



PCDC

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

2023 BUSINESS HALL OF FAME BANQUET

THURSDAY, OCT. 26

6:30 PM — Buffet Reception with Champagne & Chocolate Fountain
 7:30 PM — Program

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Gov. Jim Pillen

BUSINESS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Nebraskaland Aviation
 Pretty & Fabulous

LOCATION: Holdrege Sun Theater & Event Venue

TICKETS:

Open to the Public
 \$30 Advance/\$40 at Door
 RSVP by calling PCDC at (308) 995-4148

WEBSITE REFRESH

See PCDC's refreshed website with new photos, video and business resources:

www.PhelpsCountyNE.com



Doug Stevenson of Olsson visits with a BD employee at the Sept. 20 job fair. The job fair was intended to help local employers connect with displaced BD employees but was also open to the public.

RETAINING A QUALITY WORKFORCE

Taking Action to Help BD Employees

When BD announced the relocation of its needle and syringe manufacturing lines to other areas, resulting in the loss of more than 100 local jobs, PCDC and the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce stepped up to help.

PCDC and HACC cooperated to plan a regional hiring event with more than 40 employers on Sept. 20 at the Holdrege High School.

PCDC and HACC conducted group and personal meetings with BD employees and managers and brought in the Nebraska Department of Labor Rapid Response Team. In partnership with BD managers, resume and mock interview trainings were also coordinated for affected BD employees.

"We want to help people whose lives are connected in Holdrege to stay in the community if they choose," HACC of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Lori Larson said. "We want to look out for their economic well-being."

The decision affects approximately 109 positions in Holdrege that will be transitioned elsewhere after Oct. 20.

"Our goal was to have everyone employed on Oct. 21 when they become eligible for employment," PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said. "We hope to connect those people to their next career. There are many quality positions available in our community."

PCDC and HACC encouraged

local business owners to share any current job openings, which resulted in 80 job postings on the HACC website in late August.

Employers who post job openings at NEworks.com and hire a displaced BD employee can receive up to a \$7,000 training grant through the DOL for each employee hired.

Some of the impacted employees may take this opportunity to start a new business, and Tillery said he has already heard of one employee planning to do so. PCDC has tools, trainings and financial resources to help with business start-ups.

Tillery, Larson and DOL representative Randy Kissinger

continued on page 2

FOLLOW US / LIKE US

PhelpsCountyNE.com facebook.com/PhelpsCountyDevelopmentCorporation





Executive Director

Ron Tillery
Ron@PhelpsCountyNe.com

Director of Business Services

Sally Sadd
Sally@PhelpsCountyNe.com

Director of Administrative Services

Stacy Pafford
Stacy@PhelpsCountyNe.com

GO! NEWS Editor

Kristine Jacobson
Send news releases,
news tips and story ideas to
kjacobson@krjpr.com

PCDC Officers

Shane Westcott - President
Jared Engelbert -
Vice President
Chris McQuillan
Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Janet Boehler
Nate DeWald
Grant Ericksen
Allison Fritsche
Grant Hinze
Phil Hinrichs
Reed McClymont
Jeff Moon
Doug Stevenson

PCDC Offices

502 East Avenue, Suite 201
PO Box 522
Holdrege, NE 68949-0522
ph (308) 995-4148
fax (308) 995-4158
www.PhelpsCountyNe.com

New Partnership Aims to Recruit Retailers & Restaurants to County

For business owners looking to expand their current offerings or entrepreneurs seeking information about opening a new business, PCDC's new partnership with The Retail Coach will be beneficial. The new retail and restaurant recruitment partner's in-depth research provides vital information on potential future growth and sales opportunities.

For the past few months, The Retail Coach has been collecting data on the Phelps County market. That information will be translated into marketing materials to be shared with targeted retailers. It is also posted to PCDC's website.

Becky Gross, Project Manager with The Retail Coach, visited Holdrege in September and shared many of the statistics they have collected so far, met with business owners, and viewed potential development sites.

