



Newsletter

106 S. Dodge | Suite 210 | Algona, IA 50511 | kcedc@kossuthia.com

Phone 515.295.7979 | Fax 515.295.8873

VOLUME 27 | NUMBER 1 | JANUARY-JUNE 2025

Ziegler Ag Equipment Filling a Void

Ziegler Agriculture and Construction Equipment is now located in Emmetsburg. The company has locations in Jackson, MN, Fort Dodge, Sheldon, and in Northwest Missouri. On December 2, the doors to Emmetsburg Ziegler officially opened.

Chris Thiel, Regional Sales Manager said that the territory that Ziegler serviced before settling here consisted of a void. Customers were asking Ziegler to open a location in Emmetsburg. When customers are pushing for it, a company listens. Ziegler studied the data and then looked into space that would accommodate retail and equipment parts. The Firkins Trucking building

south of town was for sale. Ziegler worked with Al Firkins to purchase the building and the property. When Ziegler is seeking a new location one of the criteria is that they are not more than 30 minutes from every customer.

Ziegler is currently working to fully stock everything for their parts department. They will be equipped to do maintenance on a farm, schedule an appointment at the new location or be dispatched to the field. Having the parts needed and good service are what they strive for. If a part is needed that they do not have in stock, it will be there the next morning.

As of now, Emmetsburg Ziegler will employ three field service workers, two parts personnel and one inside sales person. That number of staff does not include Chris Jones, Branch Manager and Chris Thiel, Regional Sales Manager. The parts warehouse is in the process of being fully stocked. There is an overnight shuttle that is coming to Emmetsburg each night. The items dropped are then inventoried and put on the shelves to complete the supply of parts.



Emmetsburg Ziegler Management - L-R are Chris Jones, Branch Manager and Chris Thiel, Regional Sales Manager.



Tod Faris presenting congratulations plaque to Chris Jones, General Manager of Ziegler CAT in Emmetsburg.

Story and photos courtesy of Diane Weiland, Reporter Democrat



www.kpacedc.com

Revolving Loan Fund Program

Park 'N Bark



Park 'N Bark received funding from Kossuth County Revolving Loan Fund Program. They also received funding from Algona Municipal Utilities and Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

The Fallows



The Fallows received funding from Palo Alto Revolving Loan Fund Program. They also received funds from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and Aureon Ripple Effect Grant.

K/PACEDC Awarded Ripple Effect Grant

Kossuth/Palo Alto Economic Development (K/PACEDC) received a \$3,500 Aureon Ripple Effect grant to support the training of their new Executive Director, Tod Faris. The funding will enable his participation in a variety of professional development opportunities, including conferences hosted by the Professional Developers of Iowa and the Association of Business & Industry, the Iowa Area Development Group Partners Forum, and the Housing Iowa Conference. Additionally, the grant will support his attendance at the National Rural Economic Developers Association annual conference and monthly training sessions with the Mid Iowa Growth

Partnership. Furthermore, the funding will assist in Faris's involvement in K/PACEDC initiatives such as leadership trainings for area leaders and businesses, human resources networking training, and the intern program's skill-building sessions focused on career readiness. The grant funding was made possible, and matched dollar-for-dollar, by Titonka-Burt Communications, River Valley Telecom, and Northwest Communications.



Pictured from left to right is Aaron McCartan (TBC), Ivan Dalen (RVTC), Gary Peterson (NW Comm.), and JD Siebert (Aureon).

Salute to Local Law Enforcement

KOSSUTH COUNTY *Sheriff's Office*



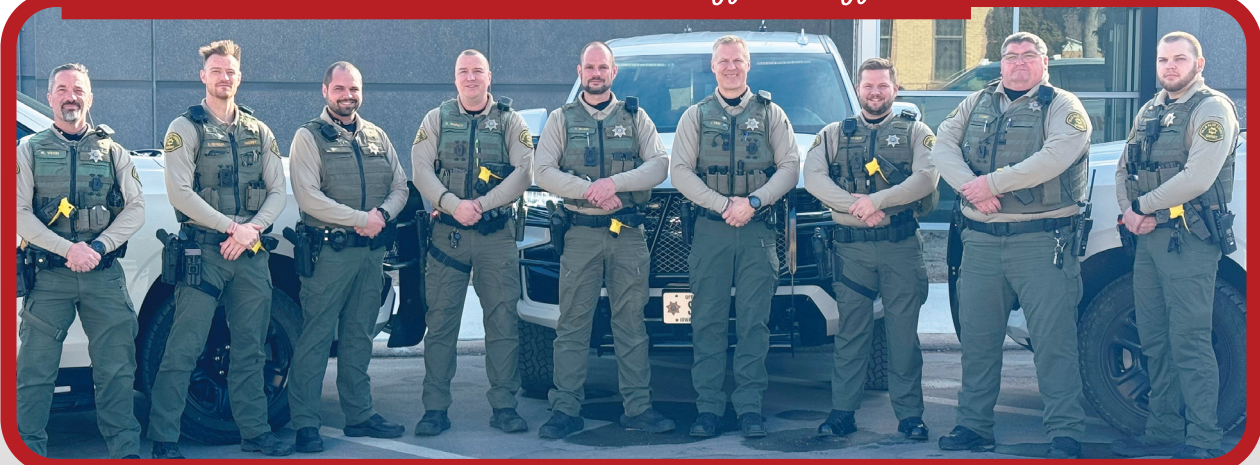
Left to Right

Jail Administrator Bailey Pfeffer, Deputy Shayne Hoch, Office Manager Lori Winkel, Deputy Caleb Hill, Office Assistant Keara Omdahl, Deputy Wes Gibbs, Deputy Isabelle Davis, Sheriff Roger Fisher, Deputy Tyler Harmon, Deputy Jason Broad, Deputy Jake Radmaker, Deputy Mark McGregor.

