



VOLUME 158, ISSUE 4 « WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

Wind farm proposal on agenda for Feb. 1 P&Z meeting

> By Joe Foreman Editor

Mid-American Energy officials are expected to give a presentation for a wind farm under consideration in Mills and Pottawattamie counties at the Mills County Planning and Zoning Board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The meeting begins at 6 p,m, in the Mills County Annex building at 403 Railroad Ave. in Glenwood.

Earlier this month, Mid-American hosted an informational meeting in Treynor for property owners in north central Mills and south central Pottawattamie counties who could be impacted if the Silver Creek Wind Farm project comes to fruition.

Mid-American Media Relations Manager Geoff Greenwood said the proposed project is still in the preliminary stages and "nothing has been finalized."

Newspaper will have a new look with change in printers



JOE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Excavation work Friday afternoon at the former site of Glenwood's outdoor swimming pool on the 300 block of North Elm Street. An apartment complex has been proposed for the site.

Construction activity revs up at former city swimming pool site

Property where apartments are planned was sold in November

By JOE FOREMAN EDITOR

Site clearing and excavation work for a proposed apartment complex at the former Glenwood Swimming Pool site on the 300 block of North Elm Street is well under way, but the property is now under new ownership.

Cory Leick, who purchased the 2.1-acre parcel from the city in 2012, confirmed on Monday that he has sold the property to Burr Oak, LLC, a Council Bluffs-based company managed by Travis Overhue. Documents filed at the Mills County Courthouse indicate the property sale took place on Nov. 30.

In March 2020, the Glenwood City Council rezoned the property from R-3 (Urban Family Residential) to R-4 (Multifamily Resedential) after Leick presented his plans to build a 32-unit apartment complex on the site. During his presentation, Leick said the apartments would address a need for affordable rental housing cited in a 2017 comprehensive plan prepared for Mills County and also provide potential housing for displaced victims of the 2019 Missouri River flood. The city council rezoned the property despite hearing opposition from several neighborhood residents who voiced concerns about the impact the apartments would have on the character of the neighborhood and property values.



OE FOREMAN / THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

STAFF REPORT THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

Starting next week, The Opinion-Tribune will have a new look as it moves printing operations to its sister newspaper in Harlan.

The move means the newspaper will go from being 22 inches wide to 25 inches, allowing for larger photos and a more readable font. Color registration, which has long plagued the newspaper, will also improve.

The Opinion-Tribune General Manager Tess Nelson said the decision was necessary in order to continue operations and put out a quality product. Changes go into effect with the Wednesday, Feb. 2, issue of the newspaper.

Advertising pricing will remain the same and advertising deadlines will not change, but ad sizes will increase, giving more value to current and future advertisers.

"We take pride in what we do here. The decisions to improve the content and packaging of our newspapers are ones I feel will allow us to continue delivering the news you trust and rely on for the next 158 years," said Nelson. Leick said Overhue's company is a better equipped to carry out the project.

"It's a big project and it's a better fit

Apartments are planned for the former Glenwood Swimming Pool property.

for them than me," Leick said.

A telephone message left for Overhue had not been returned as of press time Tuesday morning. Activity at the site has picked up dramatically in recent weeks. Several large trees were removed from the property in December and a steady flow of "Sidedumpr" trailer trucks have been hauling dirt from the site in recent days.

Glenwood City Administrator Amber Farnan said the ownership change isn't expected to change the scope of the project.

"Yes, it's still going to be apartments,"

she said. "They had to change the plan due to some sewer capacity issues, I believe, and then the Green Street (requirements) had made them change some of their plans, too, because you have to have so much rain water collection, I believe, for the grant."

The grant Farnan referenced is through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that provides funds on a formula basis for the development of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons.

Grassley pushes for Mo. River flood mitigation

STAFF REPORT THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, Rep. Sam Graves of Missouri and nearly a dozen of their colleagues have sent a letter to Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, urging him to prioritize funding for flood mitigation and prevention projects along the lower Missouri River.

Grassley and his colleagues are pushing Connor to utilize funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to invest in flood-related projects for the lower Missouri River basin, including the navigation and flood control studies and the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). The letter comes as the Department of the Army begins to allocate funding from the IIJA for the Army Civil Works Program in Fiscal Year 2022.

"Flooding in the Lower Missouri River Basin is a danger to Iowans and severely disrupts Iowa's agriculture, manufacturing and shipping industries. When I voted for the bipartisan infrastructure bill, I was voting for exactly this type of federal support for critical infrastructure that Iowans depend on. That's why I'll continue pushing for funding from this bill to be utilized for projects that support Iowans and Iowa's economy, including several much-needed projects along the lower Missouri River," Grassley said.





