



Newsletter

106 S. Dodge | Suite 210 | Algona, IA 50511 | kcedc@kossuthia.com | Phone 515.295.7979

VOLUME 27 | NUMBER 2 | JULY-DECEMBER 2025

Kossuth/Palo Alto County Economic Development County-wide Breakfast

The 2025 Kossuth/Palo Alto Economic Development Breakfast featured motivational speaker DeMoine Adams. Following the breakfast and opening introductions, DeMoine led the group through "The Game Plan". He stated that everyone in the room should consider that they are together in a locker room for 45 minutes. He reiterated a few times that once you see where you are going, improvements begin. As a Nebraska Husker, he shared, the phrase, "That we all have to put our I in 'win' everyday; and then on game day get the job done."

DeMoine was a 3-year starting defensive end for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He led the team in quarterback sacks and won the bench press competition at Nebraska with a best of 405 lbs. as a senior.

DeMoine shared that he grew up taking special education classes. He was the product of a 15-year-old dad and a 17-year-old mother. He stuttered and kids laughed at him and made fun of him. He would go into the school's bathroom and hide at recess. He was without any sense of purpose. Eventually his grandparents raised him. He started lifting weights at age 14. Coach Osborn saw potential in him as he got bigger and stronger.



His determination in football transformed to how to be a winner in life. DeMoine stated that the best things in life are people. Good people make good communities and vice-versa. He asked the question, "How are we preparing our young people. Only 58% of young people are successful in their first job."

DeMoine stated, "Leaders create leaders, not followers. How are you lifting others? Do you take the time to encourage others and stay connected? Remember we are stronger together and it should always be 'we' over 'me'. There are six issues that are a hindrance for some people. It includes the following: 1. Anxious, angry and divided, 2. There is a decrease in emotional intelligence, 3. Depressed and hopeless, 4. Pessimistic, negative and rude, 5. Lack of discipline and 6. Disengaged or actively engaged?"

DeMoine said that you can tell if a person is socially responsible. "Watch to see if they will pick up a piece of paper off the floor."

For followers to improve they need to be assured the following: Hope, which comes from direction, faith and guidance. Trust, which includes honesty, integrity and respect. Compassion

which is caring, friendship, happiness and love and stability meaning security, strength, support and peace. The atmosphere you create determines the win. It can inspire others to be greater, to be leaders and to be winners in the Game of Life.

Before he closed, DeMoine mentioned civil culture. To get back to that he stated that cellphones need to be disconnected. These disconnect us from people and impedes putting the I in Winning.

Sponsors for the breakfast included Aluma, City of Whittemore, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Country Maid, Erpelding Voigt & Co., Farmers State Bank, Hormel Foods, Hy-Vee, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Iowa State Bank, Iowa Trust & Savings Bank and Mid-American Energy.

*Story and photo courtesy of Diane Weiland,
Reporter Democrat*



Kossuth/Palo Alto County
Economic Development
Corporation

www.kpacedc.com

Palo Alto County Hospital Celebrates 60 Years

A Legacy of Lifecare, Community, and Compassion Since 1965

This year, Palo Alto County Hospital proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary, marking six decades as a county hospital dedicated to providing high-quality care close to home. While 1965 marked the official opening of the current hospital, the story of healthcare in Palo Alto County began long before, with a legacy rooted in community commitment, pioneering physicians, and a passion for healing.

Healthcare in Palo Alto County traces its beginnings back to the 1860s, when early medical pioneers like Dr. J. H. Underwood of West Bend and Dr. J. J. Whitney of Emmetsburg served area residents, often under challenging conditions. In 1892, the county's first hospital opened in Ruthven, established by Drs. Baldwin and Huston, providing advanced care for the growing community.

By 1920, local citizens, with help from the Red Cross, purchased the "old McCormick house" in Emmetsburg and converted it into the Palo Alto Memorial Hospital. With just nine beds, two bassinets, and a small operating room, the hospital began providing vital services for only \$5 per day.



The "old McCormick house".

As needs expanded, the hospital moved in 1938 to the former East Side School building in Emmetsburg, offering more space for patients and services. The community's commitment to



The Palo Alto County Hospital building in 1963.

advancing healthcare culminated in 1963, when 85% of county voters approved a \$500,000 bond referendum to build a modern facility. Thanks to local contributions, reserves, and federal Hill-Burton funds, construction began in 1964, and on November 1, 1965, Palo Alto County Hospital officially opened its doors.