Not pictured

Deputy Keith Briggs, Deputy Melissa Hoch, Jailers Jennetta Helmers, Dean Simpson, Seth Muller, Tammy Dils, Dawn Heiderscheidt, Greg Elbert, Jayme Baker, Randy Sewick, Jacob Combs, Marcia Baade, Linda Studer, and Angee Elbert Zwiefel.

PALO ALTO COUNTY *Sheriff's Office*



Left to Right

Deputy Matt Veon, Deputy Ryan Reynolds, Part-Time Deputy Jac Netsch, Deputy Ben Morey, Chief Deputy Seth Nelson, Sheriff John King, Deputy Kyle Hagen, Deputy Travis Lampe, Deputy Thomas Schultes.

Not pictured

Part-time Deputy Doug Drost, Reserve Deputy Coty Zimmerman, Reserve Deputy Kylie Iverson.

Second Annual Business and Community Forum

The second annual Algona Business and Community Forum was held on Thursday, April 17 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Tietz Entrepreneurial Center on the Algona campus of Iowa Lakes Community College. The free event drew approximately 40 participants and included representatives from the City of Algona, Algona Area Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), Algona Municipal Utilities (AMU), Algona Area Chamber of Commerce, Kossuth/Palo Alto County Economic Development Corporation (K/PACEDC) and the Tietz Entrepreneurial Center.

Shelly Brown, Tietz Entrepreneurial Center Coordinator/Algona Campus Supervisor welcomed the attendees and explained the functions of the Tietz Entrepreneurial Center and how they provide assistance to area entrepreneurs.

John Bilsten, president of AAEDC and general manager of AMU, spoke about AAEDC's housing development projects, quarterly networking lunches, targeted at new members of the community and recent returnees, and the Algona Advantage Program which offers up to \$5,000 in forgivable loan funds for qualifying new and expanding businesses.

Bilsten also spoke about AMU's economic development contributions and efforts, specifically its revolving loan fund and commitment to upgrading its fiber optic infrastructure to boost customer bandwidth and improve communication and operation of electric and water systems. AMU's efforts to convert overhead powerlines to underground powerlines has created less risk and more reliability during storms and

other weather events. AMU was recently recognized by the American Public Power Association for being a reliable public power provider in 2024.

Avery Pedersen, executive director of the Algona Area Chamber of Commerce shared about community events, then she also spoke about the variety of programs that the Chamber provides, such as the Chamber Ambassadors program, Leadership Algona, tourism, member-to-member benefits, Algona Bucks, and welcome packets for newcomers to the community. She added that the Chamber will continue to focus on strategic initiatives such as membership services, benefits and communication and marketing and promotion efforts.

Tod Faris, executive director of Kossuth and Palo Alto County Economic Development Corporation shared about K/PACEDC's business visit program where he is meeting with business owners and managers throughout Kossuth and Palo Alto Counties to learn about upcoming needs, changes, and challenges and how the results are summarized in reports that are available on the K/PACEDC

website. He added details about programs including the Revolving Loan Fund, Human Resources Committee, City Clerk Committee, Intern Program, and Leadership Trainings. Faris concluded with an update on the Kossuth County Daycare Coalition, which is working towards the creation of a community campaign to support more daycare options throughout Kossuth County.

Jacob Tjaden, City of Algona Administrator, spoke about how the City provides incentives and financing for businesses through commercial/industrial tax abatement, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund program. Tjaden then described quality of life initiatives intended to draw new residents and young families to the area such as the Tietz Park Shelter House, South Park pickleball courts, Central Park splash pad, the future development of the former Peck Auction House land into a park, and the new Nebraska Street Corridor Project are all examples of recent parks and recreation initiatives facilitated by the City of Algona.



Left to Right: Avery Pedersen (Algona Chamber), Tod Faris (K/PACEDC), John Bilsten (AMU), Jacob Tjaden (City of Algona), and Shelly Brown (ILCC)

Sara Blair of Country Maid recognized as "Top 10 Leaders to Know"

In December of 2024, Sara Blair was honored with being named one of Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) "Top 10 Leaders to Know". Sara is the head of Human Resources at Country Maid in West Bend. She has been an asset to K/PACEDC for many years and serves as Chairwoman of the K/PACEDC Human Resources Committee.

Sara was asked "What excites you the most about the business you work in?" she said "There are so many exciting things happening at Country Maid and so many reasons to be excited for the future. Reflecting on our corporate mission to "Help Others Help Each Other," we have countless opportunities to live this mission each day in our work.