Jason Boles, 50 Edward W. Harding, 72

DEATH NOTICES

LeVon M. McCollester, 93 Donald L. Yates, 86

Missouri River flooding in 2019 near the Interstate 29 - Highway 34 interchange in Mills County.

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PUBLIC RECORD

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OBITUARIES

Edward Wayne Harding, 72

Jan. 23, 1949 – Jan. 18. 2022

Edward Wayne Harding, 72, of Glenwood, passed away Jan. 18, 2022 at the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs. A Time of Gathering was held Jan. 24 at the Glenwood High School cafeteria. Burial was at the Omaha National Cemetery.

Harding is survived by wife Nancy of Glenwood; daughter Sara Harding of Council Bluffs; sons, Adam Harding and wife Danie of Bellevue, Neb., and Aaron Harding and wife CJ of Omaha.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the Glenwood Booster Club.

Loess Hills Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Jason Boles, 50

Nov. 8, 1971 - Jan. 20, 2022

Jason Boles, 50, of Glenwood passed away Jan. 20, 2022. A celebration of Life services will be held at a later date.

Boles is survived by his wife, Kelly of Glenwood; sons, Gage Boles and his wife Emilee of Glenwood, Tristan Boles of Girdwood, Alaska, daughter, Grace Boles of Glenwood; and mother, Linda Boles of Glenwood.

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

LeVon Maxine McCollester, 93

July 8, 1928 – Jan. 18, 2022

LeVon Maxine (Harman) McCollester, 93, of Silver City, Iowa, passed away Jan. 18, 2022, in Council Bluffs. A visitation and services were held Jan. 23 at Peterson Mortuary in Glenwood. Interment and friends. was at Silver City Cemetery in Silver City.

Preceding McCollester in passing were her parents and husband. Survivors include her children, James and wife Cindy McCollester of Silver City, and Pamela and husband Charles Serrault of Prosper, Texas.

Memorial donations may be directed to Silver City Fire and Rescue or Silver City American Legion.

Donald LeRoy Yates, 86

March 13, 1935 - Jan. 16, 2022

Donald LeRoy Yates, of rural Glenwood, Iowa passed away Jan. 16, 2022. A celebration of life was held Jan. 22 at 10 a.m., at Peterson Mortuary in Glenwood. Interment to be held at a later date.

Don was born March 13, 1935, in Mills County, Iowa to Raymond Creel and Mabel Phylurah (Ross) Yates.

Don graduated from

Tabor High School in 1953. He served in the Navy Seebees. Don was united in marriage to Jacklyn Ann Jinings on June 25, 1990, in Bellevue. He farmed and owned the Oasis restaurant for many years. Don enjoyed raising large gardens, fishing, working in his shop, attending sporting events and was a devoted supporter of Optimist Wrestling. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Preceding Don in passing were his parents, siblings Wendell, Darrell, Gary, Alene, Pat and Betty. Survivors include his loving wife Jackie Yates; children John (Denise) Yates; Rick Yates all of Glenwood, Iowa; Mike Yates of Council Bluffs; Don A. Yates of Glenwood; Jim Yates of North Richland Hills, Texas; Tim Yates of Glenwood; Lisa Yates (Scott) Ertle of Council Bluffs; Darrell (Michelle) Yates of Gig Harbor, Wash.; step-daughter Denise Jens of Glenwood; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Carolyn Yates of Glenwood; many nieces, nephews, extended relatives

Interment to be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be directed to: Glenwood Lions Club or Silver City Fire & Rescue.

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



Incidents Jan. 8 - Richard Bernard of Carter Lake reported a theft.

Jan. 12 - Jerry Lee Dawson of Omaha reported a burglary. Jan. 23 - Jennifer Warren of Glenwood reported a theft (194th Street). 24 Jan. - Clark

reported Storage criminal mischief (Highway 34).

Accidents

Jan. 11 – A vehicle driven by Skyler Nagunst of Red Oak collided with a deer on southbound Highway 59. No injuries were reported.

POLICE REPORT

SHERIFF REPORT

Accidents

Jan. 18 – A vehicle Camryn driven by Conn of Malvern struck a second parked vehicle Sharp on Street and left the

scene. When reached by officers, Conn was not aware the vehicles collided and provided insurance information at that time. No injuries were reported.

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DISTRICT COURT

Judge James Heckerman

Christopher Lee Pacific McDaniel, Junction - driving while license is barred, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve 90 days in county jail with credit for time previously served, ordered to pay court cost and fees.

