



# GO NEWS

GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

Working Together to Grow a Vibrant Phelps County Economy

#GROW 37

Phelps County, Nebraska

Volume 16 | Number 4 | Fall 2021

## PCDC INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 2021 BUSINESS HALL OF FAME BANQUET

**THURSDAY, OCT. 28**

6 PM — Social Hour

6:45 PM — Meal/Program

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

David Rippe: Hastings  
Jen McKeone: Cozad  
Topic: PlaceMaking: For  
the Love of (This) Place

### 2021 BUSINESS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Roger Allmand  
Becton Dickinson  
Glion Electric Scooters

**LOCATION:** JB's Sports Bar  
& Grill, Holdrege

**TICKETS:** \$40 in Advance  
or \$50 at the Door  
Tables of 8: \$320  
Includes Prime Rib Dinner  
RSVP by calling PCDC  
at (308) 995-4148

## FOR THE LOVE OF THIS PLACE



## BUSINESS HALL OF FAME BANQUET

# Rural Nebraska Leaders To Share Tips for Growth at PCDC Event

What differentiates successful communities from unsuccessful communities? Why do people move to a community?

These are a few of the questions that will be answered at the Phelps County Development Corporation's 2021 Business Hall of Fame Banquet on Thursday, Oct. 28, in downtown Holdrege.

Dave Rippe, a former director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and Jen McKeone, Executive Director of the Cozad Development Corporation, will present the keynote speech on "PlaceMaking: For the Love of (This) Place."

In addition, Roger Allmand, BD and Glion Electric Scooters will be inducted into PCDC's Business Hall of Fame at the banquet.

Rippe is co-owner of Queen City Development Co., a consulting and development organization based in Hastings. He has helped bring innovative solutions to Hastings by renovating buildings that had fallen into disrepair.

Rippe said people who really, truly care about their community and who are empowered to do something about it are what set successful communities apart.

"Our rural counties and communities continue to lose population, most at an increasing rate," Rippe said. "If we want our communities to not only survive



Dave Rippe

but to thrive, it's time to address how we think about who and what will drive the future of our communities."

Jen McKeone, who has 20 years of experience in rural community and economic development and was named the 2013 Nebraska Economic Developer of the Year, said communities that create emotional engagement of their citizens have more success with talent recruitment, resident retention and investor confidence.

"Cities that have emotionally connected citizens will see those same citizens do extraordinary things for their cities," she said.

She cited examples of Nashville, Tenn., which is attracting 100 new residents per day, and Austin, Texas, which is attracting 125 new residents per day.



Jen McKeone

"They are coming because this is the type of place they want to live," she said. "They have fallen in love with these cities. The jobs are following the people."

PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said he heard Rippe and McKeone speak at a recent conference and was inspired by their messages.

"In the future, economic development success and the viability of rural communities will follow people who are increasingly living in cities they love, the places that welcome and nurture them," Tillery said. "And, if we want to attract people, we have to be welcoming to all people."

The Business Hall of Fame banquet is open to the public. To read more about this year's honorees, see page 5.

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A PCDC GO! DREAM grant helped South Central Area Recovery replace a leaking roof in its new building this summer. Pictured are Board Members Gayleen Maurer, Dean Lynch and Carie Lynch in front of SCAR's new building that will continue to be remodeled over the winter.

## PCDC Awards Grant To Help Downtown Non-Profit

Recent increases in construction prices forced a local non-profit to reconsider its plans to build a support center for 12-step recovery programs.

Instead of building new, the South Central Area Recovery board of directors purchased a building in downtown Holdrege in December 2020. This purchase decision is more cost effective and provides more usable space.

"We felt like this was a great opportunity to keep downtown Holdrege in play," SCAR Board Member Dean Lynch said.

The former Corner Nugget building at 307 East Ave. offers the non-profit organization more than 7,500 square feet of space to host support group meetings of any kind. Currently, about 40 people meet in the space each week for groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Narcotics Anonymous. The new building creates a central and consistent location for meetings that had been hosted in church basements and other locations for decades.

But, SCAR sees much more potential for its new space.

"Our vision is for this building to be open for anyone who needs support," Lynch said.

SCAR plans to allow community groups to conduct meetings or groups at the new location. Groups such as cancer survivors, those suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia, gambling or eating

addictions, or mental illnesses of any kind could also meet at the facility.

The building is a block off the busy Fourth Avenue and offers a discreet back entrance to allow anonymity if desired and plenty of parking. The downtown location offers enough visibility to increase awareness of SCAR's services yet it's not too visible to deter those needing confidential support.