"On the people side of the business, our HR mission at Country Maid is to build a community that lifts people up at work and at home. We're developing more than just a collection of people who come together to collect paychecks; we want to give our team opportunities that enhance their entire lives. This means we get to be innovative and creative as we find new ways to develop the skills of our team, enhance internal communications to better serve our employee-owners, curate benefit programs that make lives simpler

and ease burdens, and partner with our employees to ensure they have the tools and support to meet both their professional and their personal goals. These efforts have had a positive impact on the personal lives of our teammates and have helped to move our business forward, as well.

The intersection of building people up at work and at home is what I truly appreciate. We're striving to be innovative and highly profitable, and our leadership has recognized that empowering our team will help us both achieve our financial goals while still having a long-term, positive impact on the lives of people."

When Sara was asked "How did you get where you are today?" she replied, "Any success I've had in my career can be credited to the people I've been lucky enough to work for and alongside. I've learned so much from leaders who invested their time and guidance, colleagues who collaborated and shared their expertise, and teams who inspired with their attitudes of perseverance



and optimism. Their support and encouragement have been instrumental in shaping my growth and helping me achieve my goals. I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to learn, grow, and contribute alongside such talented individuals."

Cryptocurrency farm sets up shop in Algona

Officials announced that Simple Mining, a Cedar Falls-based company, is operating a Bitcoin farm on land rented from Algona Municipal Utilities. The facility is on North Ridgely Street and consists of six repurposed shipping containers.

Painted white and stacked two high, the shipping containers house computers that solve algorithms required to "mine"

or obtain Bitcoin, said Algona Municipal Utilities General Manager John Bilsten. Simple Mining acts as a Bitcoin host. According to its website, that means Simple Mining rents its machines to investors, who then get any Bitcoin that may be earned by the machine.

Bilsten said the city utility company worked with Simple Mining to mitigate any sound coming from the fans used to cool the computers inside the containers. For this reason, containers were positioned so the sound from the fans goes towards the north and away from nearby homes, Bilsten said. "We set up specific decimal level readings and metrics that need

to be met along the road there, [North] Ridgely Street, both near the Community Gardens, by the Finn House [and] by the first home that's there," he said. "Obviously, our biggest concern are the property owners and the people that live down there to make sure that we did not exceed a typical best practice decibel level."

The lease is for three years and service to the site is interruptible, meaning AMU can cut off electricity to the Bitcoin farm if energy costs spike due to high use or natural disasters. The company is able to shut down their entire operation in four minutes, Bilsten said, although AMU also has the ability to cut power to the facility.

*By Molly Montag
News Correspondent
Copyright, Kossuth County Advance*





2025 K/PACEDC Interns ready for summer ahead

K/PAEDC Summer Intern *Schedule*

May 28

Intern Breakfast

7:30 am to 9:00 am

at Columbia Events Center

June 10

Secrets to Success

Insider's guide to business etiquette.

7:30 am at the K/PACEDC office

June 17

Social Media Presence:

*Do's and Don't's of social media
in the workplace*

7:30 am at Pharmacists Mutual

June 24

**Emotional Intelligence/
Personality Training**

7:30 am at the K/PACEDC office

July 7 - 18

Intern Food Drive

*Accepting donations to gift to local
food pantries*

July 8

Manage your Money:

*Simple and clear advice for your
financial future*

7:30 am at the K/PACEDC office

August 6

County-Wide Breakfast

8:00 am at St. Michael's Parish Center

The K/PACEDC Career-Intern Committee provides a means for Interns to expand their leadership goals, obtain business development training, support community service and volunteerism for the betterment of our area, along with gaining experience in their summer work environment. The Career-Intern Committee plans all of the events our interns attend each summer. Our goal is to market our area and to let students know that there are jobs available for them to come back to. K/PACEDC has seen positive outcomes of

having interns return to work in our area and become very successful with the help of our intern program. There are more and more familiar faces that are now in our workforce and as volunteers making a positive difference! This is a program that has flourished over the years with the continued partnership with our area businesses.

K/PACEDC thanks the Career-Intern Committee and businesses for their commitment to assisting with our Summer Intern Program being a success.



Career Intern Committee

From left to right: Tina Ulfers, Megan Jahnke, Jane Koppen, Bob Jennings, Tascha Wykoff, Tiffany Elbert, Brianna Marso

Executive Director Update

Spring has been very busy in 2025. We have completed 21 business visits with employers in Kossuth and Palo Alto counties and continue to schedule more. These visits with plant managers, CEOs, and business owners allow us to learn about what these companies do, unique characteristics, growth opportunities, needs, and challenges. These meetings are a great way for decision makers to connect with me and begin forming a solid working relationship and an open line for communication. K/PACEDC will use the results from these discussions to enhance the Economic Impact Report and Business Survey that will be produced and distributed later in 2025. I have also been attending city council meetings throughout the counties to introduce myself and provide information about K/PACEDC.

This is an exciting time as we are preparing for great programs and events. The 26th

Summer Intern program kicks off May 28 with the Intern Breakfast where our 20 interns will meet together for the first time along with area businesses. They will then participate in weekly skill building sessions to learn and network together as they intern at area businesses. K/PACEDC continues to provide popular programs like the Human Resources and City Clerks' Committees. These two groups meet quarterly for training and opportunities to connect and network among colleagues in the same field. The Leadership Series was very well attended last year, and the 4 classes are scheduled to be in the months of August through November at The Shores with leadership trainer Brenda Clark Hamilton. The annual County Wide Breakfast will be August 6th at 8:00 AM at the St. Michaels Parish Center in Whittemore with keynote speaker DeMoine Adams.

KCEDC Board of Directors



Back row, from left to right:

Mark Tachney, Mathew Neisen, Sean Noonan, Howard Haas, Craig Florea, Tod Faris, Aaron McCartan
Front row: Bob Jennings, Debra Steven, Karla Walker, Brooke Winkelhorst
Missing: Jacob Tjaden, Crysti Neuman, Jeff Theisen, Jason Wartick, Pat Berte, Eric Baker, and Jed Skogerboe

PACEDC Board of Directors



From left to right:

Rick Brennan, Kim Kibbie, Kevin Schumacher, Linda Thilges, Tod Faris, Tony Brugman, Ivan Dalen
Missing: Jonathan Moe, Scott Stokes, Beth Elman, Craig Merrill, and Brian Malm

Meet the K/PACEDC Team



Tod Faris

Executive Director



Linda Knecht

Office Manager



Callie Monson

Communications Manager



Robin Parker

Customer Relations

K/PACEDC Offers Leadership Series

August 13: Rally Your Communication Mojo! Increase Your Effectiveness as a Communicator at Work

If you had to rate your communication skills on a scale of 1 to 10, what number would you give yourself? In this engaging, interactive session, we will explore simple strategies for increasing your effectiveness as a communicator, particularly at work. We'll cover key areas including consideration of your listeners' perspective; active listening skills; deductive vs. inductive communication; and when to use different modes of communication (e.g., email vs. phone). These strategies can be immediately implemented to make you more skillful and effective when you communicate.

September 10: Increase Your 'EQ': Emotional Intelligence Strategies for Success at Work & Home

How effective are you at relating to others? Do you have a good grasp on which personality types set you off? Can you remain calm in the face of annoyances? Decades of research on these types of Emotional Intelligence skills have repeatedly demonstrated that people who have higher levels of Emotional Intelligence enjoy greater success and satisfaction at work, at home, and in their relationships. During this fascinating, interactive session, you will learn several user-friendly strategies for increasing your Emotional Intelligence. We'll start by introducing 25 key competencies of people with high levels of 'EQ'; then work into strategies for improvement in Self Awareness; Self-Management; Social Awareness; and Relationship Management.

October 8: Real-World Positivity: Unlock the Benefits of Cultivating a Brighter Outlook on Life

Several well-respected research studies have demonstrated that being a more positive person has significant benefits for our lives. "Real-World Positivity" means that being a positive person is not about putting on rose-colored glasses and dismissing the very real heartaches in life. People with Real-World Positivity are highly compassionate, while also recognizing the importance of not dwelling on the small, daily annoyances that we all experience. In this practical, interactive program, we will explore compelling research into the benefits of being more positive, along with several user-friendly strategies for developing a brighter outlook on life.

November 5: Without Saying a Word: Heighten Your Awareness of the Impact of Your Body Language

Research from UCLA tells us that 55% of what people pick up from us in communicating is through our body language. This engaging and practical session will help you become more effective at reading others' body language...and better understand what you might be saying

through your own! We'll cover several aspects of nonverbal communication, including hand/arm gestures, positions when seated or standing, facial expressions, and hand-shake positions. You'll learn how to establish a base line for interpreting others' body language and how to decode universal nonverbal behaviors. Throughout the session, we will incorporate real-life workplace applications, so participants will leave with information that is not only fascinating, but also helpful in successfully working with others.



group dynamics
effective leadership

experience motivate
productivity communication
developed

leadership

conflict resolution team work



mission
achieving change
team building

SERIES OVERVIEW

Focus on the future, along with personal and professional growth. Come join us in a series of career and personal training sessions that will cover team building, communication skills, customer service, building better relationships and careers. You can create a new look or perspective on life, leadership and personal growth.

SESSION OVERVIEW

1. Rally Your Communication Mojo! Increase Your Effectiveness as a Communicator at Work
Wed, Aug 13 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 If you had to rate your communication skills on a scale of 1 to 10, what number would you give yourself? In this engaging, interactive session, we will explore simple strategies for increasing your effectiveness as a communicator, particularly at work. We'll cover key areas including consideration of your listeners' perspective; active listening skills; deductive vs. inductive communication; and when to use different modes of communication (e.g., email vs. phone). These strategies can be immediately implemented to make you more skillful and effective when you communicate.
2. Increase Your 'EQ': Emotional Intelligence Strategies for Success at Work & Home
Wed, Sept 10 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 How effective are you at relating to others? Do you have a good grasp on which personality types set you off? Can you remain calm in the face of annoyances? Decades of research on these types of Emotional Intelligence skills have repeatedly demonstrated that people who have higher levels of Emotional Intelligence enjoy greater success and satisfaction at work, at home, and in their relationships. During this fascinating, interactive session, you will learn several user-friendly strategies for increasing your Emotional Intelligence. We'll start by introducing 25 key competencies of people with high levels of 'EQ'; then work into strategies for improvement in Self Awareness; Self-Management; Social Awareness; and Relationship Management.
3. Real-World Positivity: Unlock the Benefits of Cultivating a Brighter Outlook on Life
Wed, Oct 8 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 Several well-respected research studies have demonstrated that being a more positive person has significant benefits for our lives. "Real-World Positivity" means that being a positive person is not about putting on rose-colored glasses and dismissing the very real heartaches in life. People with Real-World Positivity are highly compassionate, while also recognizing the importance of not dwelling on the small, daily annoyances that we all experience. In this practical, interactive program, we will explore compelling research into the benefits of being more positive, along with several user-friendly strategies for developing a brighter outlook on life.
4. Without Saying a Word: Heighten Your Awareness of the Impact of Your Body Language
Wed, Nov 5 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 Research from UCLA tells us that 55% of what people pick up from us in communicating is through our body language. This engaging and practical session will help you become more effective at reading others' body language...and better understand what you might be saying through your own! We'll cover several aspects of nonverbal communication, including hand/arm gestures, positions when seated or standing, facial expressions, and hand-shake positions. You'll learn how to establish a base line for interpreting others' body language and how to decode universal nonverbal behaviors. Throughout the session, we will incorporate real-life workplace applications, so participants will leave with information that is not only fascinating, but also helpful in successfully working with others.

REGISTRATION

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
COST IS \$30.00 PER SESSION.

Email registration to: kcedc@kossuthia.com

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check the session(s) you want to attend

☐ Session 1: August 13 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 The Shores - Emmetsburg

☐ Session 2: September 10 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 The Shores - Emmetsburg

☐ Session 3: October 8 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 The Shores - Emmetsburg

☐ Session 4: November 5 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 The Shores - Emmetsburg

Gehrt's Garage rebuilds after fire



The initial grand opening for Gehrt's Garage was in 1997 and they occupied that location until August 11, 2024, when it was destroyed by fire. With the help of many local individuals and contractors re-arranging their schedules they were able to reopen Nov 1, 2024, in a new location.



COUNTY WIDE BREAKFAST



Featuring Speaker
DeMoine Adams

**WEDNESDAY,
August 6
8:00 AM**



**St Michael's
Parish Center,
Whittemore**

Cost of Attendance: \$30

RSVP by **July 25th** to
callie.monson@kpacedc.com or **515-295-7979**



SMALL TOWN PRIDE

ALGONA:

The City of Algona is enjoying its first full season of the **Central Park Splash Pad** after construction on the new park feature was completed in August of 2024. The splash pad, new skatepark, new sidewalks, upgraded shelter house and ball diamond improvements were part of the **Central Park** redevelopment project. Across town, next to the **Algona Aquatic Center**, the new pickleball courts continue to see a lot of players of all ages. Other construction projects include the new wastewater facility, a runway extension project at the airport and the **Nebraska Street Corridor** project. The new **Iowa Racing Hall of Fame** opened in April of 2025, next door to the **Ag and Motorsports Museum**, joining other local attractions such as the **Nativity Scene**, **Camp Algona P.O.W. Museum** and the **Kossuth County Historical Society**.

BANCROFT:

Discover Bancroft, the "**Northern Hub**" of Iowa's largest county, Kossuth. We're proud to be a "**Smart Shrinking City**," recognized for our exceptional quality of life. In our close-knit community of under 700, you'll find a surprising number of local businesses, from thriving agricultural ventures and manufacturing—including a chick hatchery and trailer maker—to a bustling **Main Street** offering a tire shop, bank, health clinic, grocery store, and salon & spa.

Bancroft is rich with unique community assets. **The Summit Center**, a completely renovated historic school gym, hosts large gatherings and is home to **Kidstop Daycare**. Don't miss the beautiful stained glass of the cathedral-style **St. John's Catholic Church** or the charming **Sister's Inn**, a renovated convent. Another highlight is the award-winning **S&B Farms Distillery**, a destination drawing visitors from across Iowa.

Our town cherishes its deep baseball roots, with a history of state titles, MLB players, and the iconic **1948 Memorial Baseball Park**. Recreational opportunities abound, including an aquatic center, library, golf course, sports courts, and an upcoming renovated bowling alley. You can also admire the 125 year old, historic **First Baptist Church**.

Curious to learn more? Call us at (515) 885-2382, email info@bancroftiowa.com, or visit www.bancroftiowa.com for city info. Find us on Facebook too! Come experience Bancroft—Spend a day, a night, a lifetime.

BURT:

Burt is home to many organizations that keep our community full of activities and events for people of all ages to attend. **The Burt Public Library** hosts a wide variety of speakers to inform our community about different resources that may apply to them. The **Burt Volunteer Fire Department** stays busy in the winter months by hosting community bingo as a fundraiser for their department. **Burt Beautiful: 100 to Care** awards funding for any project that relates to the upkeep or improvement of the Burt community. **The Burt Bulletin** is a weekly newsletter that focuses on the Burt community being up to date on the happenings in town, along with events they host. **The Burt Bears**, a little league team, have been successfully fundraising for overall field improvements and new bleachers at their diamond. Burt is a little town with a big heart!

