

THE JOURNAL-HERALD

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In The News



In The Area



GLENWOOD: Discrepancies over future road repairs and a lack of early input have led Mills County officials to object to a proposed annexation by Council Bluffs in the county’s northwest corner. By a 2-0 vote at its recent meeting, the County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution of non-support for the city’s proposal to annex roughly 473 acres between Pottawattamie and Mills County, extending from the current city limits down to the Interstate 29-Bunge Avenue interchange. Two proposed developments near the interchange, including the Cattlemen’s Heritage beef processing plant project, had requested voluntary annexation to allow the city to provide the necessary water and sewer infrastructure.

RED OAK: Recently, Summit Carbon Solutions paused its permit application in South Dakota for its proposed Midwest Express CO2 pipeline. Earlier this month, South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden signed a bill banning the use of eminent domain for construction of CO2 pipelines. Montgomery County resident Jan Norris is one the project’s more vocal critics and at last week’s Supervisors meeting said Summit may explore three possible alternatives as a result of the recent South Dakota developments: “One, a new route avoiding South Dakota could be sought, such as going around through other states - like across Nebraska, or

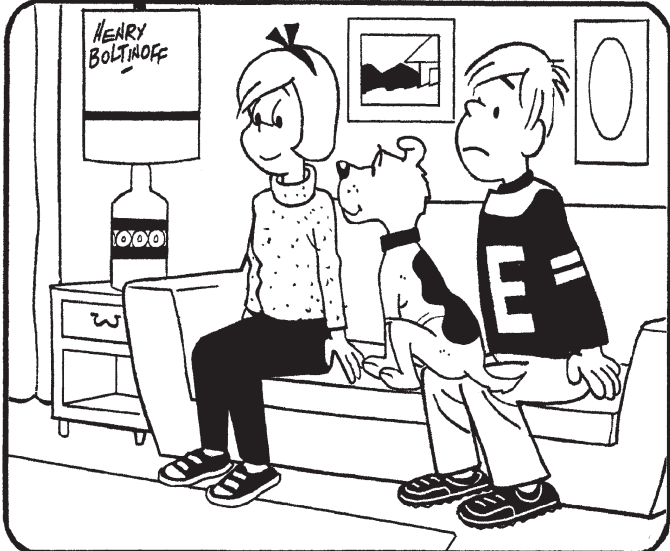
up through Minnesota; two, the U.S. Congress could circumvent state law; or three, they could comply, and develop a 100 percent voluntary route across South Dakota.”

ATLANTIC: Cass County officials are among those taking the next steps after voters declared emergency medical services essential. While some counties look to ramp up or re-group in southwest Iowa on making EMS essential, Cass County voters overwhelmingly supported an essential service resolution in November 2024, with over 76 percent of the vote in favor. Under a 2021 state law, counties can implement a tax levy of up to 75 cents per thousand dollars valuation and an income surtax to finance EMS agencies within the county.

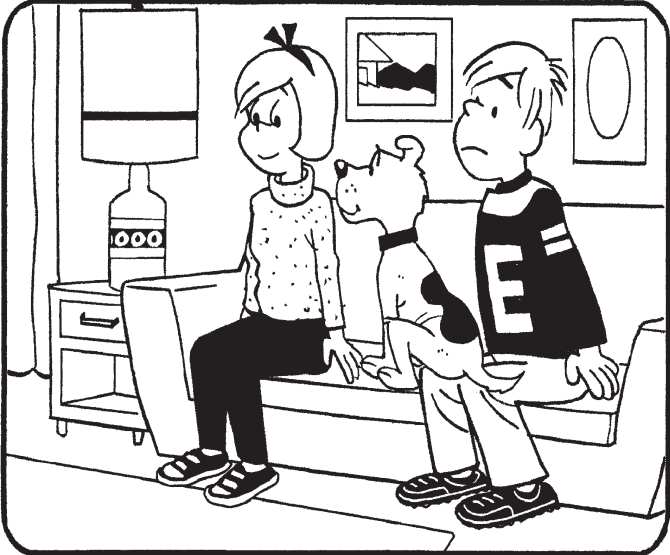
RED OAK: The Red Oak City Council unanimously approved the second reading of an updated solid waste collection ordinance, which primarily implements a \$4 fee on residents’ water bills with the proceeds going towards costs for at least one annual city-wide cleanup day, reduces the number of days to accumulate trash from 30 to 14 days, and creates a garbage collector permit process and fee. The ordinance comes as the culmination of months of debate on whether the city should move towards a curbside municipal service--instead implementing the fee to fund city-wide cleanup days.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Drawer handle is different 2. Picture is reversed 3. Stripes on sleeve are higher 4. Spot on dog's back is smaller 5. Curtain is shorter 6. Design on lamp is different.

