nationally-recognized "one-to-one, relationship-based" mentoring program. TeamMates guidelines require mentors to receive mandatory training after passing a criminal background check. The mentors are then matched with a mentee of similar interests. TeamMates mentors are adult



guides, advocates and trusted friends, but not allowed to tutor, give gifts or transport a student.

TeamMates programs exist in five states – Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Wyoming. The program has been established in two dozen school districts across the state of Iowa, from as far west as Glenwood to Waterloo in the east and Storm Lake in the north.

Persons interested in becoming involved in the program are encouraged to contact Glenwood TeamMates coordinator Sandra Dollen at 712-527-4887 or via e-mail at dollens@glenwoodschoools.org.



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Above: Glenwood TeamMates mentors and mentees are recognized at halftime of a Rams' basketball game. Below: Glenwood Mayor Ron Kohn honors the program with a mayoral proclamation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Reach/SADD chapter at Glenwood Community High School coordinated the Pink Out night. To promote cancer awareness, they spelled out the word "Hope" with plastic cups placed in the fence at the school's tennis court complex.

<p>Burr Oaks Place Pre-Leasing 3 Bed 2 Bath 1,535 SQFT 2 Bed 1 Bath 1,176 SQFT Email: buroaksplace@gmail.com for details!</p>	<p>Apartamentos Burr Oaks Prearrendamiento 3 Hab 2 Baño 1,535 pies cuadrados 2 Hab 1 Baño 1,176 pies cuadrados Correo electrónico: buroaksplace@gmail.com para más detalles.</p>	<p>First Priority will be those that were directly impacted by the floods of 2019. Primera Prioridad serán aquellos que fueron impactados directamente por las inundaciones de 2019.</p>
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Bright ideas when working in the dark

I'm awakened at 4 a.m. by the guest in the hotel room next to mine. I'm not sure what he's doing, but if I had to guess, I'd say he's practicing for a clogging competition. Or hosting one.

ROSBY'S WORLD

Dorothy Rosby

Guest Columnist



There's no way I can sleep now. That's OK. I'll get up and work on my column and I'll thank my neighbor when I see him in the hallway. Not really.

My husband has managed to sleep through the clogging and I don't want to wake him. I want him to be rested so that when we're back on the road, he can drive while I nap.

I consider my options. I could take my laptop to the lobby, but that would mean digging for my clothes in the dark or leaving the room in my pajamas. I've seen people do that, but the hotel would have to be on fire before I would.

It's times like this when I wish we'd gotten a suite. But even when we haven't, I'm often able to create writing space. If the bathroom door swings outward at the right angle to block the bathroom light from my sleeping husband, I pull the desk chair behind the door and create a tiny office just outside the bathroom. The view isn't great but it's cheaper than a suite.

Unfortunately, the bathroom door in this hotel room swings in. I have no suite and no tiny office and I refuse to wear my pajamas to the lobby unless the fire alarm goes off. That leaves me with one option: go back to bed.

And that's what I'd do if the clogging competition were not under way next door. I take my laptop to the only place in our room where I can turn on the light without disturbing my husband—the bathroom. It presents several options for writing but I refuse to use the most obvious one. I'm too classy for potty humor. Sorry.

I could sit in the tub, but it's still wet from my shower last night. So I stumble back across the room in the dark until I find the desk chair. I push it to the bathroom running into the bed, the dresser and the wall on the way. The guy next door probably thinks more cloggers are arriving for the competition. My husband sleeps on.

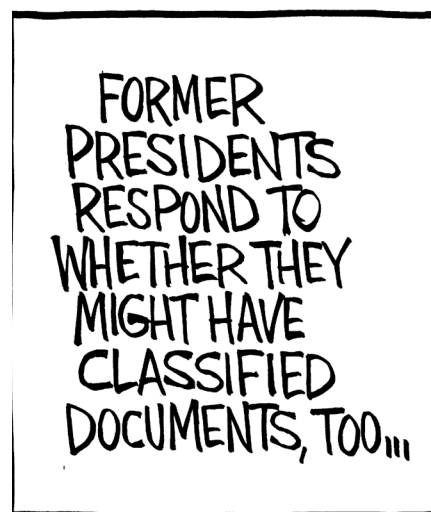
I see the problem as soon as I have the chair in the bathroom. I can't close the door because the chair is now in the way. So with superhuman strength I pick it up and put it in the tub. Actually I don't have superhuman strength which explains why I bang the chair wheels on the tub as I'm putting it in.

I could sit there to write, but the tub bottom is rounded so the chair rolls around. That might make typing difficult—and dangerous. So I close the bathroom door, turn on the light and bang the chair on the tub again as I take it back out. As I'm doing this, I'm reminded I'll have to repeat the process when it's time to leave my makeshift office. I hope I'm better at it then because I almost broke my back this time.

It's now 4:30 a.m. And here I am, in my PJs in an office chair in a hotel bathroom somewhere in the great state of Wyoming. I had planned to write about something else entirely. But as writers often are, I was inspired by my surroundings. You may not see it that way.

