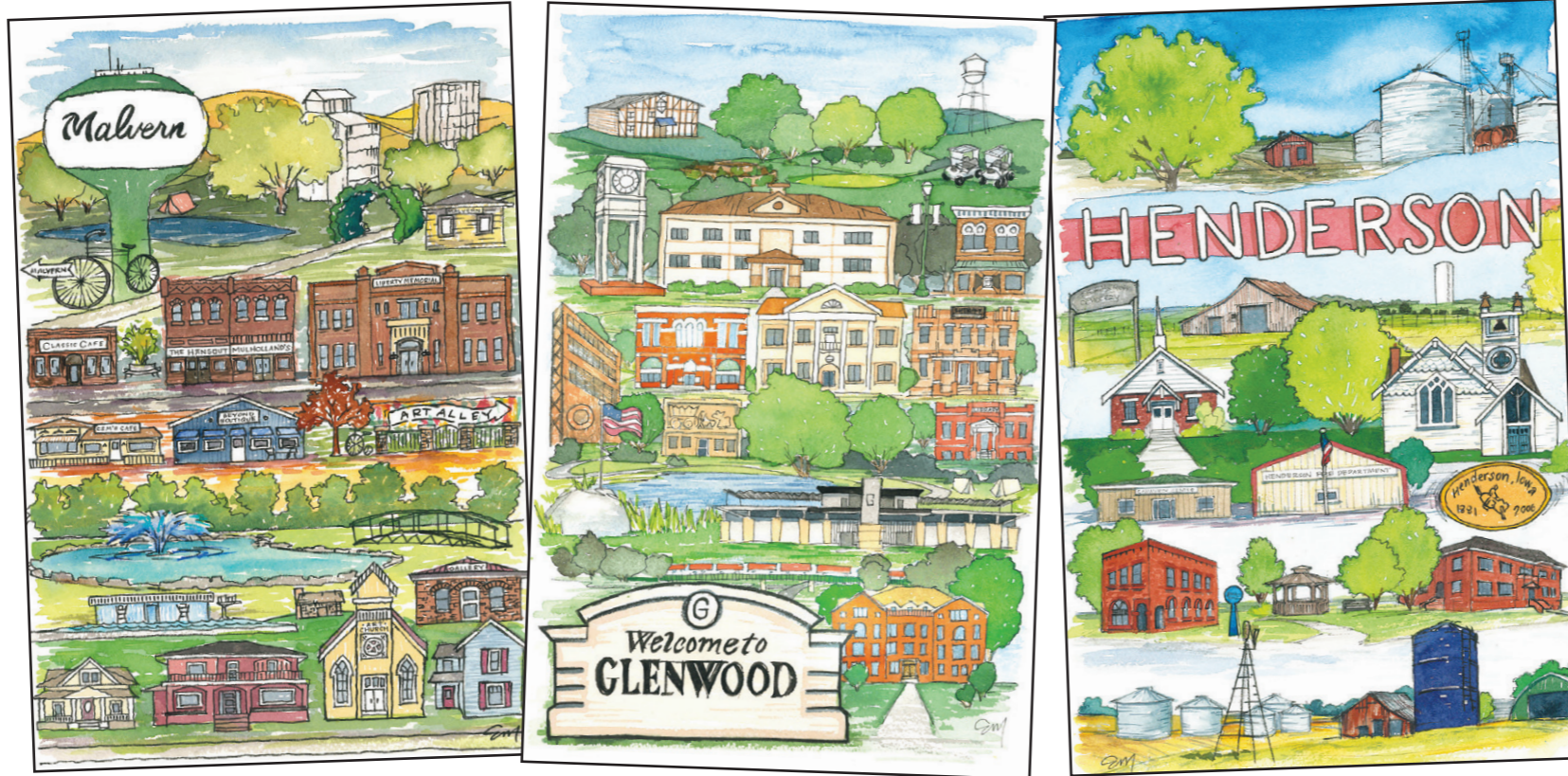


Celebrating Community Through Art



COURTESY / MILLS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Some of the community art paintings created for the Mills County Chamber of Commerce by artist Emily McQueen.

Glenwood artist Emily McQueen's paintings highlight histories of Mills County communities

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

"You can't really have art without having a sense of community as art is for others to enjoy as well."

The quote from screen actor Jaime Zavallos seems fitting for a set of community paintings created recently by Mills County artist Emily McQueen.

McQueen, a Glenwood resident and owner of the Fine Arts On Fifth art gallery and studio in Malvern, has created nine original paintings for the newly-branded Mills County Chamber of Commerce. The paintings depict Mills County's eight individual communities as well as the Loess Hills.

Each painting features several iconic buildings and landmarks within a particular community, such as the clock tower and Davies Amphitheater in Glenwood, the large bicycle and Art Church in Malvern, grain elevator and community building in Hastings, Main Street gazebo and Methodist church in Silver City and the railroad in Pacific Junction. Canvases created from the original paintings are being presented for display in city hall or another prominent place within each community. The chamber is also using the artwork for promotional and fundraising purposes through the sale of prints, postcards, note cards, coffee mugs and other items.