CYLINDER:

Cylinder started with a large hay barn built by **Brown & Sons in 1885** and the railroad company then put in a siding to enable them to load hay. The Browns also built a house the same year and in 1889 John Goeders built a store. The following year the railroad company built a depot, and the station was named Cylinder after the famous **Cylinder Creek** that flows near the town site. It is said that the creek got its name from an attempt of some early settlers to cross the stream at high water with an engine, but the feat was too difficult and the heavy machine sank into the mud and the cylinder became detached and lost in the creek and was never found. This may be only a legend, but it is certain that the stream which has long been known by that name gave the name to the town located not far from its banks.

Cylinder is located on Hwy 18 approximately 7 miles East of Emmetsburg. Cylinder has a **beautiful city park** with a **shelter house** for family gatherings. Tennis and basketball court, sand volleyball and new playground equipment offer many hours of family fun.

EMMETSBURG:

Emmetsburg is a welcoming town where Irish heritage meets lakeside living. Today, that same resilient spirit lives on in a vibrant community proud of its past and excited for its future. Emmetsburg proudly celebrates its roots year-round—and especially during its week-long **St. Patrick's Day celebration** each March. Visitors can explore Emmetsburg's Irish spirit with a stop at the downtown **St. Pat's Irish Gift Shop**, visit the statue of Robert Emmet, or kiss the town's own Blarney Stone for a bit of good luck. Then, try out that "luck of the Irish" at **Wild Rose Casino & Resort**, where you'll find table games, sports betting, a full-service restaurant, live entertainment, and on-site lodging.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find plenty to enjoy in and around Emmetsburg, the home of **Five Island Lake**. Enjoy boating, kayaking, fishing, or swimming in Iowa's 9th largest natural lake. Unwind at one of two scenic campgrounds. Book a stay at one of Five Island Campground's modern rental cabins that can accommodate up to 4 or 9 guests. Take a peaceful walk or bike ride on the growing **Five Island Trail**, play pickleball at Harrison Park, tee off at the 9-hole public golf course, or enjoy family-friendly activities like disc golf, **Soper Park** swim beach, or brand new splash pad.

Explore the retail shops, historic sites, and tasty bites in the community. Get pampered at **Rose's Nail Spa**, pick out a new outfit at **L Square Boutique**, snag a vintage find at **Vintage Vixens**, get a sweet treat from one of two local ice cream trucks, relax on the lakeside veranda at **The Shores at Five Island** community center and restaurant. We invite you to discover what it is like experience this amazing little place we call home. It's your choice of sporting adventure, shopping, historical collections, outdoor recreation, unexpected treasures, and seasonal delights.

LAKOTA:

Tour **Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge**, an excellent place to observe wildlife under natural conditions throughout much of the year. The vast 2,200-acre site provides shelter for large numbers of waterfowl, including pelicans, trumpeter swans, great blue herons, double-breasted cormorants, and snow geese. For more information, contact (515) 928-2523. The **Lakota Historical Museum** is now available to tour. Contact (515) 341-3316 for more information. **Valero** is the largest ethanol plant in Iowa, located west of Lakota next to U.S. Highway 169 and Iowa Highway 9. For more information contact Valero at (515) 886-2222 or visit them on the web at www.valero.com The **Lakota Library** was built in 1940 by WPA men for the CCC camp in Bancroft at the cost of \$13,000. It features the unique architect style of Aswold Thorson. The school building in Lakota has been transformed into the **Eagle Center/Eagle Ave. of Homes**. **The Patriot Bar and Grill** is the local gathering place for food and drink. The original Town Hall and City Jail now houses the City Hall and council chambers as well as our beautiful tech-friendly library. For more information, contact (515) 886-2312 or www.youseemore.com/NILC/Lakota. Visit www.cityoflakota.org or www.facebook.com/Lakotalowa for more information.

MALLARD:

When the **Des Moines & Fort Des Moines Railway** was surveying through the county, Ellington township voted a tax, but Rush Lake did not. Geo. Inman, who owned the eighty on the west side of the township line and in Rush Lake township, gave the railway company half interest in return for the location of the town site on his land. This took the station out of Ellington and into Rush Lake, but the railway got the benefit of the tax just the same. Inman had promised the railway company

continued on pg. 11

to give them the part of his land east of the tracks, but there was a mortgage on it and this precipitated a long controversy with the railway which was finally compromised in some way. The track was laid as far north as Mallard in September 1882. The **railway station** was the first building on the town plat, though Inman had a small house on his farm and Joseph Mihlfread had lived in a small shack in the neighborhood for several years. The town was named by **Chas. E. Whitehead**, president of Des Moines & Fort Dodge Railway, who was a great hunter and used to hunt out through this country for several years before the railway was built. He had a good sense of humor and after naming "**Plover**," the station to the south, he called this new station "**Mallard**" because of the great quantities of ducks that inhabited the sloughs and ponds. The railway had hardly been completed before Hackenburg built a store and opened a stock of general merchandise. He was followed in the same year (1882) by **Bill Stafford's general store**. John Mertis built the first residence in town. In the spring of 1882 C.H. Sands started a grain, coal and lumber business and Orie Kendall built a hotel. Mr. Hackenburg was the first postmaster of the town. At first the regular church and Sunday School services were held in the waiting room of the depot, as that was the largest available room. **Chas. Ziegler** started the first hardware store in the fall of 1883 and several other businesses started later. For more information, visit their Facebook page @cityofmallardia.