I do wonder if someone who can sleep through a clogging competition and an office chair being hauled across the room and in and out of a bathtub, might also be able to sleep with the lamp turned on in the corner of the room. And how inspirational would that be?

Dorothy Rosby is a syndicated columnist and the author of three books of humorous essays.



Rooting for the Cowboys' kicker

CUP OF JOE

Joe Foreman

Editor



Have to admit, I'm not the biggest professional football fan. I was a big fan in my younger days until my favorite team - the St. Louis Football Cardinals - moved to Arizona.

I've been a casual fan ever since.

That said, I found myself rooting for Cowboys kicker Brett Maher the past couple of weeks.

If you're a football fan, you probably know Maher ended his season (and maybe his professional career) in a slump.

Actually, calling it a slump is putting it mildly. Maher finished the season missing 6 of 7 extra point attempts over three games.

Not field goals. Extra points - after the Cowboys' offense had scored touchdowns.

It's a stat that's unheard of in the professional ranks and unimaginable from a kicker who made multiple 50-yard fields this season and has even made field goals from beyond 60 yards.

In 2019, Maher kicked a record-tying 63-yard field goal and became the first kicker in NFL his-

tory with three 60-plus yard FGs to his credit.

This season, he converted 50 of his first 53 extra point attempts and was 29-of-32 on field goals, including 9-of-11 from 50-plus yards.

During his late-season debacle, Maher wasn't suffering from an injury. What he was apparently experiencing was a classic case of the "yips," a term often used in sports when tension and nervousness gets to the point where an athlete is unable to carry out a seemingly routine task, such as a golfer being able to sink a short putt or a baseball pitcher being able to throw the ball over home plate.

I watched the Cowboys' first playoff game against Tampa Bay in disbelief as Maher missed his first four extra point attempts. Wide right, wide

left, off the upright - he simply couldn't get it to go straight, until his fifth and final try of the night.

Frankly, I was surprised Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones didn't give Maher the boot after the Tampa Bay game. But Jones and the rest of the team stood by Maher and came to his defense publicly.

The Cowboy kicker was back in the saddle Sunday night and had his first extra point attempt blocked. Fortunately, or unfortunately (depends how you look at it), the Cowboys didn't score another touchdown in the game. Their only other points came on a pair of field goals from 25 and 43 yards out - by guess who? Yes, Maher.

As I stated earlier, I found myself rooting for Maher over the past couple of weeks because I remember a younger

version of the Cowboys' kicker who came to Glenwood in the Summer of 2012 to put on a free kicking clinic. Maher was in college, playing for Nebraska at the time and coming off an All-Big 10 season as both a punter and place kicker. He was invited to Glenwood by his second cousin, Allan Hughes.

Maher put on a delightful clinic for about 100 youngsters and their parents that evening. He took time for everyone that wanted to chat, snap a photo or get an autograph. He just seemed like an all-around nice guy and somebody you suspected would be successful in life.

Following the Cowboys' season-ending loss to the 49ers Sunday, Jones (the Cowboys' owner) said he was proud of Maher for bouncing back and knocking down the two field goals.

I'm hoping Jones' comments mean we haven't seen the last of Maher in the NFL. He seems like too classy of a guy to have his career end on such a sour note.



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Brett Maher during his 2012 kicking clinic in Glenwood.



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Dallas Cowboys' kicker Brett Maher put on a kicking clinic for Glenwood youngsters in 2012, when he was an All-Big 10 Conference place kicker and punter for Nebraska.

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Periodical postage is paid at Red Oak, Iowa, 51566. Subscription rates (payable in advance by calling 712-623-2566): \$44.99 a year in county or adjacent counties in Iowa; \$59.99 elsewhere in Iowa; \$72.99 out-of-state.

Advertising rates available upon request. The retail and classified advertising deadline is Noon on Thursday.

www.opinion-tribune.com

Winter reading at the Glenwood Public Library

There is always a lot of enthusiasm and excitement and chattering at our Tuesday story times. This last week was no exception.

We did counting books! And we love it when kids join us in counting out loud, “1 grumpy bear! 2 uninvited skunks! 3 mice throwing a party!”... all of which made Bruce grumpy.

One parent piped up, “That’s the bear from last week!”

Yes, it was Grumpy Bruce. He has a lot to be grumpy about...

Drop in at 10am every Tuesday to see if Grumpy Bruce is still at it! You can also join us on Thursdays at 4 p.m. There are always crafts to go with the stories, all of which help our littles develop early reading skills.

* Winter Reading is here for all ages! We all know that “Libraries Are Delicious,” but now you can sign up to reward yourself for just tucking in under a blanket and reading a good book!

* The Children’s Department has a rewarding Winter Reading Challenge: choose a daily reading goal (15, 20, 30 minutes?) and meet that goal on 20 days in February to win a prize bag! Prize bags include toys, treats and McDonald’s gift

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Tara Painter

Glenwood Public Library Director



certificates!