"I had seen neighborhood art in the past and knew we wanted to do something local," Mills County Chamber Of Commerce Executive Director Jennie Davis-Rubek said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Emily McQueen poses with her "Loess Hills" painting, one of nine pieces of artwork she created for the newly-named Mills County Chamber of Commerce.

"I approached Emily and she was receptive to it right away. She seemed to know exactly what I was looking for and completely surpassed our expectations."

McQueen donated her time and work for the project and has been gratified with the positive response to the paintings.

"To have something made that just feels personal – parts of their town they thought

were not on anyone's radar – appearing on a piece of fine art was a little boost to them," the Oregon native said. "That's kind of what I wanted because I came to this area captivated by these small, but also rich communities."

Each painting consumed about 20 hours of McQueen's time – 10 hours of research and 10 spent in front of the easel creating the "line and wash" watercolor painting. She researched each community, drove to the town, took photos of prominent structures and got input from local leaders to determine what she should include on each painting. She learned a lot of Mills County history during the process.

"I really benefited so much from talking to them," McQueen said. "The last one was Hastings and they had an amazing historical past, so there were those little nuggets, I call them little Easter eggs, to hide in there with their history."

McQueen said her favorite painting is the one she created for Pacific Junction, a town that was decimated by historic flooding in 2019.

"I love Pacific Junction because they have such an incredible past as well, but they also have some really beautiful icons, even though their town has been through so much," she said. "Their symbols of their town are so strong and that was fun to pull in – the railroad and just the architecture of Main Street."

Davis-Rubek said the paintings are a symbolic gesture to show the chamber's commitment to all of Mills County. The

COMMUNITY ARTWORK, Page 3A

City seeking citizen input for FY 2024 budget

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

Glenwood citizens are invited to offer their input and discuss what they believe should be the city's financial priorities at a public forum on Tuesday night, Dec. 13, at City Hall. The one-hour forum begins at 6 p.m., prior to the start of the regular city council meeting.

Glenwood City Administrator Amber Farnan said she and the city's elected officials want to hear from citizens as they begin preparing the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2023.

"It's a way to engage the council and public into the budget process," Farnan said. "It's a way for the council to see what the public wants."

Farnan said gathering input from the forum is part of a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) initiative the city is utilizing during the budget preparation process.

"It's a tool for helping set the budget in the next couple of months," Farnan said.

Citizens attending the forum will have an opportunity to identify areas they feel are working well for the city, areas that have room for improvement and what opportunities and threats exist that could impact the city in the future.

Questions the SWOT Analysis could help Glenwood officials identify include:

"What is working well?" "What brings value to Glenwood?" "What is not making a difference?" "What hinders our city?" "What needs to be improved or changed?" "What do citizens dislike?" "What economic trends could cause issues?" "What are our financial threats?"

Citizens who would like to offer input to the city but will be unable to attend Tuesday's forum are encouraged to e-mail their comments and suggestions to the city at amber.farnan@cityofglenwood.org.

Justice Dept. offers settlement agreement for resource center

The U.S. Department of Justice announced Thursday that it has filed a complaint and a proposed consent decree with the State of Iowa to resolve allegations that conditions at Glenwood Resource Center, a state-managed facility for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, violated the U.S. Constitution.

Specifically, the proposed consent decree, which must still be approved by the court, would resolve the department's claims that the state exposes Glenwood residents to unreasonable harm and serious risk of harm by subjecting them to uncontrolled and unsupervised experimentation, inadequate physical and behavioral health care and inadequate protection from harm, including deficient safety and oversight mechanisms.

"People with disabilities should not be subjected to the kind of unconstitutional conditions and ill treatment that too many have experienced at Glenwood," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "This agreement makes clear that the basic constitutional rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in state-run facilities must be protected. Our agreement will ensure adequate oversight of and accountability at Glenwood, and requires extensive public reporting to promote transparency and rebuild public trust."

DOJ SETTLEMENT, Page 3A

City, engineering firm addressing aquatic center issues

By JOE FOREMAN
EDITOR

Glenwood officials are hopeful that progress is being made in identifying issues and making repairs required to have the Glenwood Aquatic Center open for the 2023 summer swimming season. The facility did not open in 2022 because of multiple water-loss problems.

Last August, city officials did an onsite inspection of the aquatic center with representatives of JEO Consulting, the engineering firm that designed and developed the nearly \$5 million facility, which opened in July 2016.

According to a letter from JEO shared with members of the Glenwood City Council, "the purpose of the observation was to review city staff repairs and comment on the existing conditions of the aquatic center."

"During our observation and discussion, there were multiple areas of the facility reviewed, including the pool, filter system, concrete slabs adjacent to filters and the grass area east of the existing pool," the letter stated. "JEO is willing to coordinate the work with the original contractor to provide labor and materials to repair the diving area deck panel, pool joint waterproofing (as described in the report) and filter tee (and required piping adjacent to the tee)."