RODMAN:

The B., C.R. & N. Ry. was graded and laid through Fern Valley township in 1881. Wm. Thompson had a post office at this farm on section 18 which was called **Fern Valley**. A man by the name of **Rodman of Forest City** owned some land on the right of way in the township and he offered the railway company a half interest if they would plat a town on his land and call it "**Rodman**." This was done and the station house was the only building except the temporary boarding shanties for some time. Wm. Thompson moved his post office from his farm into town and named the town Rodman. There were several large hay barns put up about this time and the buying and shipping of hay became the leading business of the town. **M.L. Fritz** built a hotel and several other stores, blacksmith shop, and other buildings were erected from time to time. After several attempts to have a creamery, the people of the town got together, borrowed money from a bank in Emmetsburg, and the **creamery** was built in 1895. Later more hay barns and two elevators were built, and several more business ventures came to the town.

SWEA CITY:

Reynolds Park is a great place to come and have a picnic, play, or hold your family reunion. **Swea City Library** strives to keep the newest books on hand and offers a variety of programs for all ages. **Rustic Treasures** is full of unique new and refurbished furniture and home décor. If you're looking for a gift for someone special or just the right piece for your home, you'll find it at Rustic Treasures. It's all in the name... **Larows Wood Fire Grill** offers one-of-a-kind steaks cooked on a wood fired grill, pair with grilled tiger shrimp for a meal for two. They also have a vast menu for lunch and supper. Don't miss out on wing night Wednesdays and Thursday Bingo at Larow's. Their full service bar and banquet hall are also perfect venue for gatherings like receptions and large parties. **Pub 307 Bar & Grill** is open 7 days a week and has a wide variety on their menu for your evening meal. They offer weekly specials and full menu Friday, Saturday, and Sunday including salad bar. Be sure to check them out Tuesday for Taco night and the Ribeye with house seasoning is a must. **Pub 307** is a great place to catch the game and watch your favorite team. If you're in need of a location to host a birthday party or other event, Pub 307 would be happy to help. Tour **Brand FX**, a manufacturer of fiberglass utility truck bodies and one of the largest employers of Swea City. For more information, contact City Hall at (515) 272-4606 or visit us on Facebook.

WESLEY:

Wesley offers a welcoming variety of recreational spaces for families, children, and visitors. Just south of the community swimming pool, **Swim Pool Park** provides a perfect spot for family fun with an open shelter house, basketball hoop, and playground equipment tailored to younger kids, including a twisty slide, swings, and sand diggers. The nearby **swimming pool** remains a summertime favorite for all ages. **South Park**, another highlight, features modern restrooms, two spacious shelters, a new playground, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball, basketball and softball facilities, and camper hook-ups for weekend stays. It's also home to a scenic new **9-hole disc golf course**.

Wesley's strong community spirit shines through its long-standing baseball tradition. The **Wesley Little League**, supported locally for over 40 years, continues to thrive and will welcome Corwith players starting Spring 2025. The league traces its roots to the adult "**Flyers**" team, formed in 1973. To support growing crowds and events, a new concession stand was built for Little League fans, and the historic **Old Wesley Depot** continues to serve food during the town's popular **4th of July celebration**. From sports to playgrounds, Wesley's parks are full of energy, memories, and hometown pride.

WEST BEND:

The City of West Bend is currently under contract with Sargent Drilling for the construction of a new production well. Funds for the project were made available through a Community Development Block Grant and the Palo Alto County Gaming Development Per Capita and City Award Grants. Future improvements are being planned for the wastewater treatment facility. Upcoming projects in the community include a new main street digital display sign, a slide-in unit for the mini-pumper fire truck, lighting updates and security cameras at the **Grotto of the Redemption** and interior lighting upgrade at the library. The **West Bend Summer Recreation Program** will be purchasing new softball/baseball equipment, and the **West Bend Chamber of Commerce** will be giving the parade wagon a facelift. All of these projects are made possible through PACGDC grant awards. **Hailey B's Bakery** has moved to a new location. They will be setting up shop downtown in the old NAPA building. We hope to see her "OPEN" sign in the window soon. West Bend is the proud home of **Country Maid** (manufacturer of Butter Braid Pastries) started in the basement of a farmhouse in West Bend and has grown to serve customers in over 45 states. West Bend is "A Rock-Solid Community" and home to the world-famous **Grotto of the Redemption**. The Grotto is the largest collection of rock and semi-precious stones in existence. **Father Paul Dobberstein** collected ornamental rocks and gems, setting them in concrete to represent scenes in the life of Christ. The Grotto is open to visitors year-round, offering hourly tours.