The Retail Coach uses cell phone data to track consumer shopping patterns in the area. They determined that Holdrege's Primary Retail Trade Area extends to Elwood, Arapahoe and Beaver City to the west, Minden and Franklin to the east and Alma, Republican City, Orleans and Stamford to the south for a total population of 21,532.

The demographic report shows the following statistics:

- Average county household income: \$82,221
- Average county age: 41
- Average county household size: 2.4
- Median county owner-occupied housing

Scan the code to view The Retail Coach reports on the PCDC website.



value: \$184,301

- 11% of Holdrege is of Swedish ancestry, while 23% is of German ancestry.

The Trade Area Retail Demand Outlook report shows the actual demand for retail and restaurant products and services in 2023 and the projected growth in demand in five years.

The highest retail demand in the trade area is for automobile and parts sales with \$48 million demand in 2023. That is expected to grow by another \$4 million by 2028.

The report shows the following other retail demands in the trade area:

- \$28.6 million demand for grocery stores, growing 2 percent over 5 years
- \$7.2 million, clothing stores
- \$3.6 million, sporting goods
- \$26.5 million, general merchandise
- \$24.6 million, food and beverages

Contact PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery for more information.

Taking action to help BD employees

continued from page 1

met with BD employees in three group meetings in late August at the plant. Tillery said Kissinger encouraged the affected employees to have confidence in their skills moving forward. BD's strong reputation will bode well for its employees seeking future employment with other companies.

Tillery said BD has helped many employees purchase homes in Phelps County through PCDC's GO! HOME downpayment matching grant program. PCDC will continue to offer that incentive to qualified BD employees even without an employer match.

At this time, it's unclear what will happen with the BD facility in west Holdrege, which recently

completed a reported \$33 million renovation. Tillery said if the facility becomes available, PCDC will actively recruit another business to fill the space, which is set up nicely for any medical device manufacturer. Since the building is not landlocked, it has the potential for expansion.

BD will continue to have a smaller presence in Holdrege with its medical device sterilization and microbiology lab services. Many former BD employees are already working for embecta, which employs more than 500 locally.

"We are grateful for the 57 years that BD has been a part of Holdrege," Tillery said. "It will continue but just a different version of it."

If You Can Work From Anywhere, Live Here

Families often move to a new town because of a job opportunity. But families are choosing to live in Phelps County and bring their jobs with them, or they are creating opportunities here. They are enjoying the advantages of living in a small town, which include a healthy work-life balance and a sense of community. A small portion of their stories are included here. **To read their entire stories, please visit phelpscountyne.com/inthenews.**

Willis Courville, Jr., & Cynthia Alfaro

For a man raised in Southern Louisiana and a woman raised in California, Holdrege seemed like an unlikely place to live and start a business.

However, Willis Courville, Jr., and his fiancée Cynthia Alfaro have found Holdrege is the perfect place to launch their dream business, Ra Ca's Food Service.

Ra Ca's food truck features cuisine that mixes the best of Cajun and Mexican flavors.

Courville and Alfaro and their family, which includes six children ranging from age 1 to tenth grade, landed in Holdrege when Willis started a job helping renovate the The Dale Residences. He is an experienced carpenter and roofer.

After living in the community for a while, he and his family realized they loved Holdrege.

"It reminds me of the town my grandma is from," Willis said. "It's a lot slower. The people tend to be a lot nicer. People don't have a mean demeanor. Where we come from people don't talk to people they don't know. Here, they do, and we like that."

His children have connected with others well in Holdrege and have told him they want to stay.

"Everyone is prospering here," he said.

So, he figured Holdrege would be the perfect place to launch his dream business.

Willis said he has been cooking since he was young. As one of six children whose parents often worked on evenings and weekends, he had no choice but to start cooking.