Craig Janssen, Council Bluffs - indecent contact with a child, pleaded guilty, deferred judgment. two years probation, ordered to enter adult sex offender program and register as sex offender, fulfill DNA requirement; O.W.I. (third offense), pleaded guilty, sentence suspended to 30 days in county jail, two years probation, ordered to pay \$3125 fine, court costs and fees. Robert Charles Carlson, contempt Omaha of court for violation of terms of probation on original charges of controlled substance violation and possession of a controlled substance (second offense), pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve 90 days in county jail, ordered to pay court costs and fees. William Dean Meredith, Glenwood violation of probation original charge on gathering where of controlled substances are used, probation revoked, original sentence invoked. Tyler Ehren Simmons, Junction Pacific contempt of court for violation of terms of probation, pleaded guilty, sentence suspended to eight days in county jail, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

time previously served, ordered to pay court costs and fees.

Deven Anthony Hatfield, Council Bluffs possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve 17 days in county jail with credit for time previously served, ordered to pay \$430 fine, court costs and fees; possession of a controlled substance, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve 17 days in county jail with credit for time previously served, ordered to pay \$430 fine, court costs and fees.

Christopher P. Carbis, – O.W.I. Glenwood (second offense),

pleaded guilty, sentence suspended to seven days in county jail, one year probation, ordered to play \$1,875 fine, court costs and fees.

David Allen Ryan, Shenandoah - controlled substance violation. pleaded guilty, sentence suspended to two years probation, ordered to pay \$1370 fine, court costs and fees.

Sam J. Dibaise III, Omaha domestic abuse assault causing injury or mental illness, pleaded guilty, sentenced to serve nine days in county jail with credit for



Gary & Sharon McNutt,

611 Main St., Silver City, IA

23375 Barrus Rd.,

Glenwood, IA

Glenwood Township / Glenwood Ward #1

Glenwood Ward #2 / Glenwood Ward #3

Pacific Junction/Lyons & Plattville Townships:

Glenwood Community High School, 504 E. Sharp St.,

Glenwood, IA

Mills County Republican County Convention will

be held 10 am, Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the

Malvern High School

Paid for by the Mills County Republican Party

ake in

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alzheimer's Ω association^{\circ}



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OUR COMMUNITY

www.opinion-tribune.com

Rams Remember Ed Harding



JOE FOREMAN/THE OPINION-TRIBUNE

A moment of silence in honor of Ed Harding was observed Tuesday night, Jan. 18, prior to the St. Albert -Glenwood varsity boys basketball game. Ed, who passed away earlier in the day, taught for 33 years in the Glenwood Community School District and gave back to his community in many ways, most notably through the thousands of photos he captured and shared of Glenwood student-athletes and his annual Halloween haunted house that benefited the Glenwood Booster Club. A time of gathering was held in Ed's honor on Monday in the Glenwood Community High School cafeteria.

GCHS Honor Society hosting talent show

The Glenwood Honor Keys (National Honor Society Chapter) is hosting a School and Community Talent Show-'Glenwood's Got Talent.'

The talent show will be on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the GCHS auditorium with a free-will donation for admission.

There is a submission form to be completed for registration; there is no fee to register. All acts must be school appropriate in nature.

Open auditions are scheduled for Feb. 15 and Feb. 17 from 3:45 p.m. - 6:45pm. Only one date is required and this is to ensure it is school appropriate and safe for all ages.

All talents are welcome - from singing, dancing, performance, magic, etc.

For additional information and registration instructions, contact Jaime Apperson at Glenwood Community High School.

Axne touts bridge repair funds for Iowa

Rep. Cindy Axne (IA-03) announced the first round of investments in repairing Iowa bridges from the bipartisan infrastructure law that passed through Congress in 2021.

Axne said the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will help deliver \$86.4 million to Iowa for this current fiscal year to repair local bridges. Axne said the U.S. Department of Transportation also confirmed that Iowa will receive close to \$432 million over the next five years to fund repairs to structurally deficient bridges.

"Iowa leads the nation in structurally deficient bridges but with this new funding from and restored confidence in our commutes and commerce," said Axne. "These funds will not only create jobs in our communities by funding long-overdue repairs, but they will also support our local economies by ensuring our goods can get to market and our workers can get to their jobs and families."

Axne said Iowa has 4,571 that are bridges classified as structurally deficient, the most of any state in the nation according to the American Road Transportation Builders and Association. Of Iowa's 23,982 bridges, nearly one fifth are in poor condition or worse.

She said the investment announced last week is designed to help Iowa repair local bridges that are critical for getting to school and work, moving commerce, and connecting communities. The infrastructure law also includes a separate program designed to support larger bridges through a competitive grant program. Details on that program will be announced at a later date.

Iowa has already received more than \$784 million from the IIJA since the legislation was signed into law in November 2021. Axne previously announced \$650 million in the first round of new funding for Iowa's roads and bridges, \$110 million to upgrade Iowa's aging water infrastructure, and over \$24 million for Iowa's airports from the bipartisan infrastructure law.