"Furthermore, the sink hole adjacent to the school requires further investigation by the



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Swimming pool repair workers inspect an area where water had been leaking through a crack in a "Tee" along the water supply line at the Glenwood Aquatic Center last spring.

city to determine impacts on the facility and solutions if necessary."

Ericksen Construction was the general contractor when the facility was built and would be involved in repair work, according

to the letter.

Before moving ahead, the city is also consulting with its legal counsel and gathering input from its own engineering firm, Eagle Engineering.

DEATH NOTICES

Phyllis Aistrope, 83

Obituaries Published On Page 2A

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OBITUARIES

Phyllis Aistrope, 83

Aug. 5, 1939 - Dec. 1, 2022

Phyllis Lorene Aistrope, 83, formerly of Ottumwa, died at 6:20 a.m. Dec. 1, 2022 at Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha. The family will be present to greet friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 at Reece Funeral Home in Ottumwa. Memorial services will be 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at Reece Funeral Home with her nephew, Pastor Brian Young, officiating. The service will be livestreamed on the Reece Funeral Home Facebook page.



Phyllis was born Aug. 5, 1939 in Atlantic, to Pauline Lane. Phyllis married Gordon E. Aistrope on March 11, 1960.

Phyllis was a 1957 graduate of Glenwood High School in Glenwood. She enjoyed gardening, puzzles, cooking and needlework. She loved spending time with family, especially her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her beloved dog, Bucky.

Surviving is her husband, Gordon of Cedar Rapids; their children, Kelly (Rick) Trier of Marion, Susan (DeWayne) Boyd of Ottumwa and Curtis Aistrope of Des Moines; 3 grandchildren, Sarah Aistrope, Nicholas (Kelsey) Trier and Tyler (Taylor) Trier; 4 great-grandchildren; her siblings, David (Margo) Young of Glenwood, Jolene (Glen) Lawrey of Riverton, WY., Rodger Young and Thomas Lane both of Council Bluffs.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her twin brother, Floyd Lane.

Her body has been cremated.

Memorials may be made to Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha or Alzheimer's Association.

Cookie Walk planned in Silver City Dec. 17

The Silver City Historical Society is having its annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 - 11:30 a.m., at the Silver City American Legion Building on Main Street.

Cookies will be packaged in plates of 1 dozen and 2 dozen. Cost is \$4 per dozen.

The event will include a raffle for a quilt and other items. Refreshments, including coffee and tea, will be available.

Marketplace enrollment deadline is nearing

Health insurance companies and brokers are reminding consumers that in most states, the open enrollment deadline for purchasing Affordable Care Act-compliant health insurance is Dec. 15 if they need their coverage to be in effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

Open enrollment for Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans, also called Obamacare, ends in most states Jan. 15, 2023. However, insurance providers recommend that consumers enroll by Dec. 15.

DISTRICT COURT

Judge

Jeffrey L. Larson

Jessie Amanda Harman, Glenwood - driving while license is denied or revoked, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve seven days in county jail, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Judge Greg Steensland

Corey Wentz, Council Bluffs - fourth-degree theft, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$430 fine, court costs and fees; forgery, pleaded guilty, sentence suspended to two years probation, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Mykla Christine Montgomery, Glenwood - third-degree theft, pleaded guilty, deferred judgment, one year probation, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Jeffrey Allen Neppel, Plattsmouth, Neb. - public intoxication, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees; assault, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two days in county jail with credit for time previously served, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Liam Kriehauser, Glenwood - contempt of court for violation of terms of probation on original charge of possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve two days in county jail, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Cody Ray Cloyd, Omaha - 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

Elizabeth Rene Lynnette Evans, Council Bluffs - possession of drug paraphernalia, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees.

Kevin James Woolf, Council Bluffs - third-degree harassment, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees.

Clint Thomas Curtis, Des Moines - obstruction of emergency communications, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees; domestic abuse causing injury / mental illness, pleaded guilty, deferred judgment, one year probation, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

John Thomas Lawrence Cannon, Papillion, Neb. - disorderly conduct, loud raucous noise, pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$105 fine, court costs and fees.

Judge

Kathleen Kilnoski

Hilary M. Goetzinger, Glenwood - child endangerment, pleaded guilty, deferred judgment, one year probation, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Ricky C. Crawford, Hastings - domestic abuse assault with intent to inflict serious injury, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve 10 days in county jail, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Joan Sebastian Baron Espinosa, Hialeah, Fla. - possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), pleaded guilty, deferred judgment, six months probation, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Gabriel Patrick Amburn, Glenwood - possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), pleaded guilty, ordered to pay \$100 fine, court costs and fees.

Eric David Mersnick, Pacific Junction - O.W.I., pleaded guilty, sentence suspended to two days in county jail, nine months probation, ordered to pay \$1,250 fine (one-half waived with proof of driver's license), ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Malvern woman dies in one-vehicle accident

A 24-year-old Mills County woman died in a single-vehicle accident Monday.

According to a Mills County Sheriff's Office report, shortly after 12 p.m., deputies were dispatched to a single-vehicle crash near the intersection of Mulloney Ave. and 330th St. Upon arrival, deputies found a silver Toyota Rav4 had left the roadway and struck a tree in the north ditch.