Area Piano Students Perform At Annual Tri-County Festival

Tri-County Music Teacher’s Association held their annual piano festival in Harlan on Saturday, March 8.

Sandy Carroll and Kathy Soetmelk, both from Avoca, had students performing in the festival.

The students and the ratings they received are:

- * Students of Sandra Carroll who received a superior rating
- * Eliza Luth (parents John and Brandy, Walnut).
- * Cruze Petersen (parents Ryan and Katie, Harlan).
- * Knox Petersen (parents Ryan and Katie, Harlan).

- * Bella Roelofs (parents Vance and Christina, Harlan).
- * Liam Tornblom (parents Ben and Misty, Shelby).
- * Receiving an Excellent rating:

- * Jessen Davis (parents James and Karley, Avoca).
- * Students of Kathy Soetmelk who received a superior rating
- * Maggie Rosmann (parents David and Becky, Avoca).
- * Lily Scheffler (parents Ton and Hilary, Hancock)

Three of these students received their third consecutive superior and earned a gold cup.

They are Cruze Petersen, Maggie Rosmann, and Lily Scheffler.

They also performed in the Honors Recital held on March 16 at the First Baptist Church in Harlan.

Governor Signs Ban On Cellphone Use While Driving

(Continued From Page ???)

the Iowa House, the chamber passed the 2025 bill in a 84-11 vote in late March.

Peter Bengtson, the father of Ellen Bengtson, who was killed by a distracted driver while biking in 2020, said that the years of the bill failing to advance felt like a “kick to the gut,” but that the law being signed Wednesday was a “good first step” toward preventing distracted driving deaths. He said the law will allow law enforcement officers to start educating and informing people about the dangers of using phones while driving, and is an important start in stopping preventable deaths on Iowa roads.

“This is an experience you don’t want to have,” Bengtson said.



Bryson And Ollie Take To The Trail

Bryson Setran and Ollie, his Chihuahua take a brisk but beautiful afternoon walking the park trails recently.

Bryson is the son and stepson of Sierra and Mike Bodrug of Avoca.

He is an eighth grader at AHSTW with an older brother and three younger siblings.

Ollie is only one and a half years old with plenty of time to learn doggie tricks!

A friendly pooch, he had no problem facing the camera and smiling! Have a great spring, Bryson and Ollie!!



St. Mary’s parishioners who went to the Stations of the Cross The Cloisters on the Platte were, Front Row (l. to r.): Gibson Van Nordstrand, Cole Geraghty, Ellie Rosmann. Second Row: Jennifer Kock, Ali Van Nordstrand, Father Seth Owusu, Cory McDonald, Macy McDonald, Becky Rosman. Third Row: Steve Kock, Maya Todd, Allen Cordes, Tracy Cordes, Bill Dea, Caden Geraghty, Stephanie McDonald, Stephanie Geraghty. Back Row: Sondy Dea, Georgia Van Nordstrand, Maggie Rosmann, Maya McDonald, and Hailey Geraghty.

Twenty-Two St. Mary’s Parishioners Visit The Cloisters On The Platte

The parishioners of St. Mary’s Church in Avoca braved the cold temperatures on Sunday afternoon to embark on a Lenten pilgrimage to the Stations of the Cross at The Cloisters on the Platte.

The 930-acre nonprofit retreat center is located in a secluded wooded area outside of Gretna, Ne.

The property features two lakes and a scenic walking path for the 14 stations.

The path is 2,500 feet long, the distance believed that Jesus walked from Jerusalem to Golgotha.

Each station features bigger-than-life sculptures that represent Christ’s trial through his burial.

The sculptors carefully depicted the emotion of the crucifixion and the agony Jesus endured.

The scenes include the people around Jesus and his interactions with them.

Each visitor is given an audio headset for the self-guided tour, which describes each station and presents questions for self-reflection.

St. Mary’s parishioner Becky Rosmann attended the pilgrimage with her two oldest children, Maggie and Ellie.

Rosmann is the assistant K-7 religious education coordina-

tor at St. Mary’s and felt this was an invaluable opportunity for the students.

“This was definitely an immersive experience that kept their attention better because of the artistry of sculptures,” Rosmann said. “It was nice to be able to experience it with them and see their reactions and answer their questions.”

Twenty-two St. Mary’s parishioners attended, including Father Seth Owusu.

“I was impressed with the number of parishioners and parents that came for this trip,” Fr. Owusu said. “I’m glad the Holy Spirit inspired them to come. It was a very wonderful experience and an eye-open-

er.”

He said that it was a special encounter with God and that he could see the impact on everyone, including the children.

“I liked that they were statues that we could actually look at and not just listen to,” said Ellie Rosmann, age 6. Her 8-year-old sister Maggie Rosmann added, “I learned that there were children there. It was sad.”

The Cloisters on the Platte Foundation was established by philanthropist and entrepreneur Joe Ricketts.

Ten sculptors created more than 60 figures in under three years for it to be ready to open

in 2017.

“He (Ricketts) wants to bring the Holy Land to America,” Fr. Owusu said. “God himself is at work at that place and anyone who goes there will never regret it. It is a place of light and peace and holiness.”

Fr. Owusu hopes that the pilgrimage becomes a regular part of the parish schedule each year.

The Cloisters on the Platte is open for regular hours March through October, Monday through Thursday and Sunday.

Hours are limited in the off season.

There is suggested goodwill donation for the tour per person.

Iowa Educators ‘Relieved’ At Latest Court Block On School Book Ban

law, which the Iowa Legislature passed in 2023, prohibits school libraries from providing books deemed not age appropriate and primarily focuses on any book that includes “sex acts.”

Christy Hickman, general counsel for the Iowa State Education Association and representing ISEA as a plaintiff, said she was “incredibly relieved for our members.”

Those members include educators at all levels.

Teachers now “wouldn’t have to be concerned about their employment or their licensure being in jeopardy in the event they didn’t interpret this incredibly vague law incorrectly,” she said.

Some school districts, however, won’t be quick to change internal guidance on the law.

(Continued On Page 6)

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 5
♦ J 7 5
♣ 9 8 7 5 3 2

WEST

♠ —
♥ Q 4
♦ A K Q 10 9 6 4 3
♣ K 6 4

EAST

♠ Q J 8 4
♥ K J 6 3 2
♦ 8
♣ A J 10

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 9 6 2
♥ A 10 9 8 7
♦ 2
♣ Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Dble

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Contract Bridge

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A Double Disaster

This deal occurred in a high-level team-of-four match. West’s three spade bid at the first table asked his partner to bid three notrump if he had a spade stopper.

East was more than happy to comply; he had much more than he needed for his three-notrump bid. When South next bid four hearts - which was corrected to four spades by North - East doubled.

Perhaps West should not have passed - many players would have bid five diamonds instead - but he did pass. West then led the king of diamonds followed by the ace, on which East discarded the ten of clubs and South the queen of clubs! As a result of this play to the second trick, declarer made four spades doubled. He ruffed the next diamond, cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed another heart, ruffed another club, then ruffed the fourth round of hearts with the dummy’s last trump.

Nine tricks had been played, and East’s last four cards were the Q-J-8-4 of trump, while South’s remaining cards were the A-K-10 of trump and ten of hearts. Declarer now led a club from dummy, ruffed by East with the jack and overruffed by South with the king. Declarer then played the ten of hearts, forcing East to ruff and return a trump from the Q-8 to South’s A-10, and the doubled game - worth 790 points - was home.

At the second table, West leapt to five diamonds over the one-spade opening. After two passes, South ventured five hearts - a dubious tactic, especially considering the vulnerability. North retreated to five spades, doubled by East, and South finished down three after he failed to discard the club queen on West’s diamond lead at trick two.

Plus 800 at this table, combined with the 790 scored by their teammates at the other table, gave the successful team a gain of 1,590 points on the deal.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
				18				19	20				
21	22	23				24							
25						26					27	28	29
30					31						32		
33				34							35		
				36					37				
38	39	40					41						
42						43	44				45	46	47
48						49				50			
51						52				53			

ACROSS

- “Li'l Abner” creator
- Yellowstone grazer
- Cymbal’s kin
- Petri dish gel
- Sturgeon product
- Ancient Dead Sea land
- Fierceness
- Milan money, once
- PC alternative
- Sheryl Sandberg best seller
- Grating
- Harangue
- “Rhyme Pays” rapper
- With passion
- Monk’s title
- Piquant
- Tic-tac-toe win
- Hit song by ABBA
- Friend

36 Curved lines

- Jiggly dessert
- Rum cock-tail
- Pear-shaped fruit
- Spumante source
- Agitates
- Actor Schreiber
- Colorful card game
- Sleek, in car lingo
- Salinger girl
- Journey part
- Must have
- DOWN
- Half- (latte option)
- Candle count
- Standard
- On time
- Idle or Bana
- Parcel of land
- Bogart/Bacall classic
- Trattoria desserts

9 Valhalla VIP

- Sushi wrapper
- Fed. agents
- Low isle
- Jealousy
- Jazz phrase
- Estate measure
- Burn somewhat
- Tears apart
- Imaginary
- Toy store buy
- Lounge
- Cellist Ma
- Actress Reid
- Indigenous
- Sea off Greece
- Comic Carrey
- Like ganders
- Unrepaired
- Detail
- Toad’s kin
- Away from WSW
- Formerly called
- Three, in Rome
- Turf