Over the years, the hospital continued to grow to meet the needs of the community. Expansions in 1977 improved emergency services, radiology, and laboratory spaces. A new clinic opened in West Bend in 1980, supported by generous community fundraising. In 1986, PARC Hall was established to provide long-term care, and by 1988, specialty outpatient clinics—including surgery, urology, and later cardiology—were added to bring advanced care directly to residents.

In 1990, the Palo Alto County Health Care Foundation was created to support hospital growth through community contributions, ensuring continued investment in equipment, staff, and patient care. Four years later, the hospital partnered with Mercy Health Network – North Iowa, gaining valuable access to planning, training, and recruitment resources. By 1998, the organization officially became the Palo Alto County Health System

(PACHS), creating a coordinated, integrated network of services across the county.

Today, PACHS provides a full continuum of care, including acute and long-term care, family practice clinics in Emmetsburg, Graettinger, and West Bend, rehabilitation services, specialty clinics, imaging, senior living at Willow Ridge, public health, hospice, EMS services and so much more! With a commitment

to "Lifecare," PACHS has evolved into a modern health system that serves patients at every stage of life while reinvesting profits back into the community.

"From our earliest roots in the late 19th century to our present-day embrace of Lifecare, this 60-year milestone reminds us that our strength lies not in bricks and mortar—but in the compassion, resilience, and support of our community," said Jonathan Moe, PACHS CEO. "Our mission remains clear: to provide exceptional care, modern innovation, and heartfelt services to every person in Palo Alto County."



1970 ambulance.

As Palo Alto County Hospital celebrates 60 years as a county-owned hospital, PACHS looks ahead with the same dedication to innovation, quality, and community service that has guided it for more than a century.

KRHC Community Health Aids in Food Security

In Kossuth County alone 1,260 individuals experience food insecurity according to the Iowa Health and Human Services report. In the last Community Health Needs Assessment for the county, food access and food insecurity were also mentioned as concern by community members. As a way to help increase food access to Kossuth County and area residents, Community Health has been working on a Food Lending Project.

We are excited to share that Food Lending Boxes have been installed around Kossuth County communities at local businesses and churches, and the items and supplies inside the boxes are available for families in need to take at their convenience, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hospital's box has been installed on the south side of the clinic.

Other locations of Food Lending Boxes in Kossuth County include:

ALGONA:

- Bishop Garrigan School (on the west side of the building)
- Divine Mercy Parish (on the north side of the building)
- First Lutheran Church (to the south of the main entrance)
- Trinity Lutheran Church

BANCROFT:

- Pleasant View Manor Apartments

BURT:

- Between Post Office and Public Library

LU VERNE:

- Public Library

WESLEY:

- City Hall

WHITEMORE:

- Public Library

TITONKA:

- City Hall

These boxes are for ANYONE who needs additional food resources. The boxes are open for those in need year-round and also open for donations year-round! Each box displays a sticker reading, "A Helping Hand- Take what you need, leave what you can." This simple message captures their purpose: to provide a little extra help or a meal for anyone in need. To keep these boxes successful and well-stocked, community support is essential. Many of the host locations are organizing food drives, but ongoing donations from residents are also encouraged. Even small, consistent contributions- such as picking up a few extra food items weekly or monthly- can make a big difference. Donations can be placed directly into the boxes or brought inside to locations that have an area for extra storage.

The Community Health team is hoping that keeping the boxes filled will be a community effort. Even if that just means buying an extra box at the grocery store each week to help stock one of these boxes, you are helping a family in need.

Food insecurity continues to be prevalent in the community and these boxes are just another way Community Health is trying to improve access to food for county residents. As the winter months approach, we are asking individuals to be mindful of the items placed in the boxes, so they do not freeze/break/rot. It is best for shelf stable food to be placed in the boxes. If you would like to donate you can take it the items directly to one of the lending boxes or you can always drop off food to Community Health at Kossuth Regional Health Center.