An investigation of the scene concluded the vehicle

had partially gone off the roadway while traversing the curve. The driver tried to correct the vehicle back onto the roadway and in doing so, lost control of the vehicle, causing the collision with a tree. The driver and sole occupant, Brooke Samms of Malvern, died at the scene.

The Mills County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by Malvern Fire and Rescue, Hastings Fire, Silver City Fire and Rescue, Oak Township Fire and Rescue and Glenwood Rescue.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Incidents

Dec. 4 - Brandalynn Campbell of Malvern reported a criminal mischief.

Accidents

Nov. 28 - A vehicle driven by Cassandra Gilbert of Sidney struck a deer on eastbound Highway 34. No injuries were reported.

Dec. 2 - A vehicle driven by Joseph Bredberg of

Council Bluffs failed to yield while attempting to make a left turn off 315th Street at the intersection of Highway 34 and was broadsided by a second vehicle driven by Melissa Pedersen of Council Bluffs. Both drivers and an unnamed passenger were transported to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

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Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.
Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. It is more common and easier to get than you might think.
Syphilis is curable but can cause serious health problems without treatment. Talk to your doctor about whether you're at risk.
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Mills Masquers Presents...
Friday, Dec. 9 @ 7:30p
Saturday, Dec. 10 @ 7:30p
Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 2:00p
Thursday, Dec. 15 @ 7:30p
Friday, Dec. 16 @ 7:30p
Saturday, Dec. 17 @ 7:30p
elf JR
The Musical
BOOK BY Thomas Meehan AND Bob Martin
MUSIC BY Matthew Sklar
LYRICS BY Chad Beguelin
BASED ON THE NEW LINE CINEMA FILM WRITTEN BY David Berenbaum
Barton-Rowe Theater - 56543 221st St, Glenwood, IA
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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - A HOLIDAY TRADITION



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

The Reach/SADD chapter at Glenwood Community High School, the Mills County YMCA and Glenwood Fire Department hosted the 21st annual Breakfast With Santa Saturday morning in Glenwood. The event included breakfast, children's activities and photos with Santa Claus. Above: Glenwood firefighters Aaron Ling and James Clark monitor the pancake grill; children create holiday artwork and the Allely children - Sawyer, Rowan and Koda - pose for a photo with Santa. More photos from Breakfast With Santa will be published later this month in *The Opinion-Tribune*.

COMMUNITY ARTWORK

From Page 1A

name change from Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce to Mills County Chamber of Commerce was announced at the organization's annual community betterment awards dinner earlier this fall, the same night McQueen's paintings were unveiled.

"We wanted to take it a step further and not just change the name but to show we really wanted to unify the whole county together," said Davis-Rubek. "It meant so much that Emily also cared about the project and donated her time, energy and efforts. She's insanely talented."

McQueen said she was honored to be part of a project that will not only benefit the chamber but promote

community pride and local history through art.

"Art should be exciting because it feels like art is overlooked and not important, but then you realize it connects people and I think that's important," she said.

How To Order

Community Artwork

The Mills County Chamber of Commerce's community artwork created by Emily McQueen is becoming available for purchase at several retail outlets throughout Mills County but can be ordered directly online at millscountyart.square.site or via the Mills County Community Art Work link on the homepage of the chamber's website.

DOJ SETTLEMENT

From Page 1A

"For those who are leaving Glenwood, our agreement requires the state to help them transition to services that will meet their needs in the most integrated setting and support them in engaging with the broader community."

The proposed consent decree prohibits uncontrolled and unsupervised experiments; requires better staffing, training and oversight for clinical care; dramatically limits the use of restraints and seclusion; and requires substantial state oversight over all aspects of Glenwood's operation. The State must also implement policies and procedures to address the underlying deficiencies that led to the alleged constitutional violations. In addition, the decree requires greater transparency, through public reporting and engagement with stakeholders. The proposed consent decree appoints an independent monitor who will assess the state's compliance with the decree's terms.

Further, if more than one-third of current Glenwood residents move to, and are living at, Woodward Resource Center (the other state-run institution for individuals with IDD) at any point during the decree term, then the consent decree will apply to Woodward as well. The State of Iowa announced in April 2022 that it plans to close Glenwood in approximately two years, and the proposed consent decree requires the state to ensure that Glenwood residents move to the most integrated setting consistent with their informed choice, needs and preferences, with the appropriate services and supports in place.

The Civil Rights Division

and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa initiated the investigation in November 2019 under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, which authorizes the department to act to correct a pattern or practice of deprivation of federal rights of individuals who reside in institutions, such as Glenwood Resource Center. In December 2020, the department provided the state written notice of the alleged unlawful conditions and remedial measures necessary to address them. Specifically, the department concluded that there is reasonable cause to believe that the state of Iowa violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution by harming Glenwood residents and placing them at serious risk of harm.

The proposed consent decree does not resolve the department's notice issued in December 2021 regarding unnecessary institutionalization of people with IDD at Glenwood and Woodward Resource Centers, in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Negotiations to resolve the December 2021 notice are ongoing.