Our teens are also invited to reward themselves for their hard work! If they meet the 20 days of reading goal then they will earn a prize bag with slime, fidgets and McDonald’s gift certificates!

* Winter Reading will be in full swing at the Adult Services department in February, displaying all of our prizes and all of our favorite cookbooks, in keeping with the “Libraries are Delicious” theme. We’ll have trivia, crossword and word searches based on our favorite authors and their works. We’ll even have our favorite author’s cookbooks for you to check out! Stop by to revisit an old favorite, try something new or use your brain power to enter a drawing for one of our prizes.

We will be showcasing our best new adult books at Parea in downtown Glenwood on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m. Join in our “Shelf Indulgence” and see what

new books are available this month. Lots of good books and interesting discussion!

* We will be hosting early out events for students on Feb. 1, 8 and 15 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Lots of activities and snacks to enjoy.

* Spinecrackers will be discussing Valeria Luiselli’s book *Lost Children Archive*. It is a compelling story that shares how one family documents their experiences as they travel across country from New York to Arizona, and how those documents can affect how we remember the things that matter to us the most. They will be meeting at noon on Feb. 15. The coffee will be warm and the conversation engaging!

* The History Book Club will be meeting at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, to discuss Colson Whitehead’s *The Nickel Boys*. Set in the Jim Crow era, it examines the repercussions made by decisions two black southern boys make as they are caught

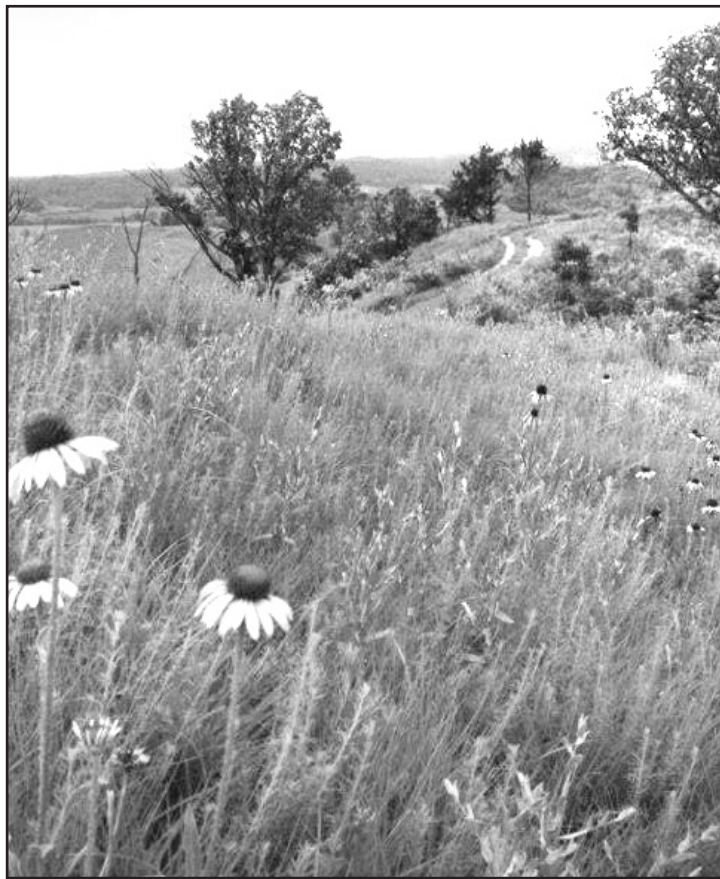
up in the juvenile reformatory system. Whitehead is one of our greatest contemporary writers. Come join us for what is sure to be a lively conversation.

We are excited to be hosting Brad Wilkening, member of the Iowa Holocaust Council, who will be discussing “Lessons of the Holocaust” at 6 p.m. on Feb. 24, at the Glenwood Public Library. An all ages program, Mr. Wilkening notes that “Bullying and indifference start at an early age, and we have a responsibility to help create a safer more caring environment. We need to be upstanders and not bystanders in the face of evil. My goal is to keep the lessons of the Holocaust alive.”

Resource review: One of the reasons that our library is “delicious” is that we have cookbooks! We have an amazing collection of cookbooks ranging from celebrity chefs to international cuisine to special dietary needs. Come take a look!

The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for President’s Day. We apologize for any inconvenience.

We hope to see you at the library!



COURTESY PHOTO

Scenic view of the Loess Hills from the Hitchcock Nature Center in Pottawattamie County.

Loess Hills Alliance accepting applications for preservation projects

The Stewardship Committee of the Loess Hills Alliance is soliciting proposals that protect, preserve and enhance the fragile native ecosystems of the Loess Hills for the future of the area’s natural and cultural resources.

Projects may include educational components of land protection, and any other proposals that meet the Mission of the Stewardship Committee and strive to protect and preserve the Loess Hills. For a list of recently-funded projects, visit loesshillsalliance.com/stewardship.