Food insecurity critically impacts public health economic stability and social equity, demanding urgent action. Lack of access to food leads to health issues like malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease increasing health costs and straining public systems. For

children, it causes developmental delays and poor academic performance, undermining future workforce potential. Hunger reduces productivity and perpetuates poverty, burdening social services and government programs. Thank you for your continued support to keep food in the homes of Kossuth County residents!

Kossuth County is fortunate to have such strong community support and compassion. The Kossuth County Public Health Department initiated and coordinated this project, beginning the search for funding and locations in early summer 2025. A special thank-you goes out to the generous donors and community partners, including Algona High School (Woods Class), Deitering Bros, Forge and Build, Iowa State Bank, Nielson Trucking, Reutzel Excavating, Signworks, and Steier Ag for helping make these food boxes a reality in our surrounding communities.

Together, we can keep these "Helping Hand" boxes filled and continue to brighten lives across Kossuth County.



The Food Lending Box located on the south side of the clinic at KRHC.

Article by Cede Becker, KRHC Public Health

Larry Wajda

2025 ASBDC State Star Nominee, Iowa

Larry Wajda serves as the Regional Director for the Northwest Iowa SBDC at Iowa Lakes Community College in Spencer, Iowa. Since joining America's SBDC Iowa in September 2022, Larry has exemplified dedication to Iowa's small business community. Drawing on a career spanning entrepreneurship, corporate leadership, and community engagement, Larry has brought an entrepreneurial mindset and efficiency-driven leadership approach to his role, making him a standout figure in our network.

Larry's region includes Dickinson, Clay, Emmet, Kossuth, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, and Sioux counties—where he advises and trains both aspiring entrepreneurs and established small business owners. Under his leadership, the Northwest Iowa SBDC has consistently exceeded all contracted goals and performance metrics. His work is grounded in authentic, lasting relationships with his clients and local stakeholders. Whether by sending handwritten thank-you notes or keeping key partners informed of district developments, Larry's outreach ensures the SBDC's value remains front of mind among decision-makers and community leaders.

A University of Iowa graduate and M.B.A. recipient from Wayne State College, Larry was a member of the Iowa wrestling team and an R.O.T.C. participant. After serving in the military, he founded and grew Iowa Health Associates into a multi-state enterprise spanning Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. His agency earned numerous awards, including Wellmark's top

individual producer recognition—twice. Following the sale of his company, Larry transitioned into broadcasting and marketing, working closely with small businesses through Community First Broadcasting. He later spent nearly nine years with Coca-Cola and Atlantic Bottling, where he helped over 250 restaurants and taverns across Northwest Iowa and Southern Minnesota.

Larry's impact goes beyond numbers—he's an active force in state-level initiatives. He consistently supports and participates in activities such as the SBDC's Day at the Capitol and regularly nominates outstanding small businesses for entrepreneurial awards, further amplifying Iowa's success stories on a statewide and national level. Additionally, Larry is trilingual and offers services in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language.

In times of crisis, Larry's leadership truly shines. When catastrophic floods devastated communities across Northwest Iowa, Larry was boots on the ground, visiting directly impacted businesses to provide immediate support.



Larry Wajda

His ability to balance disaster recovery assistance while continuing to serve the broader client base demonstrated remarkable resilience, empathy, and commitment to the communities he serves.

Away from the office and activities of his four children, Wajda owns and operates Ironhawk Wrestling Academy, and loves to fish, hunt, and enjoy country concerts with his wife Abbi.

Larry Wajda's commitment to excellence, proactive engagement, and heartfelt service to Iowa's entrepreneurs make him an exceptional nominee for the ASBDC State Star Award. We are proud to recognize his enduring contributions to small business success across the region.



ADVANCING INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REGION

Kinetic Technologies has emerged as a leading force in automation and advanced manufacturing within the region. Over the past four years, the company has grown from an engineering prototype firm into a comprehensive provider of custom industrial automation solutions. Its products and services span a wide range of capabilities, including robotic welding integration, simulation and offline robot programming, custom-designed and manufactured fixtures, positioners, and tooling, PLC integrations and custom control panels, as well as onsite installation, training, and technical support.

Kinetic's solutions serve a diverse set of industries including aerospace, agriculture, high-value manufacturing, and data center cooling, among others. The company's approach is rooted in innovation, craftsmanship, and problem-solving. Kinetic Technologies manages every stage of a project, from concept development and engineering design to machining, fabrication, assembly, programming, and installation. This end-to-end capability allows the team to deliver

tailored, reliable systems designed to improve production quality and efficiency, enhance safety, and reduce labor challenges for its customers.