WHITEMORE:

Home to Kossuth County's "**Freedom Rock**" painted by Artist Ray "Bubba" Sorensen and dedicated July 4, 2015, the famous "Freedom Rock" is located just west of the American Legion Hall at 605 Broad Street. The Kossuth rock features a depiction of the flag raising at Iwo Jima and the presentation of a US flag to a Gold Star Mother. Voted one of the "Top 10" Freedom Rocks in Iowa, a must-see on your "Rock Tour"! **Schmitt Hardware**, a modern-day business, affords people entering the store the charm and atmosphere of a turn-of-the-century hardware store of 100+ years past. Tourists and historians are welcome to visit during business hours. For more information, call 515-884-2224. **Siems Park** is a county-owned camping and fishing hotspot, located just southeast of Whittemore. Camping sites include electric hook-ups with a sanitary sewer dump on site (available April 1-November 1). Showers are now also available at the north end of the local campground. **Noah's Park**, located in southcentral Whittemore, contains the community's playground filled with modern equipment and features a full-size ball diamond where members of the Whittemore Little League teams play "Home" games each year throughout the month of June! The park is also home to a beautifully maintained tribute to area soldiers and service men and women world-wide and is known locally as our **Veteran's Memorial**. In the fall of 2001, in remembrance of 9-11 and to show our true patriotic pride, members of the community painted a 20'x60' Betsy Ross flag on the south side of the Whittemore Community Center, which is located in Noah's Park. It is a one-of-a-kind display of an early flag in American history. **J&J Custom Meats** is a family owned, state-of-the-art, built-from-the-ground-up meat processing center. They process beef, pork and lamb and carry a variety of retail meats, now famous for their homemade bologna, jerky and beef sticks! Homemade **Whitty Pop Popcorn** is located inside **Three Doors Down Liquor** at 417 Broad Street and is a popcorn-lovers dream come true. The **Craig & Deb Gade Barn** is listed on a stop on the "Iowa Barn Foundation Tour". For more information on Whittemore, contact 515-884-2265 or www.whittemoreiowa.com.



KOSSUTH COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

106 S. DODGE ST | SUITE 210
ALGONA, IA 50511 | PHONE: 515.295.7979

BUSINESS INVESTORS 1000+

Algona Medical Clinic II
Bancroft Municipal Utilities
Bank Plus
Bolton & Menk
Buchanan, Bibler, Gabor & Meis
Central Financial Group
Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Corteva Agriscience
Country Maid, Inc.
Cozzini, LLC
Erpelding, Voigt & Company
Evolution Driveline
Farmers State Bank
Fenchel, Doster, Buck & Ennen
Fidelity Bank & Trust
Greg Penning & Company
Hormel Foods Corporation
ITC Midwest, LLC
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Iowa State Bank
Klein Insurance Agency
Kossuth Regional Health Center
MidAmerican Energy
Midland Power Cooperative
Northwest Bank
Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company
Precision Food Innovations (PFI)
Security State Bank
Smithfield Hog Production
Snap-on
StateLine Cooperative
Walker Chiropractic & Wellness, PC
West Iowa Bank
White Transfer & Storage



BUSINESS INVESTORS \$500 - \$999

Algona Publishing Company
Alliant Energy
Aluma
Drs. Klepper & Trainer, ODS
Erpelding Excavating Enterprise
Farm & Home Services
Forge & Build
Gold Eagle Cooperative
Good Samaritan Society of Algona
Heartland Mutual Insurance Association
Hy-Vee
Kemna Auto Center
Kossuth Abstract & Title Company
Lake Mills Motor Sports II
Reding's Gravel & Excavating / Edwards Contracting
Suidae Health & Production
Titonka-Burt Communications
Whittemore Municipal Utilities

BUSINESS INVESTORS \$250 - \$499

Algona Floor Design
Algona Manor Care Center
Blacktop Service Company
Bob Becker Construction of Wesley
Brenda Clark-Hamilton "Professional Growth Programs"
Carroll Implement
Dump It Sanitation & Recycling
East Fork Swine Veterinary Services
EXIT Realty Home / Land Properties
Farmers Cooperative Elevator
Feed Mill Coffee Co. & Events
G-Force Customs
Glen's Green Thumb
Grass Masters
Henkel Construction Company
Henry-Olson Funeral Homes
J & J Custom Meats
Jack's O.K. Tire Service
K.C. Nielsen, Ltd.
Kinetic Technologies, LLC
KLGA / KLGZ
North Iowa Appliance Center
Oakcrest Funeral Services
Passel Farms / Standard Nutrition Co.
Protein Resources
Roethler Electric
Stuart Simonson, CPA

**Kossuth County Board of
Supervisors and communities
in Kossuth County also
contribute funding dollars to
assist with our programs**

BUSINESS INVESTORS \$50 - \$249

Algona Family YMCA
Algona Hearing Center
Algona Machine & Supply
Kossuth County Farm Bureau

Lone Rock Cooperative Telephone Company
Reutzel Excavating
Steier Ag
Tom Eischen Sales

BUSINESS INVESTORS \$1000

Bank Plus
Community Lumber Supply
Community State Bank
Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Erpelding, Voigt & Company
Farmers State Bank
Iowa Lakes Community College
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Iowa State Bank
Iowa Trust & Savings Bank
MidAmerican Energy
Palo Alto County Health System
POET Biorefining
River Valley Telecommunications
West Iowa Bank

PALO ALTO COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



BUSINESS INVESTORS \$500 - \$999

Aluma
K & W Electric

**Palo Alto County Board of
Supervisors and communities
in Palo Alto County also
contribute funding dollars to
assist with our programs**

BUSINESS INVESTORS \$250 - \$499

Brownlee Management
Forge & Build
Graettinger Hardware/
Roberts Street Self Storage
Horizons Unlimited

Northland Auto & Marine
Piray's Welding & Fabricating
Pro Cooperative
Protein Resources

BUSINESS INVESTORS \$50 - \$249

West Bend Red Power