PCDC awarded SCAR a \$10,000 GO! DREAM Exterior Remediation grant to help replace a leaking roof this past summer, and the group has plans for further improvements that could happen this winter.

Board member Gayleen Maurer said the plan is to upgrade the front entrance with brick, fresh paint and a new sign and install smaller windows to help with efficiency and to blend in well with the other remodeled buildings downtown. Inside, SCAR is planning a major renovation to create six meetings rooms (with two being able to be opened up into one large meeting room), two counseling rooms, a bathroom remodel and a kitchen/coffee area.

For more information about SCAR, visit the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/SCARrecovery.

## HOUSING

# Census Shows Good News for Holdrege

The 2020 Census numbers are coming in, and for the first time since the 1970s, the population of Holdrege has grown. Preliminary data shows the 2020 Holdrege population as 5,515, an increase from 5,495 in 2010.

“The 2019 Census estimate for Holdrege was 5,408 people, which was a loss of population,” PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said. “We ended up at 5,515 in the 2020 census, and I think the GO! HOME program made the difference there.”

The Phelps County Development Corporation’s GO! Home Program has attracted 163 new residents since the program started in 2017. With the GO! Home program,



PCDC matches up to \$2,500 any employer’s contribution toward a new employee’s downpayment on a home in Phelps County.

In comparison to other small cities, Holdrege fared well in the census. Lexington grew slightly from 10,230 in 2010 to 10,348 in 2020, while McCook declined 2 percent from 7,698 in 2010 to 7,446 in 2020. Kearney grew by 9.4 percent with 30,787 residents in 2010 and 33,790 in 2020.

Census numbers show that the population of Phelps County as a whole declined slightly to 8,968. In comparison, Buffalo County grew by 7.7 percent to 50,084 while Adams County declined slightly to 31,205, and Dawson County declined by 3 percent to 23,595.



## PCDC Downpayment Assistance Grants

**20** Downpayment Assistance Grants So Far In 2021

**4** Renter Relocation Grants

**44** New Residents thanks to PCDC’s GO! HOME Program

**\$3.3 Million** Total Value of Homes Purchased

### Towns Residents Moved From:

Juniata, Kearney, Edison, Grand Island, Gibbon, Omaha, Lincoln, McCook, Salina, Kan.; Axtell, Wavery, IA; Benkelman, Broken Bow, Cambridge, Gibbon

### Participating Employers:

BD, Allmand Inc./Briggs & Stratton, Spady Auto Sales, 308 Boutique, Phelps Memorial Health Center, Gray Farms, Gifts & Things

# Renovations Planned for Sixth Avenue Complex

The Phelps County Development Corporation awarded Smart Choice Property Management multiple GO! DREAM grants to remodel an existing apartment complex at Sixth Avenue and Grant Street in Holdrege. The project will clean up an area that has become dilapidated and will offer 13 apartments close to downtown.

“The plan is to re-brand the property and give it a whole new look and feel,” Smart Choice Property Management owner Chanse Beinke said. “Anyone who has driven by has seen that it’s been neglected for years.”

The complex will be called 6th Avenue Flats. Renovations will include tearing down the abandoned white house south of the property, installing a parking lot for residents, renovating the apartment decks, painting the garages, new signage and lighting, landscaping, underground sprinklers, roof repairs and taking care of safety issues inside and outside of the building.

Beinke owns a few other apartment complexes in Phelps County, including the Iron Horse Flats upscale luxury apartments in downtown Holdrege. PCDC also awarded Beinke grant funds for that



**Smart Choice Property Management plans to renovate the apartment complex at 6th & Grant.**

project.

Beinke said the exterior of the 6th Avenue Flats will have a similar look and feel as the Iron Horse Flats but interiors will be noticeably different. Rent prices will be about \$100 less than the rent at Iron Horse Flats, which ranges from \$550 to \$900.

“We expect an extremely quick turnaround time on this project,” Beinke said. “Our goal is to have the project completed by Nov. 30.”

Beinke, whose company is based in Loomis but has projects nationwide, said he likes developing properties in Phelps County for many reasons.

“I believe the workforce is some of the best anywhere in the country,” he said. “There is also a strong need for quality housing. Phelps County and PCDC also make it easy for me to do business here. I will continue to invest in Phelps County!”

## RECRUITING QUALITY TALENT

# Businesses Get Creative to Attract Talent

With an unemployment rate sitting below 2 percent, Phelps County businesses owners and human resource professionals have gotten creative to attract good employees.

PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said the terminology has changed from workforce development to talent acquisition.

“There’s a role for businesses to play,” Tillery said. “They can’t just expect people to show up at their front door anymore.”

PCDC has many tools to help with talent acquisition, including the GO! HOME down-payment assistance matching grants and renter relocation grants, GO! WORK employee training matching grants and high-demand jobs scholarships. PCDC also recently offered a wage and salary study for one local employer and launched social media campaigns in targeted geographic areas for Holdrege area manufacturers.

Here are some ways local individual businesses have stepped up their game to attract talent:

### Apprenticeships/Scholarships

BD Holdrege offers students a chance to earn a degree with no debt plus get paid to work at BD at the same time with its Mechanic Apprentice Program. It allows students to earn a degree while receiving on-the-job training in a variety of manufacturing areas at BD.

“Our whole goal with the program is to provide youth in the area with opportunities to find good work right here,” said Brian Deakin, BD’s human resources manager. “Great careers and great jobs are available right here.”

The three-year program is registered as an official apprenticeship through the Nebraska Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor.

In addition to the apprenticeship program, BD also offers a \$16,000 scholarship each year for a student studying electronics programming, electro-mechanical technology, tool and die or molding processes. Any graduating senior of a Phelps County high school or any high school adjoining Phelps County is eligible. The scholarships started in 2017.

This past year, BD also started offering generous Academic Achievement Scholarships to dependents of BD employees.

### High School Training Programs

In 2020, Janssen Auto launched its Auto Technician Training program. It is a cooperative effort between Janssen Auto Group, Central Community College, ESU No. 11 and PCDC as a



**Roger Allmand speaks to students at Bertrand High School as part of the Axios Workforce & Talent Development program.**

way to encourage interest in and train students for future careers as automotive technicians, which is a high-demand job locally and beyond.

The program engages high school students in auto tech classes that qualify for credits for both high school and college. Seventeen high school students enrolled in the program for the 2021-22 school year. Students meet at Janssen Ford a few evenings a week for the class that is instructed by Janssen employees. PCDC has paid for tuition for all of the students for the first two years of the program.

“I am very pleased that the program is not only continuing but is growing in enrollment,” Dan Janssen said.

Janssen said this teaching model could also benefit other employers seeking to fill high-demand jobs.

### Axios Partners

Several area employers have partnered with Axios Workforce & Talent Development to identify high school students who may be interested in future careers.

The goal of Axios is to fill local high-demand jobs and to help students find careers that match their specific talents and abilities. The program, created by Holdrege resident Alex Mahundi, provides a holistic approach to workforce

development through education, faith and collaboration. It serves students in grades 8-12 and beyond.

“I want each student to become the best version of themselves,” Mahundi said. “When I see someone thrive and have joy, it brings me joy.”

Axios meets with students in schools once a week throughout the year. Mahundi piloted the program in Loomis in 2020-21 and has now expanded it to Bertrand, Holdrege and Wilcox-Hildreth.

“We are looking at kids and how they are wired,” Mahundi said. “The number one reason kids don’t finish studies is because it’s not a good match for their skills and personalities.”

Local businesses partner with Mahundi to help discover area talent to fill high-demand jobs.



**Seventeen students registered for the Janssen Auto Tech training program for the 2021-22 school year.**

# Allmand Selected for Business Hall of Fame

Holdrege native Roger Allmand found success in his hometown, where he helped build a multi-million dollar international manufacturing/marketing organization that provided jobs for hundreds of local residents and helped grow the community.

For his longtime dedication to the community not only through the company founded by the Allmand family but also his work as an individual, Roger was chosen to be inducted into the PCDC Business Hall of Fame for 2021.



**Roger Allmand**

“Employer, mentor, and philanthropist, Mr. Allmand has impacted hundreds of families directly and more from the ripples of his influence throughout Central Nebraska,” PCDC’s selection committee said. The committee noted his work

to assist young companies in developing critical business skills that help them achieve and sustain success.

“Roger’s lifetime of experience coupled with his adherence to ethical and spiritual principles embodies a unique and meaningful approach deserving of this recognition and our community’s gratitude,” the committee said.

Roger followed in the footsteps of his father, Walt, who started Allmand Bros. with his brother, Les, in 1938 in a garage in Huntley. The two men developed an electric welder that became popular with area farmers. Allmand Bros. sold 15,000 electric farm welders over the first few decades of the business.