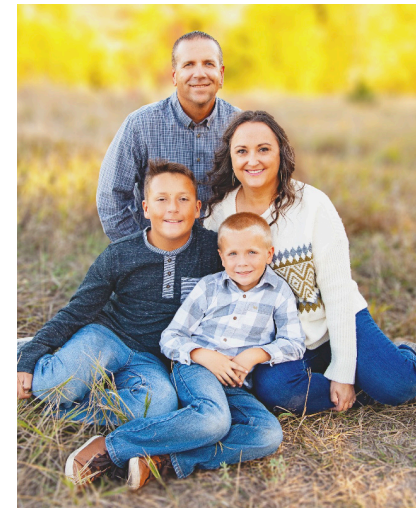
In Holdrege, Willis connected with business start-up resources offered by the Phelps County Development Corporation and the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce. And in June of 2023, he served the first food from Ra Ca's food truck.

The entire family pitches in to help with the food truck, and he said business has been better than he expected.

He looks forward to continuing to grow his food business with the motto of "another day of serving good food to great people."



Left Photo: Courville Family including Benjamin, Joseph; Willis Courville, Jr., holding Elijah, Arianna, Willis the 3rd (Lil Will), Cynthia Alfaro and Destiny. Right Photo: Feusner Family including Carter, Callen, Chelsea and Jeremy.



Jeremy & Chelsea Feusner

This summer, Chelsea Feusner moved into a house in Holdrege where she once took voice lessons as a child. It holds fond memories for her, and she is excited to make new memories in that house with her husband, Jeremy, and their two sons, Carter, a freshman in high school, and Callen, a second grader.

Jeremy and Chelsea both graduated from Holdrege High School in 2000 and lived for a short time in Holdrege after they married until their jobs took them away.

Their current jobs allow them flexibility on where to live, and they chose Holdrege because of its excellent educational opportunities, relaxed lifestyle and safe environment.

The pandemic changed the workforce for Jeremy, who works as a land surveyor at NPPD, allowing him to work a few days remotely. Chelsea's position at the University of Nebraska at Kearney also allowed for flexibility and remote opportunities.

"Holdrege and Phelps County have always been home," Chelsea said. "As we began to plan for our oldest son's high school experience and continued education for our youngest, Holdrege rose to the top of our list."

Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in music education, a master's degree in principalship and a doctoral degree in educational leadership/superintendency. She has worked as a principal in North Platte and Kearney, served as the director for Pre-K-5 education for Kearney Public

Schools for three years and is currently an associate professor of educational leadership at UNK.

She said Holdrege will provide an excellent education for her boys.

"We wanted to make sure our boys had every opportunity to explore academics, fine arts, and athletics," Chelsea said. "We were pleased with the new elementary school and their dedication to math problem-solving and the science of reading, as well as the continued efforts for academic excellence, athletic and music options at the middle and high school levels."

With their oldest son just starting high school this fall, they decided to make the move to Holdrege last spring.

Jeremy continues his work as a professional land surveyor with NPPD. He served as a volunteer firefighter in North Platte and Kearney and now back in Holdrege, where he began his fire community service career. He also recently started his own surveying company Feusner Land Surveying, LLC, since moving to Phelps County.

The Feusners are enjoying the many benefits of small-town living.

"We are able to commute and work remotely as needed and still enjoy the smaller community," Chelsea said. "We love being able to walk to the library or downtown. We appreciate the sense of community and hometown values of Holdrege. We also appreciate the slower pace of life. There is less traffic, less noise, less stress and a more relaxed lifestyle."

New Gas Station Coming to Loomis

Bridal Isle Expansion, Community Events Bring Momentum to Loomis

“If you are going to serve, then serve. If you are not, don’t complain.”

That’s the wise advice passed onto Keith Fagot of Loomis by his father. It’s part of what has prompted Keith to serve the community he has called home for more than 40 years.



Keith Fagot

Keith recently began serving a term on the Loomis Village Board and is the chairman. He is helping spearhead several exciting projects in the village that will position it for growth in the coming years.