A Strategic Expansion to Support Future Growth

Kinetic Technologies, founded and owned by Mark and Betsy Barglof, is entering a new phase of growth with the construction of a new 12,000-square-foot facility. This expansion highlights the company's momentum and its commitment to strengthening the region's manufacturing sector.

The company currently employs 15 team members and has added four new employees in 2025. The additional facility space will significantly increase Kinetic's production and engineering capacity, enabling the company to take on larger and more technically complex projects. The expansion will support machining, fabrication, assembly, testing, and engineering functions, while also providing room for new advanced manufacturing equipment that will continue to elevate the company's capabilities.

This investment will also create further employment opportunities across the organization. As capacity grows, Kinetic Technologies anticipates adding more engineers, machinists, and fabricators. These new positions will strengthen the local workforce and offer high-quality career pathways within the region.

A Shared Commitment to Community and Progress

Kinetic Technologies' expansion represents more than a milestone for the company—it signals a continued investment in the economic strength and technological advancement of the surrounding community. As part of this commitment, the company is piloting a new program in collaboration with Algona High School to mentor its robotics team, encouraging students to explore careers in engineering, technology, and advanced manufacturing. Through these efforts, Kinetic Technologies is helping cultivate the next generation of skilled talent that will support the region's future growth.



Ernst Names Small Business of the Week

GROOM CURRICULUM

Throughout this Congress, Chair Ernst plans to recognize a small business in every one of Iowa's 99 counties.

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Chair of the Senate Small Business Committee, announced her Small Business of the Week: Groom Curriculum of Palo Alto County. Throughout the 119th Congress, Chair Ernst plans to recognize a small business in every one of Iowa's 99 counties.

"Since 2022, founder of Groom Curriculum Sierra Elbert has led the pack in pet grooming education," said Chair Ernst. "Through a 10-week long curriculum, students can earn a professional grooming credential that will help them make a pawisitive impact on the pet industry in Emmetsburg and beyond."

In 2022, Sierra Elbert established Groom Curriculum with the vision of teaching others the intricacies of pet grooming. The nationally accredited small business offers a 10-week program that prepares students to be high-skilled applicants in the industry. By working



with 21 community college programs, workforce training organizations, and registered apprenticeship programs, Groom Curriculum promotes safe and professional grooming practices that meet the education standards established by The American Kennel Club.

Executive Director Update



Tod Faris, Executive Director

2025 has been a year filled with relationship building, learning, and connecting with the community and business leaders across Kossuth and Palo Alto counties. We have completed 34 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.

K/PACEDC used the results from these discussions to enhance the Economic Impact report. I have also been attending city council meetings throughout the counties to introduce myself and provide information about K/PACEDC.

Throughout 2025, K/PACEDC assisted several businesses with growth projects of various types. In Palo Alto County, these projects include Montag Manufacturing, American Industrial Transport (AITX), Dmand Prints, and Kampen Foods. In Kossuth County, projects included Arrowood Active Aging, Kinetic Technologies, and the Kossuth County Childcare Coalition. Several other projects are in early stages.

K/PACEDC hosted great programs and events in 2025. The 26th Summer Intern program began May 28 with the Intern Breakfast where our 17 interns from 12 businesses met together for the first time

along with other area businesses and leaders from the counties. The interns had the opportunity to participate in weekly skill building sessions to learn and network together as they interned at area businesses. K/PACEDC also provided popular programs including the Human Resources and City Clerks' Committees, who each met quarterly for training and opportunities to connect and network among colleagues in the same field. The Leadership Series experienced record attendance this year with 138 participants, throughout 4 classes in the months of August through November at The Shores with leadership trainer Brenda Clark Hamilton. The annual County Wide Breakfast was August 6th at the St. Michaels Parish Center in Whittemore with keynote speaker DeMoine Adams who provided an energetic leadership presentation.

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to thank all our business investors, community leaders, organizations, and county supervisors for your continued support of K/PACEDC. Together we all achieve more.