In 1944, the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce recruited Allmand Bros. and its five employees to Holdrege. Roger was 6 years old at that time. His dad started teaching him “how to work” at about age 10 at Allmand Bros. In high school, Roger worked at Allmand Bros. during the summers and learned welding, metal fabrication and how to run machines and presses.

Eventually, Roger took over the family business. He helped grow and expand Allmand Bros., along with help from his brother, Steve; his oldest son, Brad; and Steve’s son, Matt.

Roger said that Allmand Bros., like many businesses, experienced good years and bad years with many mediocre cycles in between.

“I just kind of felt like we were this funny little company,” Allmand said. “We didn’t really know any better, but we thought we had some products

or ideas that might have some commercial value. So, we tried to learn to identify and serve those markets well.”

The portable lighting towers that Allmand Bros. developed became the company’s best-selling product. Other main products included portable heaters and flashing arrowboards. The company mainly served the mining, oil, gas and construction industries.

Roger moved from sales and marketing to president of the company and finally chairman of the board. During this time, Roger thrived on being an encourager to the more than 200 employees working at Allmand Bros.

Roger strived to create a culture of respect and value. “To me that’s how you develop a business,” Roger said. “You figure out opportunities for people to enjoy what they are doing and excel at it and do it in a loving and respectful manner.”

Roger and his family sold Allmand Bros. to Briggs & Stratton in 2014.

Through the years, Roger has served the community through his involvement in the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, PCDC and in various capacities in his church, Trinity Evangelical Free Church.

Roger has always loved flying and has logged more than 10,000 hours piloting airplanes for both business and pleasure.

After the sale of Allmand Bros., Roger and his wife, Marlis, formed Legacy Purpose, LLC. In this venture, they support entrepreneurs, various ministries and individuals to realize a life of purpose and value.

“I’m just trying to give others a glimpse of what I have found to be successful,” Roger said. “It’s encouraging people to live a life in order to leave a legacy of purpose and value. It’s deciding what kind of life you want to live, what you want to accomplish and how you are going to make the world a better place. We talk with people about living life intentionally rather than by accident.”

## BD & Glion To Be Recognized at 2021 Hall of Fame Banquet

A worldwide pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 Business Hall of Fame Banquet. Therefore, PCDC will be recognizing last year’s Hall of Fame honorees along with this year’s honoree at the banquet on October 28. See page 1 for ticket and event details.

### 2020 Honoree — BD

BD started Holdrege operations on October 16, 1966, in a 12,000-square-foot building with 66 employees. Today, BD’s facility spans close to 400,000 square feet and it has grown to become the county’s largest employer. The Holdrege BD plant is the world’s largest producer of insulin syringes, manufacturing more than 2 billion syringes each year and millions of other devices that are distributed around the world.

Recently, BD has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in plant upgrades and expansions, and more are planned in the near future. PCDC salutes BD for its continued investment in Phelps County, its community support through donations, its support of economic development efforts and its dedication to providing scholarships and apprenticeships to area students.

### 2020 Honoree — Glion Electric Scooters

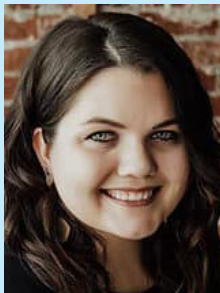
Glion Electric Scooters was at the forefront of producing electric scooters for adults and has a patent on its Dolly foldable electric scooter. The company is owned by Holdrege resident Robert McCormick and business partners Jeff Kong and Wei Chang, who live in the Chicago area.

Glion doubled its sales each year since its 2014 Kickstarter campaign to launch the business, and in 2020 the company provided 10 full and part-time jobs at its downtown Holdrege service center in the F. Johnson Building.

Because of the entrepreneurial spirit of Glion’s owners, its international partnership, and its growing nationwide customer base and dealer network, PCDC selected it as a 2020 Business Hall of Fame honoree.

## Loomis Graduate Continues Career at Bilka Chiropractic in Holdrege/Elm Creek

Tara Essington, DC, has joined the team at Bilka Chiropractic, 412 East Ave. in downtown Holdrege.



**Dr. Tara Essington**

She is a Loomis High School graduate and a graduate of Logan University College of Chiropractic. She owned a chiropractic practice in Omaha for two years before deciding to return to Phelps County.

Her husband, Matthew, is also a chiropractor and now works in Kearney.

Essington specializes in pediatric and pregnancy chiropractic services. She has several certifications and trainings that will allow her to help treat many conditions.