IIJA will provide at least \$5.082 billion in various investments

Foundation accepting grant applications online until Feb. 1

The Mills County Community Foungrant dation's application deadline is nearing. The foundation is acception applications from organizations providing charitable services Mills in County.

The deadline to apply for funds through the online application process is Feb. 1, 2022.

part of this As grant cycle, spring approximately \$125,000 is available to support Mills County nonprofit organizations and community projects.

December, In application details, a fact sheet, and a link to the application form became available online by selecting Mills County under County Listing at www. swiowafoundations.org. Applications will only be accepted through the online system.

Made possible through the State of Iowa Endowment County Fund Program, this cycle of grants is funded by a percentage of the state's commercial tax revenue, gaming which is distributed annually to participating community foundations associated with counties without a state-issued gaming license.

Only organizations providing services in Mills County are eligible to apply. They must be able to demonstrate broad community/ county support and be an IRS-approved 501(c) (3) public charity, a

local municipality, or a fiscally sponsored project.

The Mills County **Community Foundation** aims to improve the quality of life in Mills County by supporting community needs in the areas of civic engagement, culture, health, education, and social services.

The objective of the grant program is to fund projects that will have a lasting impact in Mills County. County Mills The **Community Foundation** will entertain requests for capital and program support.

Requests for general operating support will not be considered.

Contact Stacey Goodman (stacey@ omahafoundation Sydney org) or Calcagno (sydney@ omahafoundation.org) at 800-794-3458 with application-related questions.

All completed grant applications will be considered at the March board meeting, with applicants being notified of funding decisions by the end of March.

The Mills County Community Foundation Advisory Board Members are Chair, Chad McCollester of Silver City; Vice Chair, Liz Baldwin of Hastings; Secretary/ Treasurer, Kathy Reisner of Glenwood: Jennifer Gee of Imogene; Keith Johnson of Mineola; and Kate McGann of Malvern.

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infrastructure bipartisan our law reaching Iowa, we have the opportunity to instead lead the nation in revitalized bridges

for Iowa, which received a infrastructure grade as a state from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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This is a working management position that requires inside and outside work. The job would have some physical and some office duties. The Director works for the RIWMA Board and would supervise 3 full-time and some part-time employees. Full job descriptions available upon request. RIWMA is an equal opportunity employer and invites all qualified people to apply.

If you would like to apply please send a resume to janderson@cityofiowafalls.com and jv@nisslyandnissly.com or the address below.

> **RIWMA** 511 Washington Ave. Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126

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DPH

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It's 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 are at risk.



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Climate-smart agriculture makes sense for America

BY KAYLA BERGMAN CENTER FOR RUBAL AFFAIRS

GUEST COLUMN

The Center for Rural Affairs is applauding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its dedication to climate-smart agriculture following the agency's announcement that it plans to invest \$38 million in a new program aimed at increasing cover crop acres. In addition, a key change to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was announced.

Investments of this size are important for building climate resiliency in agriculture. We know that producers are eager to implement conservation measures to improve their on-farm financial and natural resources; and often look to USDA to support those efforts.

In outlining the USDA's plan, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said the goal is to increase the cover crop acres in the U.S. to 30 million by 2030, which is double the current amount. To assist in achieving the goal, a new cover crop initiative was announced as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program is focused in 11 states, including Iowa and South Dakota.

According to state-level agency representatives, the program will be focused on areas within each state that have high volumes of applications for the existing cover crop financial assistance programs.

Cover crops are an important tool to address numerous economic and natural resource concerns, including building soil health over the long term

improving and water quality. In order for producers to offset the initial cost of implementing this practice and reap the long-term economic and natural resource benefits, it is important they have financial assistance programs like this one to

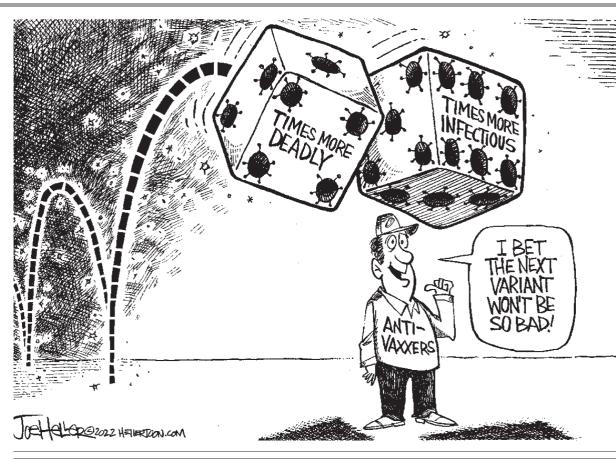
lean on. We commend the added flexibility for producers wanting to re-enroll in CSP, one of the flagship working lands conservation programs at USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Up to this point, if a producer did not apply to renew their CSP contract the same year their existing contract expired, they would have to wait two years before applying to re-enroll. This ineligibility was regardless of whether a renewal application was rejected due to lack of funding on USDA-NRCS's part.