“The most exciting thing that we have been working very hard for the past year is the convenience store that is going in on the east side of town,” Keith said.

Sims’ Shop E-Z

Dave and Virginia Sims, formerly of Kearney, sold their Sinclair gas station on Highway 30 in Kearney and are opening a Sinclair station in Loomis. The station will include four dispensers under a canopy, two gasoline and two diesel.

The Loomis location is called Sims’ Shop E-Z and will be similar to the Kearney store, which they owned and operated for 38 years.

The building that is already at the location (which was once a restaurant called Idlewild) is being remodeled into a convenience store that will sell coffee, fountain drinks, possibly beer, pizza, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, etc. The business will also continue to sell golf carts.

It is hoped the store and gas station will open by the end of 2023 or early 2024. Dave and Virginia both plan to work at the business and hire four to six part-time employees.

The couple purchased a house in Loomis, and they are looking forward to life in Loomis, where they can drive their golf cart anywhere in town!

PCDC is assisting the project with a business franchise grant, façade improvement grant and digital development grant.



Loomis Community Club volunteers from left, Sam Dunn, Micki Fisher, Kristin Weaver, Cindy Collin and Farren Nelson. Back row from left Keith Fagot, Bud Refior, Dave Thorell & Carolyn Anderson. Below: Ribbon cutting for Bridal’s Isle’s new addition.

Keith said Loomis residents are excited for this new addition.

“It’s quite a big deal for us because we haven’t had a gas station like this for a while,” he said. “It’s another place in town for kids to go after school to get candy and pop.”

He said the village has spent the past year preparing for the new business. The village had to annex the property so it could provide sewer services to it and several other businesses in that area. The village also conducted a blight study to offer tax-increment financing for Shop E-Z and for other new businesses that may emerge.

Other Exciting Changes

Keith said individuals have purchased property on the west edge of town that may become a new housing development to add 7-10 homes to the village.

Other projects the village is tackling include enforcing codes on abandoned vehicles and weeds, adding a new sprinkler system to the park and sprinklers and lights at the ballfields.

“We’ve got plans for the next few years,” Keith said. “We are going to try to get things done that have been put off for quite a while.”

Keith is also chairman of the Loomis Community Club, which plans community events, such as Turkey Days, Christmas on Commercial, an Easter Egg Hunt and Loomis Days. This year, the club planned a cornhole tournament that attracted 14 teams and a trivia night at The



Balcony event center.

The Community Club consists of about a dozen members who want to see the community thrive. They are currently raising funds for new entrance sign to welcome people to town

In downtown Loomis, Bridal Isle is the shining star. Brides-to-be travel from hundreds of miles to find wedding gowns and attire for the entire bridal party, including moms. The store recently completed an expansion that allows for more room to display mother’s dresses and to do alterations. PCDC provided a GO! DREAM grant for Bridal Isle’s project.

Keith said he enjoys serving Loomis. He sees it as his way to give back to the community that has given him so much. After he retired in 2011, some wondered why he didn’t move to a bigger town. And when his wife died in 2021, he received similar questions.

“Why would I move?” he said. “If I need anything, I just make a call and I have 30 people to help me. Small town life is wonderful.”

CCC Launches New NA High School Class

Program Will Help Fill Critical Need for Nursing Assistants

A new nursing assistant class at Central Community College in Holdrege will help fill a critical need for certified nursing assistants and eventually nurses.

Diana Watson, CCC's Regional Director and International Studies Coordinator, said eight high school students are attending the new morning nursing assistant class at CCC this fall. The college has always offered NA classes in the evenings and during the summer. However, this new class allows students to take the class during their school day and potentially earn both high school and college credits at a reduced cost.

"The class gives students a head start on a nursing degree, plus it gives students a chance to work as a CNA and start their careers while pursuing nursing and health science degrees or other educational opportunities," Diana said.

Students learn everything from awareness of elder abuse to hands-on tasks like checking vitals, assisting residents with getting dressed, walking, and other activities of daily living.