Essington will be in the Holdrege office four days a week and will also open a satellite clinic in Elm Creek one day a week.

## Holdrege Native Joins Bruning Bank Wealth Management Team

Lane Schulz began work on May 24 as an LPL Financial Planner at Bruning Wealth Management in the Holdrege office. He will be developing and



**Lane Schulz**

managing existing and new wealth management client relationships along with educating and advising clients in comprehensive wealth management and financial planning. "I am excited to join a top-notch team of individuals who care about and work hard for their clients and communities," Schulz said about his new position.

Schulz, who is a 2008 HHS graduate, said it was an added bonus to be able to stay in Holdrege close to friends and family.

Schulz has a bachelor of science degree in Biology from Colorado Christian University. He holds the ChFC, series 7, 65, and 63 registrations through LPL Financial, as well as life and health insurance licenses.

Schulz is a member of Rotary and is a volunteer soccer coach at the YMCA. When he's not working, he enjoys camping and hiking in the summertime, playing board games, golf, basketball, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

## Allmand Inc./Briggs & Stratton Announces New Plant Manager

Roy Fanning is the new Plant Manager at Allmand Inc./Briggs & Stratton. Fanning began work at the Holdrege manufacturing facility in May.

Fanning is accountable for all production and supply chain operations at the Holdrege site and has complete operations leadership responsibility.



**Roy Fanning**

Fanning is originally from Dayton, Ohio, but lived various places as a child since his dad was in the military. He earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Arkansas.

Fanning previously worked at SAF-Holland in Dumas, Ark.; Hytrol Conveyor in Jonesboro, Ark.; APEX Tool Group in Jonesboro, Ark.; and Trane in multiple states and locations.

Fanning said the position in Holdrege interested him because of the tradition and history of Allmand, especially in the Holdrege community, and the opportunity for business growth going forward.

His previous community involvements include helping with the American Heart Association Heart Walk and Wear Red Day.

He and his wife, Sonya, have two children Cooper and Rylie, who are both in college. When he's not working, Fanning enjoys fishing and golf.

## Downtown Holdrege PT Adds Barnett to Therapy Team

Holdrege Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab has announced the addition of a new therapist. Amy Barnett, PTA, joined the therapy practice in downtown Holdrege on Sept. 10. Amy has more than 27 years of experience in the field. She enjoys focusing on post-surgery rehab of the knee and shoulder, neck pain, rib pain and foot and ankle problems.



**Amy Barnett**

Barnett is originally from Holbrook and earned her physical therapy assistant's degree from Colby College. She also has a bachelor's degree in accounting. She is certified in custom orthotics, cupping, graston, and kinesiology taping.

"We are blessed to have a person with an extraordinary character of kindness and empathy join us," Holdrege PT owner Brandon Smith said.

Barnett and her husband, Dirk, live in Phelps County and have two adult children, Boe and Baylee. She is a member of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and enjoys spending time with family, growing in her faith in God, doing yard work and enjoying her horses and dogs.

## ruralMED Hires Betke as Chief Financial Officer

ruralMed Management Resources, the leading resource for rural healthcare, announces the addition of Bryce Betke, CPA, FHFMA, as the Chief Financial Officer.



**Bryce Betke**

Betke will be responsible for planning, implementing, managing and controlling all finance related activities for the organization.

"I look forward to working alongside a team whose passion is supporting rural healthcare," Betke said. "My experience leading teams and rural healthcare facilities has provided me with a deep understanding of the barriers and obstacles most healthcare organizations face."

Betke is an accomplished healthcare finance executive with more than 30 years of experience in various healthcare settings. Prior to joining ruralMED, Betke was the Controller for Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, CFO of Crete Area Medical Center and most recently served as rural division financial officer for Bryan Health.

Bryce and his wife have three children and two grandchildren. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, trapshooting and hobby farming.

# The Guest List Fills Niche for Party Supplies, Rental Space

Balloon art, party supplies and a party rental room are part of a new business in Holdrege called The Guest List.

Former health care workers and best friends Jessica Hegel and Shanna Barnes, both of Hildreth, opened the store in part of the former location of My Favorite Party Shoppe on Burlington near Fourth Ave.

Hegel and Barnes specialize in creating balloon art bouquets and balloon garlands that can be customized to any event or theme. They are both working toward becoming certified balloon artists. The store also sells party supplies for graduations (seasonally), weddings, bridal showers and other parties in addition to having a baby gift section, candles, perfumes and eventually gift baskets.