KCEDC Board President, Aaron McCartan

My name is Aaron McCartan and I have served on the KCEDC Board of Directors for 10 years. My Presidency began July 1st, 2025 with the term expiration of my predecessor, Sean Noonan. In my time as a Board member, I have served on sub-committees including the Executive Oversight Committee which was tasked with the search and hiring of our new Executive Director, Tod Faris.

My introduction to the Board began as I assumed the role of General Manager of Titonka-Burt Communications in June of 2015. This is a shared role where my responsibilities serve as a co-

manager of RingTel Communications. Being a 'shared' management executive gives me some unique insight into resource sharing and balancing responsibilities between multiple regions or counties which periodically benefits our shared county Economic Development arrangement.

It has been a pleasure to be involved with the revolving loans, helping drive new industries and retain existing business. This role has been very enlightening to the benefits of a strong Economic Development program and how that can aid the overall quality of life in our communities.

PACEDC Board President, Tony Brugman

My name is Tony Brugman, and I have the privilege of serving as Board President for the Palo Alto County Economic Development Corporation (PACEDC). I have been a member of the PACEDC Board for 8 years and began my term as President in 2024.

As Board President, my goal is to continue strengthening the partnerships that make Palo Alto County a great place to live, work,

and do business. Our focus at K/PACEDC is on supporting local businesses, attracting new investment, and fostering workforce and community development. I'm honored to help lead an organization so dedicated to the prosperity and strength of Palo Alto County. Together with our board, staff, and community partners, we'll continue to create opportunities that keep our county moving forward.

K/PACEDC Summer Intern Ava Kemna

Over the summer, K/PACEDC was thrilled to welcome Ava Kemna back as our summer intern. This fall, Ava began her third year at Iowa State University, where she is pursuing a degree in Health Care Management and Marketing.

As the sole intern this

summer, Ava embraced new responsibilities and took on leadership

roles within the organization. One of her most

notable contributions was organizing the Intern Food Drive—a community-focused initiative that empowers interns to make a positive impact while continuing to grow professionally.

K/PACEDC is grateful for Ava's dedication, initiative, and enthusiasm. We wish her continued success in her academic and professional journey.



Ava Kemna

Hailey B's BAKERY

Hailey Banwart, owner of Hailey B's Bakery, has transformed her love for baking into a flourishing small business. With the encouragement and support from her husband, Trent Banwart, and their three children, Hailey turned what began as a hobby in their basement into a full-fledged bakery located in the heart of West Bend.

Hailey B's Bakery is a high-end specialty bakery that focuses on custom cakes, cookies, and cupcakes. They also provide fresh cinnamon rolls, decorated sugar cookies, banana bars, specialty cupcakes, and a weekly cookie flavor in their store front. While Hailey B's store front is only open Fridays and Saturdays, they take custom orders throughout the week for any occasion.



Hailey B's staff.

Over the summer of 2025, Hailey B's Bakery renovated the Napa Auto Body store and turned it into a clean, stylish place for their customers to come in and enjoy a sweet treat. The new building has given Hailey and her business room to grow, turning her dream into a vibrant centerpiece of West Bend's main street.

Hailey and her team take great pride in providing high-quality baked goods that not only taste exceptional but look amazing as well. With a talented and dedicated staff, Hailey B's Bakery continues to deliver both custom creations and daily favorites through its store front. Looking ahead, the team hopes to introduce new exciting items, while remaining committed to the craftsmanship and service that has become a staple of their bakery.

If you need to place an order or want to stay up to date on what Hailey B's Bakery has to offer, check out our Facebook page @haileybsbakery and leave us a message, email haileybsbakery2021@gmail.com, or call 712-358-2773.



Hailey B's ribbon cutting in West Bend.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Participants enjoyed Brenda Clark-Hamilton as she presented information at K/PACEDC's leadership event. In 2025, the four-part leadership series covered team building, communication skills, customer service, building better relationships, and careers. K/PACEDC hosts the Leadership Training sessions during the months of August, September, October, and November annually.

ARROWOOD ACTIVE AGING

Total Renovation of the State Hotel

Luke Arrowood contacted Kossuth Palo Alto County Economic Development in the fall of 2024 to discuss his plan to purchase and renovate a downtown building to expand his business, Arrowood's Active Aging. K/PACEDC hosted a meeting with Arrowood along with representatives from the City of Algona and Algona Municipal Utilities. Potential funding opportunities were discussed and Tod Faris, Executive Director of K/PACEDC offered to research the Catalyst Grant and other opportunities through the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA).