Mills Masquers' holiday production of 'Elf Jr., The Musical' opening Friday

The Mills Masquers' final installment of the 2022 season hits the stage Friday with a six-night run of the Christmas favorite, "Elf Jr., The Musical."

The Jr. designation means that none of the actors can be over the age of 18. Some 35 students from the age of six to 17 make up the cast of this show featuring five different schools in southwest Iowa.

Elf Jr. is the story of Buddy, who by a switch at birth, grows up at the North Pole with Santa and the rest of the elves. It is only by the slip of a tongue that Buddy discovers that he is not really an elf, so he sets off for New York City to discover his real family.

Buddy is played by Cameron Wells, a sophomore at East Mills High School, who is making his Mills Masquers debut. Cameron perfectly plays Buddy's hilarious attempts to fit into the human world.

While in New York, Buddy not only meets his real family, but also falls in love with a human named Jovie, played by Nicole Vanatta. Nicole was in last Christmas' production of "Yes Santa, There is a Virginia." We get to hear her sing this time around, including the catchy tune, Never Fall In Love With An Elf.

Buddy's family includes Walter Hobbs, played by Isaac Roach, Emily Hobbs, played by Olivia Lane, and his little brother, Michael, played by Ryan Albright. Cooper Cyr is the perfect foil to Buddy



COURTESY PHOTO

Before leaving the North Pole Buddy says goodbye to his fellow elves and Santa. Front row (from left): Ellie Mintle, Liam Harrill, Kadence Sherry, Cooper Cyr, Cameron Wells, Emma Palma, Lyddie Ploeger, Khloe Sherry and Metaleen Holman. Back row: Grace Whigham, Callie Durfey, Madden Durbin, Lilly Waller, Quinn Cosgrove and Avery Ridge.

as the diminutive Santa Claus and Wyatt Borchert is Mr. Greenway, Walter's boss in search of the perfect Christmas story.

Other office workers and Macy's employees include Rylee Irvin, Peyton McCann, Brylee Durbin, Aviana Kovamees, Lilly Fritz, Jocelyn Vanatta, Jesse Gaunt, Abigail Roach, and Cheyenne Vanatta.

Ethan Roach is the Macy's manager, Norah Cosgrove is TV reporter Charlotte Dennon and police officers are CJ Horton and Aaron Abler.

No Christmas story from the North Pole would be complete without a cast of elves and we've got a bunch

of them, including Grace Whigham, Libby Waller, Avery Ridge, Metaleen Holman, Madden Durbin, Callie Duffey, Liam Harrill, Quinn Cosgrove, Khloe Sherry, Kadence Sherry, Emma Palma, Ellie Mintle and Lydia Ploeger.

The show is directed by Jeff Mitts and Jeannie Lorimor with musical direction by Susan Steinke. Kerri Drake is the costumer. Students are also part of the crew including stage manager Abby Lincoln and Will Cook in the light booth.

Elf Jr., The Musical is produced in with MTI Broadway Junior Collection, based on the

book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin and the film by David Berenbaum. Music is by Matthew Solar and lyrics by Chad Beguelin.

Show dates include the opening weekend of Friday Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m., which is the only matinee of the run. The second weekend includes at 7:30 p.m. shows on Thursday, Dec. 15, Friday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17.

With a large cast, tickets will go fast.

Show goes can purchase tickets by going to the Mills Masquers website at www.millsmasquers.com.

We are hiring for a Local Foods Associate!
Organizing and project management experience is a plus, bilingual Spanish and English is also a plus. If you are interested in making a difference in local food access, farm to school programs, rural grocery, and assisting local farmers and ranchers in eastern Nebraska or southwest Iowa --- we want to hear from you! We are a very stable non-profit who has been working for rural America for nearly 50 years! For more information and to apply, please visit www.cfra.org/careers

CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS
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<p>Burr Oaks Place Pre-Leasing 3 Bed 2 Bath 1,535 SQFT 2 Bed 1 Bath 1,176 SQFT Email: burrOakplace@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: burrOakplace@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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Trying to keep peace on Earth and at home

Ah, it's the holiday season; a joyous time for families to come together, create new traditions, and fight about the old ones. It's not that they're disagreeable people — well

ROSBY'S WORLD

Dorothy Rosby
Guest Columnist



some of them are disagreeable people—it's just that couples bring to their marriages the traditions of the families they grew up in. And they desperately want to pass their customs on to their children. Not only that, they feel that their partner's traditions are—how can I say this diplomatically—silly and stupid and therefore not worth keeping alive.

NOTE: The world's religions are outside the scope of my expertise, as most things are, so for the purposes of this essay, I will focus on those couples who agree to celebrate Christmas. But that may be all they agree on.

Let's start with the most basic question: When to decorate? One partner believes that if the Christmas decorations are up more than two weeks out, the true meaning of the holiday season will be forgotten and boredom will set in. They also hope that if they wait long enough, they'll get out of decorating altogether.