For the past few months, they have been remodeling the space for a fresh clean look. New windows will be installed, new flooring has been installed, and they have painted the entire space and added a bathroom. The Guest List entrance is on the east side of the building facing Burlington.

They are also creating a 900-square-foot room that can be rented for bridal showers, birthday parties and other events. The room can fit about 40-50 people and will have cabinets, a sink, a microwave, tables and chairs. They will also offer decorating services for the room upon request.

PCDC awarded the Guest List a Digital



**The Guest List specializes in customized balloon art for any occasion.**

Development Grant to help with creating a website and joining the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Everyone with PCDC has just been so informative and welcoming and has helped guide us any way they could," Shanna said.

The Guest List is open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat., 9 a.m.-Noon. The rental room can be rented outside of the store hours as well.

# Blue Vine Bistro Brings New Flavors to Holdrege

The Blue Vine Bistro opened in the historic Dale Residences (Hotel Dale) on September 17. The bistro, owned by Philip and Lisa Corey of McCook, features dishes like Alfredo, chicken cacciatore, chicken Parmesan and pork schnitzel along with mainstays like gourmet burgers, ribeye and plentiful, fresh salads.

The restaurant also serves wine, beer and specialty cocktails like the Blueberry Lemonade featuring Nebraska's Lazy RW whiskey.

Philip said he opened his first restaurant in Holdrege due in part to the grants, support and encouragement from PCDC and local business leaders. PCDC awarded the Blue Vine several grants to help with opening and a gap financing loan to help with start-up costs.



# Digital Development Grants Help Two New Dance Studios

PCDC helped launch two new dance studios with Digital Development Grants. The grants help local business owners enhance their education and online sales opportunities.

## MomenTum Dance Academy

MomenTum Dance Academy is located in the former location of the Dance Academy at 118 W. 11th Ave. in Holdrege. Wood River native and owner Mady Thelen moved to Holdrege from Kansas City this past summer to continue her passion for dance by focusing on teaching. She worked as a professional dancer for a modern dance company for the past four years while also teaching dance and fitness classes.

Thelen has been dancing since age 4 and earned a degree in dance from UNL.

She offers dance classes for children ages 2-18, including ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and lyrical. She also offers adult fitness classes including barre, HIIT, and strength and stretch classes that incorporate yoga and Pilates.

New students will be accepted the entire first semester, but students must enroll by January to participate in the May 27 spring dance recital.

For information, call (308) 995-6473 or visit [www.momentumdance.academy](http://www.momentumdance.academy).

## Studio 3:4

Jocelyn Blythe opened the Studio 3:4 Dance Studio this summer at the YMCA at R7, 1421 13th St. New students are accepted all year. Classes are offered Mon.-Thurs. starting most days at 4:15 p.m.

She offers classes for children ages 1-18 ranging from music and movement, iDANCE (for children with developmental disabilities), ballet, tap, hip-hop, acro and clogging.

Her studio is named from Ecclesiastes 3:4, and its mission is to help students grow to be more — more kind, more loving, more compassionate, more respectful, more reliable, and more trustworthy.

Blythe has been involved in dance and teaching dance for many years and has enjoyed the lifelong friendships she has formed through dance. For more information, visit the website at [dancestudio34.com](http://dancestudio34.com) or call (308) 830-7943.



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# GO NEWS

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## Phelps Co. Recognized as Top Performer

Nearly \$120 million in expansion projects helped Phelps County earn a spot among the top performers in rural economic development in the nation in 2020.

Site Selection magazine recently chose seven rural counties as winners in economic development in 2020. The magazine's writers listed Phelps County as the second most robust rural economic development region in the United States last year out of 1,287 rural or non-metro counties considered.

"This selection was unexpected yet it's gratifying to receive recognition from a professional outside source," PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said. "We're focused on doing the work so having the results measure up so well against our competition provides a measure of satisfaction. But our work isn't done. The

challenges are evergreen."

While the nation was shut down due to COVID-19 in 2020, expansion projects continued in Phelps County bolstered by BD being selected for a \$70 million government contract to make syringes for COVID-19 vaccinations. The story also highlights BD's \$200 million investment in the Holdrege plant over the past five years.

The data presented in the magazine shows that Phelps County had six qualifying projects in 2020 (two at BD and one each at Allmand, Phelps Memorial Health Center, Holdrege Equipment and Planter Worx) resulting in \$119.6 million in capital investment and 147 new jobs.

Read the full story at [siteselection.com](https://www.siteselection.com) and select the July 2021 Digital Edition.