The committee anticipates awarding up to \$9,000 in the current round. Maximum request per grant is \$7,000. Grant awards will be made from available funds provided by the Iowa Legislature.

Projects must be located in the Loess Hills landform.

All applications must follow the attached proposal

format.

Any nonprofit or governmental organization in the Loess Hills landform is eligible to apply. An individual or group may apply through a nonprofit or government fiscal sponsor.

Due to potential economic uncertainty, the Loess Hills Alliance claims the right to cancel this request for proposals and/or any awards granted without penalty should adequate funds not be appropriated as a result of unforeseen state budget adjustments. LHA also reserves the right to partially fund project proposals.

The application is available at loesshillsalliance.com/stewardship. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2.

For additional information, contact Stewardship Committee chair Lance Brisbois at lance@goldenhillsrccd.org.

A bookworm’s favorite readings from 2022

As I listed my favorite books for 2022, I came up with 19 books, and as I shortened the list, I discovered that some were by the same author: Krueger, Mallery, Hoover. I can see how that happened because once I discover an author I like, I dive into all offerings by that author. So here is my pared down list:

1. The Bromance Book Club by Lyssa Kay Adams: this is a hilarious story about a book club formed by men who read women’s romance books to get a clue on what women like. (There are two others, too.)

2. Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover: A young woman, just released from a five-year prison term, wants to meet her five-year-old daughter being raised by her former boyfriend’s parents, who refuse her requests. (Others by

NOTES FROM A BOOKWORM

Barbara Taenzler

Glenwood Library Book Reviewer



this author too.)

3. Funny Farm by Laurie Zalski - non-fiction. What a story! A strong mother, an abusive father, three siblings, whose lives drastically changed after the mother took the kids and left. They relocated to a shack on an acreage and collected neglected and abused animals. A true story.

4. The Boardwalk Bookshop by Susan Mallery: Three friends in business together, with separate shops for each, who establish their shops on the beach.

5. Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger: Narrated by a thirteen-year-old boy who tells of three murders in his little town and of his family: parents, an older sister and a younger brother. Very touching.

6. Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber, non-fiction: an astounding story told by a female pastor, married, with children and a checkered past, which included alcoholism, promiscuity, homelessness. Then she met “a nice boy”, a pastor and does public speak-

ing nationally and internationally, plus pastoring.

7. The Brass Verdict by John Connelly: Heller returns to work as a lawyer after a year’s rehab and gets a high-profile case in Hollywood. A thriller.

8. Horse by Geraldine Brooks: The fastest racehorse in the 1850s, named Lexington. Written based on true events. Slavery issues included.

9. Rules at the School by the Sea - by Lindsay Jane Ashford: A teacher at a girls’ boarding school in England. A cliff-hanger ending.

10. A Feather on the Wind by Lindsay Jane Ashford: post WWII in Germany, helping camps with Displaced Persons. The camp holds mostly Poles and Liths, hundreds of people, homeless.

Readers: I hope there is something there that you like!

FAST LANE SHOW CHOIR



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Glenwood Community High School’s Fast Lane show choir. The theme of this year’s show is “Follow Your Light.”

Fast Lane Show Choir 2023 Performance Schedule

Jan. 21 - Performance Dallas Center - Grimes.

Jan. 28 - Performance Glenwood Gala

Feb. 11 - Sioux Falls Washington, South Dakota.

Feb. 18 - Wahoo (Neb.) “Court of Champions”

March 3 - Glenwood @ 7 p.m.

March - Lewis Central “Clash of the Titans.”

High school students graduating in spring of 2023 are encouraged to

apply for Iowa Farm Bureau Federation’s (IFBF) \$2,500 scholarship, awarded to 27 eligible Iowa high school seniors and renewable for four years, up to \$10,000.

“Iowa leads the nation in agricultural production, and one in five jobs in our state is attributed to agriculture so it’s imperative that we support the next generation of ag leaders,” says IFBF President Brent Johnson. “Iowa Farm Bureau is proud to award nearly \$500,000 in annual scholarships to students continuing their education.”

Scholarship eligibility is reserved for current Iowa Farm Bureau members or their children in good standing with the organization. Those wishing to become members can visit www.iowafarmbureau.com. To be eligible, the graduating high school student must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average, be involved in extracurricular activities and accepted into an accredited higher education institution, including community colleges and technical schools.

To apply, students must submit a typed essay demonstrating their leadership, community involvement and how they would use the scholarship award to support Iowa Farm Bureau’s mission of creating a vibrant future for agriculture, farm families and their communities.

Each of IFBF’s 100 county Farm Bureaus will send one application from their county to be considered for the state award of which 27 students (three from each of Farm Bureau’s nine districts) will be selected. To qualify for scholarship renewal, the recipient must continue to meet the scholarship requirements.

Many county Farm Bureaus also offer a locally-sponsored scholarship; availability and amounts vary. By completing one application, the student is automatically entered to be considered for the state and county awards, where available. The scholarship application and eligibility requirements can be found at <https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Member-Benefits/Iowa-Farm-Bureau-Scholarships>.