Diane Martin, a nurse, is the instructor of the class, which is offered for students who are at least 16 years old from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri. for one semester. Angie Ekberg assists in teaching the class. At the end of the semester, students can take an exam through the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

CNAs are in high demand at local long-term care facilities and at Phelps Memorial Health



Brooklynn Garcia, left, and Karson Wood work with Carol Cavanaugh, CCC's nursing assistant and medical aide program coordinator, to learn how to take blood pressures. Ella Malm (sitting) and Isabelle Alloway are shown in the background also practicing skills.

Center. It is also a requirement for nursing professionals to first earn this certification.

Laikin Sadd, a senior at Holdrege High School, is one of seven HHS students in the class. One student is from Wilcox Hildreth.

"I work at a nursing home now, and I might want to go into a medical field," Laikin said.

She works as a dietary aide but could double her pay by earning a CNA certification and working in that role. And, the class gives her a head start on any career in the medical field.

Diana said the low price of this class is also an incentive. The class, which normally costs \$452, was reduced to \$221 thanks to state dollars

allotted to encourage more high school students to take college classes. PCDC and PMHC are also providing some funding because of the high demand for CNAs and nurses. HHS provides the textbooks for its students in the class, bringing the total cost to just \$65 per student.

The class is open to high school students 16 or older and was originally offered to all schools in the ESU 11 service area.

CCC is currently training 40 healthcare workers in Holdrege between two NA classes at the Holdrege Center and an EMS class at the Holdrege Fire Department. The next evening NA class starts Oct. 30.

WELCOME HOME

Scholarship Recipients Return for Agricultural Careers

Former high-demand jobs scholarship recipients Josh Reed and Drake Johnson graduated from college in 2023 and have returned home to work.

Reed is a 2021 Holdrege High School graduate who studied agronomy and precision agriculture at SCC in Beatrice. He now works as an agronomist for South Platte Crop Consulting owned by Dave Nelson of Holdrege.

Drake Johnson is a 2019 Holdrege High School graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a minor in agronomy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May. He now works for BRJ Farms and is a fertilizer and chemical sales representative with FireBoldt Ag out of Norton, Kan.



Drake Johnson & Josh Reed

After 100 Years In Business, Abramson Has New Owner

A century-old Holdrege business will remain locally owned and will continue to provide valuable products and services to the community after its recent sale.

Brett and Samantha Buettner, who have owned and operated Alpha Heating & Air in Holdrege for 16 years, purchased Abramson Appliance on June 21.

Buettner said he always had considered adding appliance sales and repair to his business, and this was the perfect opportunity.

"The business incorporates with the HVAC and plumbing work I already do," Buettner said. "I thought it would be fitting to add that to my business and keep moving forward."

The two businesses will remain separate with Abramson Appliance remaining at its location at 313 West Avenue. Alpha Heating & Air is located at 206 Grant Street.

In 2021, Abramson Appliance celebrated its 100th year in business under the same family. Buettner purchased the business from third-generation owner Mark Abramson, who purchased the business from his parents (Evald and Mary Lou) in 1991. The business was started by Mark's grandfather G.M. (Gustaf Malcom) in 1921.

"It makes me feel pretty good that I had the opportunity to purchase this business," Buettner said. "For Mark to give it up and let someone outside of the family do it is pretty cool. Keeping the Abramson name to me is key because it's been in their family for so long."

Mark Abramson recently celebrated his 70th birthday and said he is ready to slow down as he is experiencing some health issues. He was glad to find a local buyer.

Abramson Appliance sells and services refrigerators, stoves and ovens, dishwashers, microwaves, freezers, washers and dryers. Brands available are Maytag, LG, Speed Queen and KitchenAid.

PCDC assisted the business transition with a gap-financing loan; business and franchise grants for working capital and improvements, initial inventory, employee training and recruitment, and construction and remodeling; and a digital development/marketing grant.