The group then met in December and Faris invited Jim Thompson from the IEDA to attend and provide insight into funding programs. Based on the information from Thompson, the City of Algona completed a Catalyst Grant application for \$100,000 and Faris applied for a grant to fund an architect's rendering of the historic front façade of the building as a template for renovation. The grant for the rendering was approved, and the rendering was included in the Catalyst Grant application.

The Algona City Council approved a resolution for a grant agreement between the City of Algona and the IEDA for a downtown redevelopment project with Luke Arrowood of Arrowood's Active Aging.

The City was awarded a \$100,000 Community Catalyst grant from IEDA, which was directed to Arrowood for the redevelopment of the State Hotel Building located at 210 and 212 E. State Street. The City contributed an additional matching economic development grant of \$100,000 to the project.

"We are incredibly grateful to the City of Algona, K/PACEDC, and IEDA for these grants, which provide us with a unique opportunity to revitalize an underutilized building. Our immediate focus with initial funds is to ensure the structural integrity of the building, preserving it as a lasting landmark for future generations," said Luke Arrowood.

The renovations to the building will include the addition of a studio apartment in the west rear portion of the building and a retail

storefront in the east half of the front of the building. The interior wall separating the building into 210 and 212 will be opened and the renovated space will be utilized as a gym, activity space, and training area for Arrowood Active Aging. Arrowood also renovated the basement of the building into a commercial gym, and is accepting new memberships.

Another key aspect of the project is the installation of new windows and doors, along with other façade improvements, to restore the building's historic double storefront, which has already begun. This project also includes infrastructure to allow for second floor apartments to be developed in the future. The completion date for the grant-funded portion of the project is July 14, 2027.

"The State Hotel building has a large footprint in our downtown and has been largely unutilized for several years. Projects like this are beneficial to the entire downtown district, in addition to bringing new retail, services and living space to State Street," said former Deputy City Administrator Barb Smith.

Through the Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program, the IEDA provides grants to communities for the redevelopment, rehabilitation or deconstruction of buildings to stimulate economic growth or reinvestment in the community.



From left to right: Tod Faris, Executive Director of K/PACEDC, Luke Arrowood, Owner of Arrowood Active Aging, Jacob Tjaden, City Administrator of the City of Algona.



to move forward with community campaign

Access to affordable, high-quality daycare is more than a family issue—it's an economic driver. When parents have reliable childcare, they can fully participate in the workforce, businesses can attract and retain employees, and communities see stronger, more stable growth.

Kossuth/Palo Alto County Economic Development Corporation, Algona Area Economic Development Corporation, the City of Algona and the Algona Area Chamber of Commerce have identified childcare as a high priority and are working in collaboration to support daycare sustainability and expansion.

This fall, the Kossuth Childcare Coalition is kicking off a campaign to raise funds for the Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund. Once established, this fund will provide grants and/or low interest loans to daycare centers and providers for workforce recruitment and retention, quality improvements or facility improvements that will impact expansion. Thanks to a grant from the Donald Tietz Charitable Foundation, up to \$50,000 of the funds raised will receive a dollar-for-dollar match. The Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund is a special project of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa; all donations to the fund are tax deductible.

To learn more about the Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund or how to contribute, contact Tod Faris, K/PACEDC Executive Director at 515-295-7979 or visit www.cfneia.org/donations/kossuth-childcare-fund/.

AGSTATE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW 24,000 SF WAREHOUSE IN EMMETSBURG BUSINESS PARK

AgState is expanding its footprint in Emmetsburg with the construction of a new 24,000+ square foot seed and chemical warehouse in the Emmetsburg Business Park. Company leaders worked with the City of Emmetsburg and Emmetsburg Community Development Corporation (ECDC) to purchase four lots at the park's entrance, prominently located on the west side of the road. This significant investment will complement AgState's existing property in the business park and support the agricultural needs of customers in the area. The new facility also reflects continued momentum as local and regional businesses choose Emmetsburg and Palo Alto County as a place to grow.