Applications must be completed online by Friday, Feb. 3.

Contact the IFBF Community Resources office at 515-225-5461 with questions.



Accomplishing God’s will is our purpose

It’s disappointing to God that most people are usually more concerned about what they want in life than asking Him what He requires of them. Since our eyes were opened in the garden, our fleshly nature specializes in the skills of compromising and justifying. Self-deception is common. Only a few will take the responsibility to obey Him and get serious about dedicating their lives to being a living sacrifice for Him. Yes, included with the blessings of this life is being accountable.

You might have heard the unpopular verse found in Revelation 3:16 where John relays what Jesus thinks about the church at Laodicea. “So then, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.” We realize parables and analogies are common in the Bible, and without trying to explain the different interpretations of what this verse means, let’s just say that we want our coffee hot and our iced tea, well... cold. Within the context, Jesus is referring to their attitude. In short, He was saying their hearts were in a state of being lackadaisical, apathetic, and lethargic. And, not just this certain group, He is using them as an example of the dangers of backsliding when anyone takes their eyes away from His truth and drifts into the temptations of carnality.

Let us not forget that He is speaking to members of an established Christian church who were supposedly followers of Jesus and His teachings. This letter to Laodicea is the harshest of the seven churches that are mentioned in chapters two and three. There is no

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Dr. Billy Holland

Religion Columnist



beating around the bush on His disappointment and He is warning them about trying to make the Christian life into a comfortable social club. By His judgment of their works, He makes it clear this is a dead church. What does this mean and can it happen today? Definitely. Whenever the members of an assembly see themselves as independent, materialistic, and self-sufficient, they have already slipped into a state of religious indifference.

Jesus continues to be more specific using cutting words such as “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.” Their lukewarm faith had become hypocritical. The lifeless atmosphere of the services, was the result of a lack of enthusiasm and passion for Christ in their minds and hearts. They had become backslidden and maybe there were a number of individuals that had never been converted, and were just pretending to be Christians. It’s not an exciting topic but there is such a thing as People who practice a form of religion, but their conscience is one of self-righteous complacency. They claim to be taking up their cross and following Jesus, but their hearts are unchanged, and their game-playing is sickening to God.

Many of us have been blessed beyond measure, but

having daily quiet times where we pray and worship God, can help us remain humble and aware of the holy respect of His presence that is so vital to our intimate relationship with Him. Just because we have resources, does not mean we are to rely on them more than our faith. Instead of being proud of what we have accomplished let us realize that everything we have has been graciously given to us by the one who owns everything. In modern language, God offers us salvation through Christ and this gift of grace allows us to be transformed into a new person. Our spiritual identity goes from being blind and lost, to being filled with hope and joy that we have been rescued to do His will. Changing our mind changes our attitude.

A common defense of being lukewarm is that it does not matter. This is not true! Being backslidden is a big deal. When we lose our sensitivity and no longer feel convicted by the Holy Spirit, we are in serious danger. Becoming spiritually numb causes us to not care how our sin affects those who see it including God Himself.

If demonstrating God’s character and accomplishing His will is not our purpose, what is? Accepting Christ is not all there is to salvation, it’s just the beginning. It’s an opportunity, a privilege to serve Him.

BULLETIN BOARD

Elle Scarborough named to St. Cloud State Dean’s List

Elle Scarborough of Glenwood has been named to the fall semester dean’s list at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Students named to the list must attain a minimum grade point average of 3.75.

Olivia Brandt on dean’s list at MidAmerica Nazarene

Olivia Brandt of Tabor has been named to the fall semester dean’s list at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Kansas. Students named to the list must achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.50.

Kennedy Jones earns MSU Dean’s List recognition

Kennedy Jones of Glenwood has been named to the fall dean’s list at Missouri State University in Springfield. Students named to the list must attain a minimum grade point average of 3.50.

Cera Gray on honors list at Nebraska Wesleyan

Cera Gray of Glenwood has been named to the fall semester honors list at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Students named to the list must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.75.

Fun By The Numbers Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

SUDOKU

		6						
			9	2				
	7			4				8
	8	3				2		
					2		6	
			5			1		
6							8	9
		4	3					5
5			6		9	4		

Level: Intermediate

2	7	4	1	9	6	8	3	5
5	1	6	7	8	3	4	9	2
6	8	5	4	2	1	7	9	3
4	9	1	8	3	5	6	2	7
3	6	8	2	6	7	5	4	1
7	5	2	1	6	4	3	8	9
8	5	2	6	1	4	9	7	3
9	4	6	3	7	9	2	8	1
1	3	9	5	8	7	6	2	4

ANSWER:

Mills County Church Directory

Common Ground Glenwood
Lead Pastor: Jon McNeel (712-527-0720). Assoc. Pastor of Youth & Worship: Adam Tibbs (712-527-8867). Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. at the Glenwood High School Auditorium – including nursery and children’s church. “Vital” youth groups for junior high and senior high students – together with Campus Life at the Glenwood Middle School on Wednesdays 6:20-8:30 p.m. Life groups meet in various homes throughout the week. www.cgmglenwood.org.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Glenwood
24116 Marian St. Rev. Dan Siepker. Church office 527-5211, rectory 527-9115. Saturday Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from 4 -4:30 p.m. with other times by appointment with Father Dan. Liturgical services: Tuesday through Friday times vary; Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8 and 10 a.m. Web site: holyroary.glenwood.com.

Glenwood Community Church
An Evangelical Free Church 56646 240th St. 527-4250 Pastor, Mark Smeltzer. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Nursery and Children’s Church are provided); Fellowship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School / Bible Classes 10:45 a.m. (Classes for youth and adults). Wednesdays: AWANA meets at 6:30 p.m. during school year. (glenwoodcommunitychurch.com)

Vine Street Bible Church Glenwood
We are an independent Bible church located at 212 N. Vine St. in Glenwood. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Services at 10:15 a.m. Nursery provided. LightHouse Youth Group at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Jon McNeel, pastor: 712-527-0720. Dan Ginn, youth pastor. Facebook@Vine Street Bible Church.

Bible Baptist Church Glenwood
An independent Baptist Church, 605 So. Hazel. 712-527-3806. Pastor Ben Quinlan; Sunday School [all ages] 9:30 a.m.; Worship with Children’s Church 10:30 a.m.; Bible Hour 6 p.m., nursery provided for all service times. Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Bible study and prayer classes for all ages. Please call for a ride to any service on our white church bus from anywhere in Glenwood.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Glenwood
Woodfield Estates subdivision west of Highway 275 and Elderberry Road. Bishop Tim Jacob. Phone 527-2968, Church phone 527-9227. Sacrament Meeting 10 a.m.; Sunday School 11:15 a.m.; Schedule of mtgs; Priesthood, Relief Society, Primary Young Men/ Women 12:10 p.m.

Tabor United Methodist
10:30 a.m., Sunday worship. Pastor Jan Phillips.

Tabor United Church of Christ
403 Elm. Pastor Susan Reed 527-9424. Worship Service 9 a.m.

St. John’s Episcopal Church Glenwood
111 N. Vine St. 527-2971. Sunday morning service of Eucharist is at 10:00 a.m. On the third Sunday of each month we serve Eucharist at Linnwood estates at 10 a.m. We welcome all who seek to know and love God.

Grace United Methodist Church Glenwood
112 N. Walnut. Rev. Kimberly Bowles. Sunday Worship Service: 8:45 a.m., (contemporary), 9 a.m., Christian Education; 10 a.m. fellowship/refreshments; 10:30 a.m., worship, (traditional). Phone 527-4607. www.glenwood-umc.org. Sign language services offered upon request.

Calvary Baptist Church Glenwood
56456 221st St. (north on Locust St.). Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Genesis For information call 527-3951, Pastor Dan Pearson. CBCGlenwood.org.

Journey Road Glenwood
A safe spiritual community for all people in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meets twice monthly on Saturday mornings, 10:30 a.m. Call 402-315-7732 for additional information or visit our website at www.journeyroadsc.org.

First Baptist Church Emerson
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m., Sunday School at 9 a.m. baptistchurch@netins.net.

Silver City Methodist
Pastor Ken Demlow, 525-1179; Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Tabor Church of the Nazarene
Christ has touched us. We are changing. Growing. Rebuilding. Alive. Loving. New! West off of HWY 275 on South Street, on the hill above Tabor Manor. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Brian Jenkerson, 629-3045- text or call. tabornazarene.org

Frontline Church
Not your ordinary church. Sunday service, 10 a.m. at Mills County YMCA in Glenwood. Call (712) 310-6350 or e-mail to dan@frontlineglenwood.com. Website address: www.glenwoodfrontline.com.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
407 Second St., Pastor Susan Reed, phone 527-9424. Sunday schedule: 10:30 a.m., worship; 10 a.m., fellowship.

St. John Lutheran, Mineola
9 miles northeast of Glenwood. Pastor Luke Kuenzli. Church office 526-2268. Sunday School at 9 a.m.; Fellowship 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. stjohnluthchurchmineola.org.

Hastings Community Church Non-denominational
400 Platte Ave. Brother Virgil Paulsen. Church time at 10 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Strahan United Methodist
Five miles south of Hastings on M16. Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School 9 a.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Fellowship 2nd Wed./Mo. 6:30 p.m. 712-624-8320. Everyone welcome. Pastor Joni Hickey.

Emerson United Methodist
801 Bradford Ave., 824-7368. Pastor Denise Stevens. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Worship: 10:30 a.m. e-mail emersonunit.edmethodistchurch@yahoo.com.