We know that only 47% of CSP renewal applications were funded in 2020 alone. This removal of the two-year waiting period for producers wanting to reenroll will eliminate a gap in financial assistance for many."

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches. and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

How to Contact Your



Why I never won an Olympic medal

the Winter Olympic Games set to kick off Feb. 4 in Beijing, I find myself reminiscing about my own experience as an Olympic figure skater. Or rather as a child with an overactive imagination and easy access to ice.

Every winter, my father flooded the vacant lot across from our house for the town's children to skate on.

One of the benefits of living so close to the skating pond was that I could put on my skates in our warm house instead of in the skating shack. Then I'd walk across the gravel parking lot and through the weeds surrounding the pond wearing them. And no, I didn't have blade guards. Nor was there a Zamboni to clear away the gravel and weeds I no doubt carried with me. In fact, up until I attended my first hockey game a few years ago, I thought Zamboni was some kind of fancy pasta.

Anyway, I spent a lot of time on the ice I learned another one. back then, some of it She said she practiced upright. And the winter Olympics always inspired me to skate

Rosby's World



DOROTHY ROSBY COLUMNIST

more than usual. I'd watch the figure skaters, then head out to do my own triple axels and toe loops.

I'm kidding. I never learned to do an axel or a toe loop, triple or otherwise. But I'm proud to say I did learn to skate backwards and not just when it was windy on the ice.

I was convinced that backwards skating was an important step on the road to figure skating stardom and one day, listening to a TV interview with an Olympic figure skater, skating for four hours every day. "Aha," thought. Ι

That's the ticket. More practice.

So, I skated more. But alas, more time on the ice wasn't enough to overcome a lack of lessons and coaches. not to mention talent. Of course, I didn't skate for four hours a day either. I had homework and chores you know. Also, back then ther was no way to record Bewitched and The Beverly Hillbillies for

later. I took my share of falls as all figure skaters do. The most serious one happened when I skated over a hockey stick and landed smack on my chin. If you think weeds and gravel are hard on skate blades, try skating over a hockey stick.

Maybe it was that incident that finally led me to give up my dreams of Olympic glory. Or maybe by then I'd moved on to that other equally realistic goal I had as a child, that of becoming president. And as you'd expect from someone who didn't want to put her skates on in a cold ice shack, I dreamt of being elected as a writein candidate because I thought campaigning would be too much trouble.

Eventually I gave up that dream too, but I continued to skate through high school and collegeliterally though not metaphorically. But as the years went by, I skated less and less, and I haven't been on ice since I chaperoned my son's class on a skating field trip many years ago. By the way, that was nearly as challenging as becoming an Olympic figure skater. A skating rink full of young children is like a bowling alley without any lanes. I barely managed to stay upright.

you'd If been watching me skate that day - or any other day for that matter - you might have thought I have nothing to show for all the hours I once spent on ice. But that's not exactly true. I have many good memories, a great admiration for figure skaters and a barely visible scar on my chin.

Elected Representatives

FEDERAL

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 E-mail - www.ernst.senate.gov/content/contact-joni

Representative Cindy Axne (D)

330 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515 Telephone (202) 225-5476 E-mail - www.axne.house.gov

STATE

Governor Kim Reynolds (R)

Office of the Governor Iowa State Capitol 1007 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50319 Telephone (515) 281-5211

State Senator Mark Costello (R)

E-mail - mark.costello@legis.iowa.gov Telephone (515-281-3371)

State Representative David Sieck (R)

E-mail - david.sieck@legis.iowa.gov Telephone (515-281-3221)

Contact drosby@ rushmore.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tech threats to national security

Last year, a Russia-based ransomware attack halted Fort Dodge's New Cooperative in its tracks during harvest week, nonetheless.

New Cooperative claims that 40% of the nation's grain production runs through its software. While the incident seems to have resolved itself, such infrastructure is critical to agriculture, which is the backbone of our economy. We must do everything we can to buttress our systems against these threats, but Congress doesn't agree.

Otherwise, why would they keep making proposals that threaten our national security? Every day, we hear about new anti-competitive legislation that seeks to unfairly regulate good-faith innovators. These bills open the door for state-run, foreign agencies to sue American companies and make it harder for digital businesses to institute new tools. Most importantly, anti-competitive measures threaten the millions of jobs supported by our own innovators - 95,000 of which are based in Iowa, according to CompTIA.

Every piece of technology for which we rely on China or Russia is one fewer we produce domestically. We cannot relinquish this competitive edge. After all, our innovators have demonstrated a commitment to American values such as freedom of expression online. Other countries choose to use technological tools to arrest, imprison and intimidate their own citizens.

I hope you'll join me in asking Iowa's federal leaders to come out against these dangerous bills. As a veteran, it's worrisome that we're forfeiting national security in favor of anti-competition. Instead, let's encourage innovation and trumpet its benefits for Iowa and our country.

Riley Jones, Glenwood

We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor

The Opinion-Tribune welcomes all Letters to the Editor, but reserves the right to edit, shorten or refuse publication of any letter. All letters must be signed, and the identity of the author must be verifiable to be considered for publication. We ask that letters be no more than 250 words in length and submitted by noon on Friday to be considered for publication the following week. Thank you letters from civic groups and non-profit organizations may be published, but the names of individuals and businesses will not be published except in the form of a paid advertisement.

Letters may be submitted in person at The Opinion-Tribune office, by mail to 116 S. Walnut St., Glenwood, Iowa, 51534, e-mail (news@opinion-tribune.com) or via the newspaper's website - www.opinion-tribune.com.

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NEWS/LIFESTYLES

JOE Foreman Editor

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JOEL Stevens Associate Editor

OUR COMMUNITY

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IDOT mental wellness program will be memorial to former employee

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

In the last few months of his life, Shawn Havick shared stories with his family of his 32 years with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT).

Shawn's wife, LaDonna, and their two daughters, Hannah and Chelsey, enjoyed the stories of all the good times he had with his co-workers.

However, what really stood out to his family are the hopes Shawn had for improvements, especially as it relates to the mental well-being of the crews he worked with for so many years.

Shawn knew first-hand that working on the road, whether providing maintenance in summer or behind the wheel of a snowplow in the winter, could be both physically and emotionally challenging.

Everyday tasks included potentially life-altering dangers such as working mere feet from passing traffic in a work zone, being rearended by an inattentive driver during a snowstorm, or witnessing a myriad of situations while providing assistance at a crash scene.

Whether others understood it or not, these events were taking an emotional toll on Shawn, his co-workers, and the thousands of other road workers across the state.

As the supervisor in the Adair and Atlantic garages, Shawn consistently stepped up to pilot new initiatives, test new equipment, and provide training to his crews



Shawn Havick

to make sure they worked as safely as possible.

When Shawn lost his battle with cancer on Dec. 13, 2020, his family was determined to keep his passion for the safety and wellbeing of his fellow-workers alive.

Shawn's family began working with Iowa DOT District 4 Engineer Scott Schram and other Iowa DOT officials to initiate the Shawn Havick Memorial Response Program. Relatives of Shawn reside in the Mills County area.

The Havick family gifted donations they had received as memorials to the Iowa DOT to develop stress and resilience training for frontline Iowa DOT workers.

The program includes training modules to help employees identify:

Stress

• Depleting emotions or those emotions that drain you mentally

• Renewing emotions or those emotions that improve your mental state

• Methods to control response and manage emotions

The training encourages employees to engage in honest communication about their emotions and provides exercises to manage stress and process negative emotions in a healthy way.

Iowa DOT Systems Operations Division Director Dave Lorenzen, who is leading the program stated, "Your mental state impacts your safety and the safety of the team you work with. 'People matter' is a core value at the DOT. As an agency, we are committed to doing everything we can to promote mental health awareness and advocate for our employees.

"As we begin 2022, Dave Lorenzen will begin training "trainers" who will present the Shawn Havick Memorial Response Program to our field employees first.

Lorenzen added, "The program was originally intended for our road workers. However, as the word is getting out about the program, we are realizing that many jobs across the DOT can have an impact on the mental well-being of our employees in a number of ways. In addition, groups in other areas of government have shown interest in the program.

"As we move forward, we will continue to expand the training to others who could benefit. We are very appreciative of Shawn's vision, the Havick family's support of this program and are honored to be a part of carrying on his legacy."

In addition to the DOT program, in cooperation with the Friends of Prairie Rose, memorial donations also are being utilized to create a kayak launch at Prairie Rose State Park.





Vana Redd Red Oak mourns loss of 12-year-old victim in pedestrian accident

By Tess Nelson General Manager

The community of Red Oak is mourning the loss of Vana Redd, 12, who died tragically in a pedestrian traffic accident Monday evening, Jan. 10.

Melissa Shirley, Vana's aunt, described her as being free spirited and loving. Shirley said Vana and her siblings came to Red Oak to live with them in August. Their mother, Holly, had passed away in 2019.

"Coming to Red Oak was awesome for her," Shirley said. "She likes small town life. That night she just wanted to go get a bag of chips and a soda. You just don't think she won't walk back through the front door."

Shirley added Vana was doing very well in school and had made a lot of friends.

"She was truly happy here. The last six months had brought her so much joy; being here she was able to be a kid, a happy kid."