Construction is underway, with AgState looking forward to expanding its services while strengthening its long-standing presence in the community. Kevin Fitzpatrick, VP Agronomy Sales & Marketing, declared "The AgState Emmetsburg Chemical and Seed Warehouse will be a great addition for our member-owners for the 2026 growing season. Emmetsburg is a strong supporting community of AgState, and we need to continue to show our support back to our member-owners and the local community as we continue to grow our agronomy business. We plan to have this warehouse up and running for the Spring of 2026."

ECDC is proud to support AgState in this expansion and remains committed to being a strong partner in advancing development throughout the community.



Burt, Iowa buzzed with excitement Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025, as community members gathered for the ribbon cutting of Pottsie's Cafe! With smiles, handshakes, and well wishes, the celebration showed it was more than just a ribbon cutting. It symbolizes growth, connection and new beginnings.

Community members stood side by side to officially welcome Pottsie's to Burt. Not only because of the amazing food, but as a gathering place where friends can meet, stories can be shared, and our community can continue to grow a deeper connection!

*Photo and Article by
Callie Monson, Burt Bulletin*

WORK EXPERIENCE & ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Work Experience (WEP) is designed to help individuals who have limited work experience or who have been out of the labor force for an extended period of time.

- WEP may take place in the for-profit, nonprofit, or public sector.
- Must be a legal business/entity in accordance with all federal, state and local laws.
- A WEP contract at one worksite can be written for duration of 30-90 days.
- Participant cannot be placed with an employer where the participant is already employed in an unsubsidized position.
- 100% grant paid wages.
- Wages will be at least the prevailing wage for the job classification.

On-the-Job Training (OJT) is designed to assist individuals gain sustainable long-term employment. It allows employers to train a new employee and have added support through IowaWORKS.

- The maximum amount of an OJT contract allowed is \$10,000 per participant.
- The employer is reimbursed up to fifty percent (50%) of the participant's wage rate.

- Wages are considered to be monies paid by the employer to the participant. Wages do not include tips, commissions, piece-rate based earnings or non-wage employer fringe benefits.
- Payment for overtime hours and holidays is allowable.

For more information on what Iowa Workforce Development offers, please contact Aaron Merry, Business Engagement Consultant at 712-262-1971 ext 42004 or email aaron.merry@iwd.iowa.gov.



New Dentists at Louscher Family Dentistry in Algona and Emmetsburg

K/PACEDC connected investors in both counties to raise \$5,000 local match for each dentist through the Delta Dental FIND Program. Dr. Abby Thomas and Dr. Darrian Ward have each been approved for \$125,000 of student loan reductions over 5 years. Welcome to the area Dr. Abby and Dr. Darrian!



DEBRA STEVEN Thank you!



K/PACEDC would like to give a special "Thank you!" to Debra Steven for serving 12 years on the KCEDC Board of Directors as the Lakota Community Representative! Debra is retiring from the Lakota City Council and KCEDC Board of Directors. Thank you for your many years of dedication!

DMANDPRINTS

AWARDED \$10,000 BUSINESS INNOVATION GRANT

The City of Emmetsburg has awarded a \$10,000 Business Innovation Grant to DmandPrints, a rapidly growing small business owned by siblings and co-founders Terri Larson and Paul Whitaker. DmandPrints specializes in direct-to-film (DTF) printing and has experienced significant growth over the past year. The grant funding supported the purchase of a new 60" CobraFlex printer, a major equipment upgrade that enhances the company's production capacity and efficiency.

DmandPrints has carved out a strong place in the printing market, serving print shops, brands, creators and more across the nation. DTF prints are attractive to customers looking for fast and reliable service, particularly screen printers who are seeking a simpler alternative to the traditional process involving screens and inks, work that can be both time-consuming and physically demanding. The company prides itself on transparent pricing, excellent customer service, and consistently high-quality output that keeps customers coming back. Thanks to rising demand and expanded capabilities with the new equipment, Dmand Prints is poised for continued growth. If sales trends continue, Terri and Paul see potential for adding even more equipment and creating new local jobs in the future.



The City of Emmetsburg is proud to support innovative companies like DmandPrints that help strengthen the local economy, offer quality employment opportunities, and give back to the community. The City is excited to assist more entrepreneurs with their business startup and expansion projects in the future through the Business Innovation Grant program, made possible by funding through Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation.