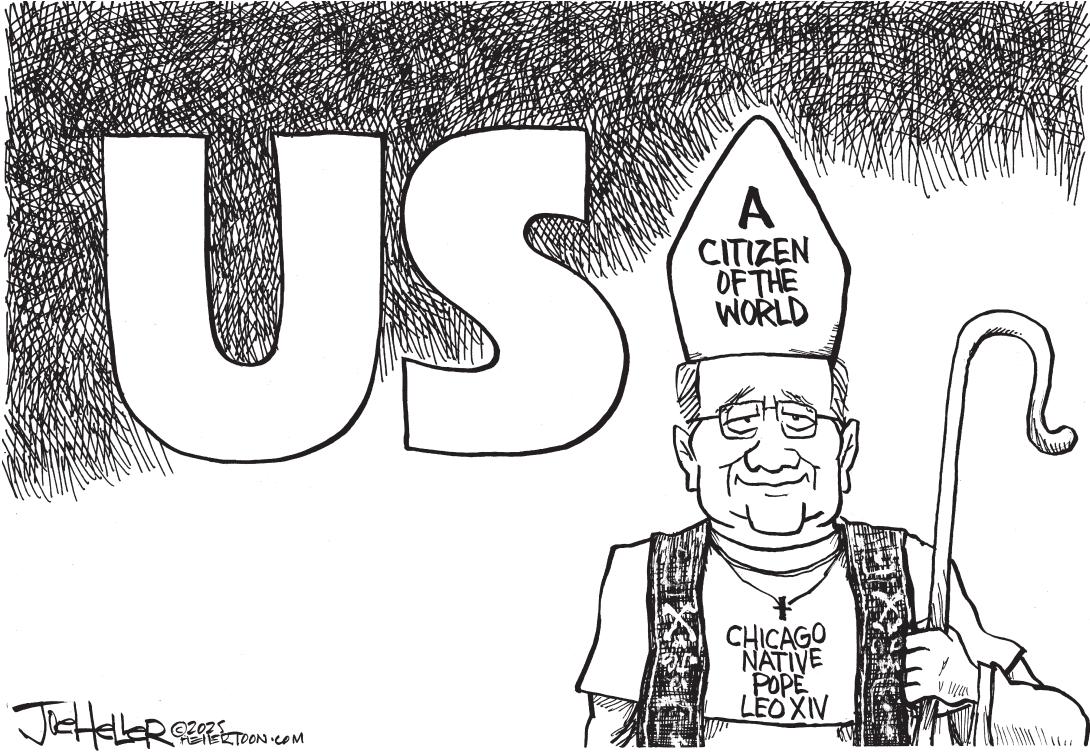


OPINION



County to pursue SS4A grant

by Rick Nichols
Jefferson County Commissioners David Christy, Richard Malm, and Doug Walbridge voted in favor of a motion that the county apply for a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant when they met the afternoon of May 5 at the courthouse in Oskaloosa.

The action was taken in the absence of Brandy Sutherland with Blue Valley Consultants LLC, Riley, who had been expected to be on hand for last week's meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, at least according to the agenda. She is the one who first let the commissioners know about the grant, which, as previously reported in the paper, funds various projects designed to enhance connectivity between communities, improve accessibility to existing routes for travel and boost mobility among the physically challenged in keeping with the grant's overall goal of preventing roadway fatalities and serious injuries on the local level.

Community Development Director Stephan Metzger filled in for Sutherland and told the county's elected leaders that the cost to the county to apply for a grant would be \$5,500. He went to add that his department had enough money in one of its funds to cover the cost at this time.

Metzger also told the commissioners that at the very least, the City of Oskaloosa, the City of McLouth, and the City of Meriden were interested in partnering with the county in its bid to land a grant. He reported that the City of Valley Falls and the City of Nortonville had already secured SS4A grants.

"I'm all for it (the grant)," Walbridge commented before the vote was taken. He then suggested that were the county to be awarded a grant, it would "open the door to other things."

As previously reported in the paper, Sutherland is of the feeling that a grant somewhere around \$1 million would be appropriate for Jefferson County.

In a related matter, on a separate 3-0 vote, the board authorized Christy to sign the necessary paperwork on behalf of the governing body once it has been reviewed by County Counselor Josh Ney, Deputy County Attorney Jonathan Ehrlich, Assistant County Attorney Dan Dunbar or Assistant

County Attorney Wyatt Hoagland.

In other business during the board's weekly meeting, Megan Bottenberg with Cox Communications Inc., Sandy Springs, Ga., made the commissioners aware of the company's plans to expand its presence in Jefferson County by installing enough fiberoptic cable to provide broadband service to the occupants of 329 homes.

According to Bottenberg, some of the homes to be served lie within Delaware State Park, which is located on the west side of Perry Lake.

Bottenberg said Cox Communications would be footing the bill for the installation of the cable, 90 percent of which will go in the ground, according to her.

She also said the company would be putting in the cable this summer over a four-month period.

"We think this is really exciting bringing fiber to these areas," she remarked at one point in detailing the project.

According to Bottenberg, Jefferson County is one of four or five counties in Kansas where Cox Communications wants to spend some of its own money to make broadband service available to more people.

She said two options by which the company can expand its "footprint," if you will, are open to the company, the first being grant money and the second, company money. In connection with the former, she mentioned the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program at that time.

The BEAD program is operated by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Asked by Malm, a resident of the Half Mound area, when Cox Communications was going to start delivering more broadband service to the north end of the county, Bottenberg basically said the company could begin the work pretty much anytime and indicated that she would make a note of his inquiry.

The vice chairman of the board then responded by saying he had already been "on the list," apparently Cox Communications' list of possible service areas, for 10 to 12 years.

Phillip Morelas, who said he used to live in Lakeside Village and that he has lived in Jefferson County most of his

life, had a business proposal for the board to consider that would involve the employment of inmates or former inmates in cleaning up previously-occupied county-owned lots at the improvement districts and elsewhere.

Morelas told Christy, Malm and Walbridge that he has access to the equipment that would be needed to tear down and remove abandoned structures and rid the lots of all manner of debris left behind by squatters. He also told them that he has a place where all of this material can be put after it has been hauled off.

"Overall, I think it would be a good idea to try to do it," Morelas, who openly acknowledged having done some time himself, said in promoting his proposal.

A short time later he also remarked, "I believe we could do it pretty easily."

Joining the discussion generated by Morelas' proposal, Ney said he liked the idea of tapping inmates to clean up the county's messy lots and mentioned the possibility of putting a work release program in place to facilitate the arrangement.

But he also pointed out that a supervisor would have to be hired to oversee the inmates as they labored "in the field," so to speak.

The board indicated to Morelas that it would study his proposal later.

"I just ask for a chance. Just let me know," Morelas told the commissioners after the discussion had concluded.

Chris Schmeissner, the county's Geographic Information Systems/Information Technology director, used a series of slides to inform the commissioners regarding the amount of electricity the county has used during the past two months in powering the Information Technology Building in Oskaloosa in light of the installation of solar panels there a few months ago.

One of the slides effectively documented electrical usage inside the building on days when the sun was shining bright in comparison to days when the sun was nowhere to be seen. On cloudy days, the GIS/IT director related, energy being stored in batteries was used to power the building.

According to Schmeissner, the county was saving \$600 or more a month in potential

Reconsider N2Y

New To You Thrift Store has been a landmark and blessing in Oskaloosa since 2007 thanks to First Presbyterian Church of Oskaloosa. N2Y has become a necessity for many families here and in the surrounding communities. Just last month a local family's home burned to the ground. N2Y opened their door to the family to provide clothing, shoes, household items and more. This has been happening for the past 17 years. People who unexpectedly had to care for grandchildren have also been fortunate enough to be able to do the same. Their sort of "pay

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 15, 2025)1t
NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL REAL ESTATE
THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF KANSAS

TO: ALL PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE INTERESTED

TAKE NOTICE: pursuant to KSA-19-26,109 the Jefferson County Land Bank will sell the following parcels of Real Estate thirty (30) days from the published date of this notice.

A tract of land lying in part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 16, Township 10 South, Range 18 East of the 6th P.M., Jefferson County, Kansas described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Southwest 1/4; thence S.89°32'14" E., along the North line of said Southwest 1/4. a distance of 910.10 feet, more or less to the Westerly right of way line of County Road "B"; thence S. 47° 56'34" W., 74.20 feet; thence on a curve to the left having a radius of 1,482.4 feet a distance of 337.56 feet; thence S. 38°47'10" W., a distance of 104.44 feet; thence on a curve to the left having a radius of 1,492.4 feet a distance of 454.60 feet; thence S. 13°28'17" W., a distance of 69.51 feet to THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence S. 13°28'17" W., a distance of 128.66 feet; thence S. 89°39'26" W., a distance of 112.00 feet; thence on a curve to the right having a radius of 70.0 feet, a distance of 62.83 feet; thence N. 00°20'34" W. a distance of 82.0 feet; thence N. 89°39'26" E., 182.68 feet to the Westerly right of way line of County Road "B" and the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. Together with a permanent, non-exclusive easement on, over and through the existing roadway. abutting and adjoining said tracts for the purpose of access to said tracts as set out hereinabove. Together with the improvements, if any, located on subject real estate and EXCEPT and SUBJECT TO any part taken or used for Easements, Rights of Way, Roads and/or Highways.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
JEFFERSON COUNTY
LAND BANK
JEFFERSON COUNTY, KS



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Letters

when you can" philosophy has people knowing their monthly budget can stretch further giving them on less thing to worry about. Once N2Y has paid their bills, the proceeds go into a fund that is managed by Jefferson County Service Organization where it is used to assist people to pay for eye exams and glasses.

Unfortunately some sad news delivered this week. The church wants to repurpose the building as we all know will nearly be impossible to do without starting from the ground up. Nothing comes to mind that could help so many people in such a simple way.

Jefferson County people helping Jefferson County people. It's just that simple. People donate and people receive. As they say, "all good things must come to an end," or do they? I have a feeling if we made our thoughts known First Presbyterian Church might reconsider. If N2Y has helped you during an emergency or just by giving you comfort in knowing that you can provide things for your family during uncertain times, write them a note or even better,go to church. Please open your hearts.

Lisa Jurgenson
Oskaloosa

OBITUARIES

ERIC SULLIVAN

Eric Lee Sullivan, 49, of McLouth, died unexpectedly Friday, May 9, 2025 at home.

Eric was born June 3, 1975, at Winchester, KS, son of Donny Joe and Cheryl Irene Tullis Sullivan. He attended schools in McLouth and Perry-Lecompton High School where he was a member of the wrestling team. He was a 1993 graduate of PLHS.

Eric worked at Gambino's Pizza in Perry and Oskaloosa for several years before being medically disabled. He enjoyed wrestling of all kinds and was an avid fan of WWF and WWE Wrestling. He was a member of the APP Group of NE KS Guidance Center and a member of the Family Saturday Morning Shopping Club.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donny Joe Sullivan. He is lovingly survived by his faithful dog, Frito; his mother, Cheryl I. Sullivan; two brothers, Andy (Cory) Sullivan and Nick Sullivan, all of McLouth; nine nieces and nephews, Andrea (Chris) Carlisle, Michael Jensen, Lilly Jensen, Henry Jensen, Brady (Brittany) Sullivan, Garrett (Baylee) Sullivan, Carter Sullivan, Blake

Sullivan, and Wyatt Sullivan; three great nieces, Jo Jo, Lou Lou, and CeCe; and one great-nephew, Dawson, and one on the way.