The other partner thinks that if they're going to go to all the trouble, they ought to enjoy the decorations for as long as possible. Not to mention, it's easier to decorate the outside of the house while it's 72 degrees. Why not put the decorations up on an unseasonably cool day in July?

The family must also decide between a real and an artificial tree. One partner takes the emotional angle that artificial trees don't smell as nice or look as, well, real. The other side is more logical. "Yes, but artificial trees don't drop needles; they're never flat on one side; and we won't have to ax a lovely, living tree to death every year." Okay; maybe that's a little emotional too.

If the family decides on a real tree, they must choose between buying one and cutting one. "Remember how much fun we had last year, tromping through the forest and cutting down our tree?"

"Yes! And remember getting stuck in the snow and losing the chainsaw?"

Wherever they get their tree, some members of the family like pine, some like fir, and at least one is still grumbling that an artificial tree would be easier. Finally, in the spirit of the season, there are compromises made and putting all the way home.

Then there's the subject of gifts. One parent panics if the gifts aren't bought and wrapped by August 1. The other holds out hope that Santa will show up, rendering shopping unnecessary. When this doesn't happen, and it seldom does, this partner believes there is nothing wrong with shopping on December 24—except that his/her spouse grew up opening gifts on Christmas Eve.

"That makes no sense. Everyone knows Santa only works one night a year."

"If Santa did his job we wouldn't be discussing this. Maybe it's time we tell the kids the truth."

"Not yet! Remember how upset they were when they caught me filling the Easter baskets?"

"You weren't filling them! You were eating out of them. Anyway, thinking about Santa keeps them awake."

"That's good! They'll be alert for midnight services."

"MIDNIGHT! They might be alert, but I don't intend to be."

The question of staying home or traveling to share the holiday with relatives can also be divisive, and more so with certain relatives. If the family stays home, there's the subject of what to prepare for holiday meals. Ham or prime rib? Turkey or tofu?

If they're traveling, they don't have to decide, but they do have to eat, or pretend to. And there are good reasons some holiday foods are eaten only once a year. It can take a full year to summon the courage to eat lutefisk, fruitcake or oyster stew again. Personally, I could eat oyster stew on any holiday, including the Fourth of July. But I don't think my family would agree to that tradition.



How to Contact Your Federal Elected Officials

Representative Cindy Axne (D)

330 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515, Washington, D.C., 20510
Telephone 202) 225-5476

Senator Charles Grassley (R) - 135 Hart Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510
Telephone (202) 224-3744

E-mail - chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov

Senator Joni Ernst (R) - 111 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510
Telephone (202) 224-3254

JOHLLA 12/22



PEARL ARBOR

Why is fruitcake so unappreciated?

Earlier this year, my Aunt Lillian reminded me of a column I wrote in 2003 about fruitcake.

Nearly two decades have past since I inked that column, but amazingly fruitcake's status as one of America's most-maligned and unappreciated gifts of the holiday season hasn't changed.

I really don't understand why people are so hard on fruitcake. Not only is it one of the most nutritious gifts one can receive during the holiday season, but it's also very practical. As I pointed out 19 years ago, fruitcake has almost as many uses as a roll of duct tape.

One of the great misconceptions about fruitcake is that the only thing you can do with it is eat it. That's not true.

If you're on the receiving end of a fruitcake this Christmas season, consider one of these uses for it:

- * If you have a vehicle that doesn't have front-wheel or all-wheel drive, put the fruitcake in your trunk. The weight of the fruitcake will help prevent your vehicle from sliding on icy road condi-

CUP OF JOE

Joe Foreman
Editor



tions this winter.

- * Speaking of winter, the cost of natural gas is projected to be high this year so if you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, use the fruitcake as a log to heat your home.

- * Obviously, a fruitcake makes for a colorful paperweight or door stop.

- * If you have a boat, save the fruitcake to use as an anchor next summer.

- * If you have a pet, fruitcakes make an excellent dog chew, cat stand or scratching post.

- * Have a wobbly table in your home, place the fruitcake under the leg to balance the table.

- * Going to hit the gym this winter? Fruitcakes make great free weights and dumbbells.

- * If you're a vertically-challenged person who has difficulty seeing over the steering wheel when

driving, try using a few fruitcakes as a cushion to sit on. Fruitcakes are softer than sitting on old telephone books and easier on your back.

- * If you're a weekend mechanic, the fruitcake makes a great block to place under your car when you're changing the oil or rotating tires.

- * Do you have speeders in your neighborhood? Place the fruitcake in the middle of the road - it makes a great speed bump.

- * I know there are many people who still enjoy some of the brick streets we have in Glenwood. If you see a pothole on Hazel Street or Chestnut Street, you can help patch that hole with your fruitcake.

- * There are many steep hills and driveways in our community. A fruitcake makes a great wheelstop.

- * If you and the guys get

together for an occasional poker night, slice up your fruitcake and turn it into playing chips.

- * If you're an outdoorsman, you can slice up your fruitcake and put it to good use as targets at the trap or skeet range.

- * Keep your fruitcake under your pillow - it make's a great self-defense weapon.

- * If you're a Halloween person, save your fruitcake and carve it up into a jack-o'-lantern next fall.

- * Are you thinking about changing the look of your yard, patio or flower garden next spring? Fruitcakes make excellent landscaping blocks and pavers.

- * I've been told you can use fruitcake to scrub those tough-to-clean pots and pans in the kitchen.

- * Finally, as a last resort, know that you can always re-gift your fruitcake on Valentine's Day or even next Christmas.

By the way, if you have any thoughts whatsoever about actually eating the fruitcake you get this holiday season, remember it takes one to eat one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public dollars for public schools

Throughout Iowa's history, public education has been a hallmark of who we are as a people. It was Iowa who first decided to educate children regardless of race in the case of Susan Clark of Muscatine, Iowa in 1868, nearly a hundred years before Brown V Board of Education. Furthermore, Iowa's Test of Basic Skills serves as another example of how Iowa led the nation in education.

However, the current leadership held the legislature hostage this past spring in order to push through the "school choice" initiative. This piece of legislation, if it passes, would divert our public tax dollars into private schools through a "voucher" system.

Public schools serve to educate all of the children of a community. How Iowa Nice to ensure all of our children have access to a quality education!

Private schools, in contrast, can refuse entry based on any number of protected criteria such as race, gender, religious affiliation, disabilities, including learning disabilities, and even family wealth or back-

ground. Furthermore, private schools are not held to a standard of non-discrimination, as they can use "we just don't think you'd be a good fit with our culture here" as their reason for denying entry.

Beyond that, there are no private schools in Mills or Fremont counties. As dollars are diverted from our community schools into private schools, the already poorly funded schools are at greater risks of lost programs, consolidation, and potentially even closing. And, as we've seen, when schools close, families often move away from that community to live nearer to their children's school, leaving communities further vulnerable to disintegration.

If we care about Iowa's public schools and communities, it's important that we let our state legislators know that we want our public dollars to stay in public schools.

Respectfully,
Candella Foley-Finchem,
Glenwood

P.O. BOX 191, GLENWOOD, IOWA, 51534
(116 S. WALNUT STREET)

The Opinion-Tribune

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Providing News and Advertising To Glenwood and Mills County, Iowa, For 158 Years

The Opinion-Tribune is dedicated to serving the best interests of the residents of Mills County. The Opinion-Tribune is a member of the Iowa Newspaper Association and the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce. 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.

O CHRISTMAS TREES

Malvern kicks off holiday season with annual Festival Of Trees celebration



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE
One of Mills County's longest-running holiday events - the Festival Of Trees - took place Saturday in Malvern at the Liberty Memorial Building. The event included more than 20 themed and decorated trees on display, a holiday craft fair and the opportunity for visits and photos with Santa Claus.



Seek God's power for communication

As I've prayed for spiritual awareness over the years, the Lord has been patient with my lack of understanding and has graciously allowed me to labor in the area of communication.

When having a conversation with someone, listening intently helps to discern what is on their mind, but most importantly it's even more important to listen to God in order to know how He wants us to respond. For the Christian, there is no higher responsibility than to monitor and examine every thought and word before we release it.

It's common for most people to express whatever they feel like saying. To the individual it's the right of their independence, for the rest of us it's known as not having a speech filter. The unrenewed mind when left to do and say whatever it wants is often referred to as foolish according to the book of Proverbs. For example, the attempt to bring instruction to those who do not think before they speak is the basis of Proverbs 26:4, "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like them." Wasting time trying to explain only makes them more confident. If we choose to argue with someone who is not thinking clearly, we stoop to a lower level and make things worse. Since unlearned people despise wisdom, they enjoy drawing others into a conflict where they use deceit, become angry, and scoff at opposing ideas.

Seldom do we meditate about what we are going to say but we are reminded in James 1:19-20, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Dr. Billy Holland

Religion Columnist



slow to become angry, for wrath rarely produces the righteousness of God." The world is filled with differing opinions about everything and it does not take a lot of effort for a heated argument to arise. Being disciplined is difficult because we feel that we should stand up for what we believe. This can be true on the right occasions, however, the most important thing is to obey God. We should speak when He anoints us to give an answer, and if He says to be silent we should recognize this particular situation is not a divine appointment.

Matthew 12:36-37 goes even further by warning us that our speech is being recorded and will be used in our judgment. "But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words, you will be condemned." It's wise to be cautious when it comes to joining in certain conversations and to not be so eager to expose our worldviews. If a controversial topic comes to the surface, we may bite on it or we can wait and sense the attitudes and spiritual atmosphere. I've heard people say, "it's no one's business what I believe" and "I never talk about religion or politics." evidently these individuals are convinced it's

more comfortable to avoid serious discussions than be a part of them. On the other hand, I often encounter those who courageously (or arrogantly) charge out of the gate with both barrels blazing. Whatever the case, it's good to have our spiritual antennas up and be ready to discern what is really going on and how or if God is planning to use us.