Henderson Christian Church
400 Maple St., Henderson. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday Family Night ages four through adult 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 712-825-3496. hendersoncc@netins.net

Malvern United Methodist
201 E. 5th St., 712-624-8320. www.malvernumc.org. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Oct.-May. Jr./Sr. High Youth Fellowship 2nd Wed./mo. 6:30 p.m. Pastor Joni Hickey

Hastings St. John’s Lutheran
56020 340th St. or 340th & Gaston Ave., Hastings, IA 51540. Pastor Christopher Maronde. Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church- LCMS Glenwood
2nd and Locust St., 527-4667. Website: www.tlcglenwood.org. Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday School at 8:45 a.m.

First Baptist Church Malvern
Rev. Shirley Albert. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m. Pat Boydston, Sunday School Superintendent.

Hillsdale Methodist
27066 Kimberling Ave. 525-1057. Pretty Country Church, Pastor Ken Demlow. Worship at 9 a.m., fellowship following. (Handicap accessible).

Full Faith Church Pacific Junction
302 Front St., Where Jesus is Lord! Pastor H.J. Green. 622-8369. Sunday Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 9 a.m. Wednesday night worship 7 p.m.

Wesley Chapel United Methodist
M16 north off HWY. 34 then west on Epperson. Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Fellowship 2nd Wed./mo. 6:30 p.m. 712-624-8320. Pastor Joni Hickey.

RECONNECT: A Christian Community
Reconnect: A Christian Community located at 109 S. Walnut St., Worship services available In person and online. Service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Weekly Sunday school for nursery - high school during service. Various life groups meet in homes throughout the week. Lead Pastor: Darwin Brown. Family Ministry Pastor: Nici Pelley. reconnectchristian.org

Please send Mills County Church Directory changes via e-mail to news@opinion-trbune.com

The RELIGION PAGE & MILLS COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Receives Support From These Local Businesses

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Off: 527-3114

www.jimhughesrealestate.com

Glenwood State Bank

Member of FDIC and Federal Reserve System

32 N. Walnut St. 527-3157

First State Bank

711 Main St., Tabor

712-629-2435

John Pitzer Sales

59364 Hillman Rd.

Glenwood

527-3194



Bridal Guide your local vendors



How to tame wedding-related jitters



Nerves are to be expected when getting married. It is exciting to be engaged and realize you have met that special someone with whom you want to share the rest of your life. But anxiety may creep in as the big day draws closer.

A lot of planning goes into a wedding, and often the pressure that comes with trying to create the perfect day can overshadow feelings of love and excitement. That is when wedding jitters may crop up. Couples must recognize they're not alone if they feel a little uneasy as their wedding day draws closer. However, there are ways you can address and tame jitters both before and during the wedding.

Step away from wedding-related tasks

Chances are you have spent months with the wedding on your brain. In fact, it likely has consumed your daily life. Take a day or two to do something unrelated to the wedding, whether you're alone, with friends or with your future spouse. Attend a fun event, go out to dinner, queue up several movies for a night in, or take a small trip. Keep wedding details out of the picture while you're enjoying yourself.

Forget about being perfect

Wedding jitters often stem from being nervous about everything going to plan. You may put undue pressure on yourself to ensure everything is perfect. But perfection is impossible, and the sooner you accept that a thing or two will likely not work out, the less stressed you may feel. You'll be surrounded by family and friends who will help you roll with the punches, whether that's a torn hemline or a missing buffet item. Guests are here to celebrate you, not pass judgment.

Discuss large changes to come

Some couples feel jittery because they haven't spoken about all of the changes ahead. These can include relocation, merging of finances and whether or not children are in your future, among other things. Stress can be tamed if you take a break from wedding planning and discuss these important topics.

Learn relaxation techniques

Learning to relax is important when dealing with anxiety. There are many different relaxation techniques to explore. Some include meditation, yoga, deep-tissue massage, exercise, or immersing yourself in a peaceful spot outdoors. Some people turn to reading or other hobbies to relax. Do not look to alcohol or medication as an outlet to alleviate stress.

Talk to someone

If anxiety about the wedding is eating you up, consider speaking with a professional therapist or even a close friend or family member. Sometimes a new perspective is all you need to calm the jitters.

Nervousness when planning a wedding is understandable. However, couples can take steps to tame jitters so they enjoy all that goes into tying the knot.

A place to host rehearsal dinners, reception venue etc...

WEDDING RECEPTIONS / DRESS REHEARSALS
CLASS REUNIONS
GRADUATION / BIRTHDAY PARTIES
ANNIVERSARY PARTIES
COMPANY MEETINGS / COMPANY GOLF OUTINGS
CHRISTMAS PARTIES

2038 200th St, Red Oak, IA
712-623-4281
golf@redoakcountryclub.com

Novel gifts for bridesmaids



BRIDES- and grooms-to-be select people who are near and dear to their hearts to be special parts of their momentous days. So the chance to participate in a friend's or family member's wedding is a great honor.

A wedding party plays a key role in both the ceremony and reception. Participants do everything from helping couples make decisions to addressing invitations to providing emotional support. As so much is asked of the wedding party — particularly the maid/matron of honor and bridesmaids — it's customary to bestow gifts on those people who devoted so much time and effort to the wedding. These potential bridesmaid gifts can serve as a thoughtful and unique way to thank bridesmaids for all that they've done.

- Photo books: Gift the bridesmaids with photo books of carefully curated photographs taken throughout the wedding planning experience. Pepper the books with other photos, such as images of you with the bridesmaids at fun moments throughout your lives together.
- Portrait wine or champagne glasses: Beverage glasses customized with the bridesmaids' likenesses painted or printed onto them make for great gifts. Bridesmaids will enjoy sipping their favorite drinks in special glasses for years to come.
- Personalized phone cases: Who doesn't rely on their mobile phones these days? Treat your bridesmaids to something special with colorful phone cases with their names embossed or printed on the outsides.
- Wellness or spa gift card: After all of the running around for the wedding, bridesmaids may need a little extra pam-

pering. Gift cards to a local spa can fit the bill.

- Birthstone jewelry: Necklaces, rings or earrings become that much more special when they're customized to the recipients. Purchase jewelry with your bridesmaids' birthstones so they'll be as unique as each woman.
- Friendship bracelets: Gift each bridesmaid with beaded friendship bracelets that features all of the ladies' initials. Be sure to keep one for yourself, and you all can enjoy nights on the town showcasing your special bracelets.
- Monogrammed robes or purses: A customized pocketbook, robe or another item bridesmaids will use every day can make for an extra-special item that will serve as a daily reminder of how much you appreciate them.

A place for Events & Weddings

Sciola Church

Get Married

In Montgomery County's Oldest Church

Receptions Available in Montgomery County History Center's Lecture Hall

Custom Packages Available

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2700 NORTH 4TH STREET RED OAK, IA
(712) 623-2289
11 AM - 4 PM Tuesday - Sunday • Closed on Monday

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Facilities Accommodate 350-700 Guests

Montgomery County Ag Society
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
1809 N 4th | Red Oak, IA | 712.789.0517

"A Slice of Mayberry"
Malvern, Iowa

Art Church Weddings

Private Venue 75

Additional event space + Airbnb's on 1 block
Art Church/ Art House Iowa /Studio 414 & Empress Garden
480 628 9234 zjpaintings@gmail.com



Bridal Guide

your local vendors

Your wedding timeline guide

Wedding planning involves many movable pieces that ultimately need to come together on the big day. Planning is typically a months-long process, and adhering to certain monthly benchmarks can help couples stay the course.

Brides magazine offers that the perfect engagement period is 12 to 14 months, which affords ample time to get organized and work with vendors. With that in mind, here's a 12-month timeline for couples getting ready to say "I do."

12 months out

At the start of the planning process, establish your budget, hire a wedding planner (optional), choose the wedding party, pick a date, and start to assemble a cursory guest list. This also is a great time to begin touring venues to get a feel for potential ceremony and reception locales.

11 months out

Now is the time to get a firm handle on the theme and scope of the wedding. Start picking wedding colors and overall design. Also, interview and hire vendors, such as photographers, bands and videographers. These vendors tend to book up quickly as wedding season draws near, so it's never too early to book them.

10 months out

This is a good time to start shopping for a wedding gown because it might take some trial and error to find the perfect dress. You also can start shopping for wedding party attire at this time. Check with formalwear vendors to see how long it will take for the gowns to arrive in the shop for alterations. If you haven't already done so, be sure to book the wedding venue.

8 months out

Reception halls may have their own schedules, but you should think about setting your menu at this time, including deciding if you will host a seated dinner, a buffet or something else.

Eight months out also is a good time to finalize the guest list and send save-the-date cards.

This also is a good time to visit stores to create registry gift lists.

6 months out

Meet with potential florists and other vendors, like transportation companies and hotels, to secure these arrangements. Your place of worship also may require certain classes or preparatory meetings, so be sure to inquire about these.

Meet with a makeup and hair stylist and book a trial. Choose attire for groomsmen and give them a deadline for fittings and orders. If you will not be getting married in a place of worship, hire an officiant at this time.

4 months out

Grooms traditionally arrange the honeymoon, so this is a fine time to get those travel plans in order. If you need passports, you should secure them as early as possible, and no later than four months prior to the wedding to ensure processing times. Book cake tastings and order the cake if it is not part of the venue food and beverage package. If you haven't already done so, the bride should have an initial gown fitting, and wedding invitations should be ordered at this time.

2 months out

Secure your wedding license and buy wedding party gifts. Address and mail the wedding invitations. Undergo a second gown fitting and work with the seamstress for the final fitting date just before the wedding. Finalize any song selections with the DJ or band.

The final details will occur in the last weeks before the wedding. Buy all the small accessories and items, undergo final fittings and check in with all vendors for final payments and to ensure they are on schedule. Notify the reception hall of the final guest count.



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