Cremation care is planned. A Celebration of Life gathering will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2025, at Barnett Family Funeral Home in Oskaloosa. Private inurnment will be at a later date at McLouth Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Kansas Special Olympics in care of the Funeral Home. barnettfamilyfh.com

Paid obituary

Pawsitively Jefferson County




• **Non-profit organization to humanely reduce the outdoor cat population**

• **Volunteers are needed once a month**

• **Let us know if you have outside cats needing our spay/neuter program**

• **Contact Julie Blichmann at 785-813-2230 or email pawsitivelyjeffersoncounty@gmail.com**



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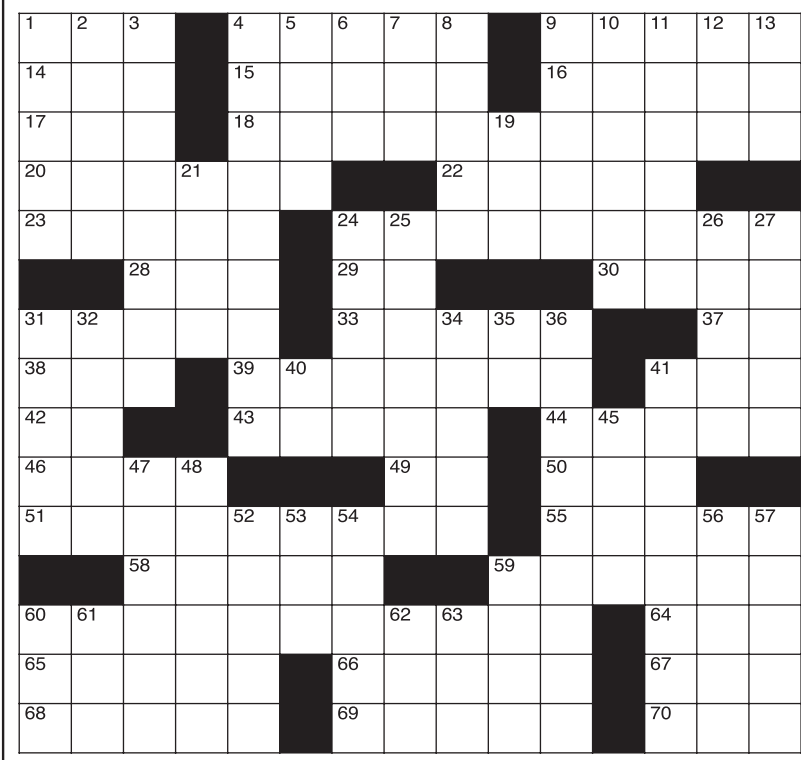
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Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

1. Geological time

4. Ooze

9. A set of eight

14. Obstruction

15. Swiss mathematician

16. Philosophy

17. The night before

18. A timid person

20. Unifies

22. Gangs

23. Alternative name

24. Acumen

28. Cathode-ray tube

29. Tantalum

30. Soluble ribonucleic acid

31. Humiliate

33. Earthy pigment

37. Air Force

38. Adult males

39. Stiff untanned leather
41. Before

42. Atomic #18

43. Beer mug

44. Nostrils

46. Type of chef

49. Midway between north and east

50. They ___

51. Splits

55. Walk in a timid manner

58. Preserved animal skin with hair

59. Popular donut shop item

60. You smear it on bagels

64. Don't know when yet

65. Equal to 10 amperes

66. Synthetic acrylic fiber

67. One point south of due east

68. Of mixed ancestry

69. Home of the Pyramids

70. A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

2. Untangle

3. One from the U.S.

4. Academic terms

5. San ___ Obispo, in California

6. Not healthy

7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)

8. Arugula genus

9. VIII

10. Makes a monarch

11. Tormentor

12. Commercials

13. Sprinkle

19. Make a mistake

21. Freshwater fishes

24. Vermont town

25. Man-made device

26. Entrap

27. Places to store important things
31. Accumulate

32. Greek mythological nymph

34. Gregory __, American dancer

35. Denotes past

36. Becoming popular again

40. Indicates position

41. Came before

45. An extra seed-covering

47. Cheerful

48. Deli sandwich staple

52. Skateboarders love them

53. Mandela's party

54. Sierra lake

56. Nickname for Elizabeth

57. Remove from record

59. Employee stock ownership plan

60. Former NFLer Newton

61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

62. Work unit

63. Town in Cambridgeshire

(Crossword puzzle solution found elsewhere in this edition)

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