So, aside from our deeds having an impact on our integrity and respect, it seems our speech actually identifies the type of person we are. Matthew 7:17-20 uses symbolism to describe every person as a tree and what we do and say is the fruit we bear, "Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit, you will recognize them."

It's true we all make mistakes and constantly need to repent for our failures each hour, yet as believers in God, we must strive to seek His power to improve our communication with one another. Whether it be with our spouse, our children, or at work, is our communication holy, healthy and wholesome? Are we representing Christ in our conversations?

BULLETIN BOARD

Glenwood Middle School, GCHS holiday concerts planned for Dec. 8, 12 in high school auditorium

Holiday concerts will be performed by Glenwood Middle School and Glenwood Community High School music students over the next week in the Glenwood Community High School performing arts auditorium.

The middle school's 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands will present a concert on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

The Glenwood Community High School Vocal and Band Holiday Concert is planned for Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.



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

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

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.

Taber United Methodist

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

Taber 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.journeyroads.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 United Methodist

400 Platte Ave. Sunday Worship services 10 a.m. with Pastor Denise Stevens. CLM and Sunday School at 11 a.m. Wednesdays: After-school Group (K-6th) at 4-5:30 p.m. and Confirmation Class 7-8 p.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 10:30 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. Pastor Seth Kaiser. Website: www.tlglenwood.org. Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday School at 8:45 a.m. Saturday night worship at 5:30 p.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-tribune.com

The RELIGION PAGE & MILLS COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Receives Support From These Local Businesses

Jim Hughes Real Estate

Homes • Acreages • Farms
410 S. Locust, Glenwood
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 Hilman Rd.
Glenwood
527-3194

Cable Companies THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 8, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like Sheldon, KMTV, and movies.

Cable Companies FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 9, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like S.W.A.T., WWE Friday Night SmackDown, and movies.

Cable Companies SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 10, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like Rudyolph, the Reindeer, and movies.

Cable Companies SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 11, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like National Christmas Tree, and movies.

Cable Companies MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 12, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like Neighbor, and movies.

Cable Companies TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 13, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like FBI: Fortunate Son, and movies.

Cable Companies WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 14, 2022. Table with columns for cable companies (A-D) and time slots (7:00-10:30). Lists various programs like Survivor, and movies.

Kenkel Family Chiropractic advertisement. Includes a photo of a man, the company logo, address (407 Sharp St. Glenwood), phone number (712-527-5800), and a list of services like 'CHIROPRACTIC CARE FOR ALL AGES!' and 'Online scheduling now available at www.kenkelchiro.com'.

SANTA, MRS. CLAUS HELP KICK OFF HOLIDAY SEASON



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

The weather outside was frightful for the inaugural Glenwood Holiday Festival Friday night but that didn't stop Santa and Mrs. Claus from making a stop on Town Square to help kick off the Christmas season. Despite frigid temps and gusty winds, Santa and Mrs. Claus took time to pose for photos in front of a 19th Century holiday sleigh. The event included a tree-lighting ceremony and a holiday decorating contest for Glenwood businesses that were open extended hours Friday. Isaac Hall is shown posing for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus (above). Santa gets a hug (below).

CHURCH GARAGE SALE BENEFITS LOVE TREE



Jan Bradley (right) conducted a church-wide garage sale at Vine Street Bible Church last month as a fundraiser for the Mills County Love Tree. The sale generated over \$1,000 for the project and was recently presented to Love Tree coordinator Vicky Bird. Bradley said the garage sale fundraiser was held as a replacement for the Care and Share Dinner the church had hosted previously.



COURTESY PHOTOS



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METHODIST
JENNIE EDMUNDSON

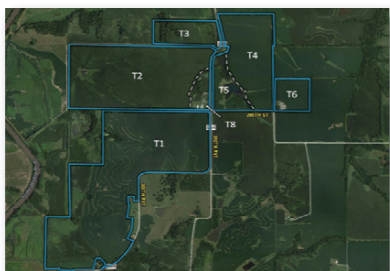
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PC ABSOLUTE FARMLAND AUCTION

1278 ACRES M/L IN FREMONT COUNTY, IA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2022 AT 10:00 AM
Elks Lodge | 701 S Fremont St | Shenandoah, IA 51601

The Estate of Jess and Evelyn Ware | Offered in Eight Tracts

Mark your Calendars for December 15th, at 10 am at the Elks Lodge, Shenandoah. Peoples Company will hold an Absolute Fremont County land auction of 1278 acres M/L to be sold in 8 tracts, with exact acres subject to final survey. 7 tracts consist of high-quality tillable farmland with CSR2 ratings ranging from the mid-'70s to low 80's. Tract 8 will be a 25-acre parcel with a ranch home and large outbuildings. The open house on tract 8 will be December 2nd, 2022 from 2-4 pm. All land for sale is situated just a few short miles northeast of Hamburg, IA with tract 7 lying 3 miles east of Riverton on J-46.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THIS LISTING ONLINE.



Mike Nelson | 641.223.2300 | MikeNelson@PeoplesCompany.com

Daran Becker | 515.979.3498 | Daran@PeoplesCompany.com



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