Vana and her siblings, Gracie, Jack and Lemuel, reside with Melissa and James Shirley and their children. Holly was James' younger sister. The Shirleys have lived in Red Oak since 2011.

"We are in awe

Gracie, 15, said Vana was extremely funny and liked to joke around. "She was absolutely hilarious. She liked to joke around," Gracie recalled.

Vana liked music, mainly that from Beyonce, Doja Cat, Cardi B and Nikki Minaj. She liked watching TikTok and scary stories on YouTube. She also liked reading, although she somewhat kept it under wraps, said Gracie. "She liked Red Oak.

She liked being able to walk all over town. She thought it was beautiful here. We had our arguments like siblings do, but she was my best friend," Gracie said. 'She loved art. She loved her friends at school, she talked about them all the time. She was goofy; if she didn't know you, she could be shy, but otherwise she was goofy. She was like my mom, 100 percent. She was amazing."

Vana had a sweet tooth, but also liked fruit and smoothies. When she grew up she wanted to be a SWAT team member or a scientist, Gracie shared.

"The support has been great. It is overwhelming. Vana was a social, loving person and I feel like everybody is filling that void right now; like the community if trying to fill in that missing piece," Gracie said. "There is so much to remember about her."

Vestern lowa

NETWORKS

Farm Bureau awarding 27 scholarships for \$2,500

High school students graduating in Spring of 2022 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.

Scholarship eligibility is reserved for current Iowa Farm Bureau members or their children in good standing with the organization. Those wishing to become members should visit www.iowafarmbureau. com. To be considered, the graduating high school student must have a minimum 2.5 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 demonstrating essay their leadership, community involvement and how they would use the scholarship award to support Iowa Farm Bureau's mission of creating а 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.

Many county Farm Bureaus also offer locally-sponsored а scholarship; availability and amounts vary. Both the state and county awards can be applied for online iowafarmbureau. at com/Member-Benefits/ Iowa-Farm-Bureau-Scholarships.

COURTESY PHOTO

The family of Shawn Havick presented a check to the Iowa Department of Transportation to initiate the Shawn Havick Memorial Response Program. Shown (from left): Dave Lorenzen, Director of Systems Operations Division; Mitch Dillavou, Director of Field Operations Division; Scott Marler, DOT Director; LaDonna, Chelsey holding baby Shawn and Hannah.

over the support of the community. It is as though they are grieving with us," Melissa said.



Iowa high school seniors may register for a chance to receive one of 25 scholarships worth \$2,000 each. To be considered, students should:

- Register between Nov. 1, 2021, and March 11, 2022, at www.lowaStudentLoan.org/Know-How
- Follow the emailed instructions to complete two online tutorials and a related assessment before 4 p.m. on March 11.



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Founder's Day celebration planned for library on Feb. 4

"I love these creaky steps!" one patron exclaimed.

Our venerable stairs are still getting comments.

But a mother had to reassure a little one, "They might be creaky, but I think they are sturdy.

Yes! They are sturdy. They have stood for 115 years!

We will be marking the anniversary of the library grand opening on Friday, Feb. 4, with a Founder's Day celebration. February is also when we indulge in a little fun with our Winter Reading program, "Libraries are Delicious".

Our book preview program, Shelf Indulgence, will be meeting at Parea Cocktail Lounge in downtown Glenwood on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m. Get first dibs on our new books

* Our weekly program with Tiffani Pinkerton from Heartland Family Service continues in February. It will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 1, and then each Tuesday morning through Feb. 15. These sessions have information about maintaining healthy а facilitate lifestyle and discussion about how to get the most out of our golden years. It's a very engaging program!

* Monday, Feb. 7 at 5 p.m., our newest librarian, John Butler, will be hosting "Decked Out." Any collectible card enthusiast is invited to share and discuss their favorite decks. Fans of any trading card game from Magic: the Gathering to Yu-Gi-Oh are welcome to come!

Teens are invited to

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



TARA PAINTER Glenwood Public Library Director

join us on Monday, Feb. 14 for a "Book Tasting". Readers will be invited to sample a menu of new tastes and classic flavors from the chapter books in the children's Department. Our librarian Sam Abbott will lead a discussion.

The same day, we will be having blind-dates with books! The books will be wrapped and all you will have to go on will be short descriptions. A great way to discover a new author to enjoy!

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, at noon, the Spine Crackers book club will be discussing the modern classic "Love in the Time of Cholera," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Copies are still available if you wish to join us!

* Our History Book Club will be discussing the award-winning book "Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of human Societies" written by Jared Diamond on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. We always have a good discussion!

Remember you do not have to be able to attend to enjoy the books mentioned for the book clubs.

* Parent Pause resumes this month at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10 and Feb. 23. We will have an activity allowing children for their parents the chance to explore library resources, sit and chat or just relax!

* The Quilting Club is back in full swing and will meeting on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. You can join them on the first Saturday of each month.

* Craft and Chat will resume its 2nd Friday of the month schedule on Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. And they are chatty!

* Visit the Henry Doorly Zoo - the library has free tickets to give away! Each ticket will allow up to two adults and six kids free entrance into the zoo. All you will need is a library membership card and the ticket when you arrive at the gate. There are a limited number and they are available on a first come, first serve basis.

All departments are open for browsing from 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Monday Wednesday, and 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday.

* Curbside services are still available.

* At this time, we will continue to require masks.

Resource review: We have art prints that you can check out for four weeks at a time. Classics like Mary Cassatt and Claude Monet as well as landscapes, farms and even cats! Come find a temporary picture to brighten your home.

The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, for President's Day.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

We hope to see you at the library!

LIBRARY MEMORIALS

Glenwood Public Library Foundation Memorials:

Richard and Vicki Bird gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift for the Building Fund given in memory of Dennis Crawford.

Paul Davis gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift for Genealogy.

Mark Hjelle gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift for the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Margaret O'Connell gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Craig and Jane Nordaker gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Larry Johansen gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Edwin and Eleanor Gambs gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Gerald and Marilyn Mikula gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

William and Andrea Tiarks gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Roger and Cyndy Sell gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Jens and Eileen Simonsen gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Christine Nedved gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Kathleen Dix gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Paul Davis gave to the Glenwood

Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund.

Mark and Kristine Hjelle gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Michael Matz and Debra Hjelle gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Doreen and John Burnett gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift for Genealogy.

Mark and Kristine Hjelle gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

Brenda and Greg Cushing gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Marilyn Prien.

Patricia and Brian Plath gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Marilyn Prien.

Gregg and Jackie Harless gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Marilyn Prien.

Clarence and Helen Boles gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Marilyn Prien.

Dennis and Janet Donnelly gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Marilyn Prien.

Ron and Lori Jens gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Marilyn Prien.

Jerry and Mary Camp gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund given in memory of Denise Hjelle.

David and Susan LaRue gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund.

Steven and Kim Williams gave to the Glenwood Public Library Foundation a gift to the Building Fund.

Farm real estate market flourished in last half of 2021

An already strong farm real due to drought conditions that previous peak - 16.2%. estate market gained momentum have impacted in the last half of 2021, supported by improved profitability, historically low interest rates and greater demand for all types of agricultural land. Year-end values in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota reached all-time highs in the latest benchmark farmland study from Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica). Farmland values in the three states increased by double digits in the past six months, as indicated in the chart below. This followed more than a year of steady improvement in the real estate market. In Wyoming, values in the last half of 2021 were up, but to a lesser degree

profitability for ranchland, which has not experienced the gains seen in cropland.

Nebraska: benchmark peak - July 2013; change from previous peak -1.6%. South Dakota: Previous benchmark peak - July 2013; change from previous peak -11.9%. A conflation of market forces contributed to the real estate market's exceptional performance in the latter half of 2021. This included strong profits from high commodity prices, better-thanexpected yields in several areas, government payments, historically low interest rates and increased demand from varying types of buyers, including investors.

Previous production year are compressing farms gained value, 19 by 10% margins somewhat, and interest rates are expected to tick up a bit. Tim Koch, chief credit officer at FCSAmerica, said this isn't expected to negatively impact land values in the foreseeable future. Most producers, he said, anticipate another profitable year thanks to continued price opportunities, and interest rates likely will remain low by historical standards. "Optimism drives the real estate market," Koch said, "and optimism for U.S. agriculture is high."

Rising input costs for the 2022 **Iowa:** All 21 benchmark

Higher quality cropland has experienced the greatest surge in values, while average to below-average ground showed more modest gains or remained Drought impacted stable. demand for grassland. Even so, its value has remained stable on the whole.

Farmland values in Iowa and South Dakota are now well above the 2013-2014 peaks in the market. Nebraska, by comparison, is just above its previous peak.

Iowa: Previous benchmark peak - July 2013; change from

Below is a state-by-state summary of benchmark farmland values for the past six months:

or more and two by single digits.

Nebraska: Twelve benchmark farms experienced double-digit increases and three were unchanged.

South Dakota: Seventeen benchmark farms increased in value, 10 by double digits. Five experienced no change in value.

Wyoming: One cropland farm experienced a 3.1% increase while the pasture unit experienced minimal change in value. For the year, benchmark values increased by an average of 10.0%, with the cropland benchmark accounting the entire increase, which took place in the first half of 2021.

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The Opinion-Tribune



Wednesday, January 26, 2022 **7A**





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