"PCDC was huge in this deal," Buettner said. "It couldn't have happened without them."

For more information about PCDC grant opportunities, visit www.phelpscountyne.com/business-services.

NEW PEOPLE IN BUSINESS

New PA-C Joins Team at Phelps Medical Group

Caitlyn Christiancy, PA-C, has joined the care team at Phelps Medical Group.



Caitlyn Christiancy

"I chose Phelps Medical Group because of the supportive environment, the many specialties and services offered here, and the ability to practice in a rural community," Christiancy said.

She earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and completed her Master of Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Kearney campus.

Pete Whitley Named Director of Cardiology

Pete Whitley, RN/BSN, is the new Director of Cardiology at Phelps Memorial Health Center. Whitley has worked at Phelps Memorial since October 2022 and previously served as the manager of the Cath Lab.



Pete Whitley

In his new role, Whitley will manage the cardiology department services, oversee daily operations, and collaborate with patients and healthcare professionals. He will oversee all aspects of the partnership with Pioneer Heart Institute, implement service line development to provide cardiology services to the community, and support the goals of Phelps Memorial. He works closely with Sadie Johnson, PA, who specializes in cardiovascular disease.

Whitley has been a nurse for 18 years and has worked in the ER, critical care (cardiac and surgical/trauma), and leadership roles.

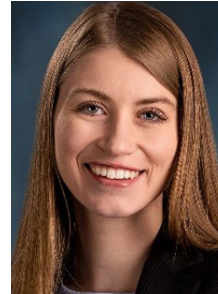
He lives in Kearney with his wife and three sons.

CORRECTION

Doug Hohman Family Dentistry is now Hohman Family Dentistry P.C. and not Holdrege Family Dentistry as stated in the July PCDC newsletter.

New Associate Attorney Begins Practice at Holdrege Firm

Shelby M. Nelson has joined the law firm DeWald Deaver L'Heureux, P.C., L.L.O., as an associate attorney. She joins Nate DeWald, Luke Deaver, Taylor L'Heureux, John Sauder and Rick Calkins at the firm.



Shelby Nelson

Shelby earned her law degree with Distinction from the Nebraska College of Law in December 2022. She was admitted to the Nebraska State Bar and joined DeWald Deaver L'Heureux in April of 2023.

She will maintain a business law practice with a primary emphasis in representing clients in estate planning and probate, real estate transactions, corporate law, and juvenile law matters.

Shelby grew up near Mitchell, SD, earned a degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and worked full-time for a year before attending law school. She recently married Tanner Nelson of Bertrand.

Groothuis-Yung Promoted To Home Federal Branch Manager

Angela Groothuis-Yung was promoted to branch manager at Home Federal Bank in Holdrege in February. She began her career with Home Federal Bank as a Retail Banker



Angela Groothuis-Yung

in March 2020. In her new role, she focuses on developing new customer relationships and maintaining those relationships with existing customers.

She graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School and Nebraska Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in modern language.

Previously, Angela worked with the Don Sjogren Community YMCA and the YMCA of Lincoln.

Angela and her husband, Brenton, have an 8-year-old son, Haegen, and live in Funk. They enjoy improving and remodeling properties.

Hy-Vee Begins Remodel & Hiring

Remodeling on the highly anticipated new Holdrege Hy-Vee began in early September, and the store is currently hiring managers and full-time staff.

In September, Kaitlyn Janning, Hy-Vee Recruiting Specialist, was seeking a Store Manager, Assistant Manager of Store Operations, Service Manager, Meat Department Manager and Produce Department Manager for the Holdrege store. Those positions are all full-time, and benefits include health, dental and vision insurance after 30 days and a 10 percent Hy-Vee grocery discount. Hy-Vee is also employee owned, and employees can choose to be paid as often as daily.

Janning said those first full-time positions would begin immediately after being hired. Although they prefer employees with experience, they are willing to train the right person.

In the next several months, Holdrege Hy-Vee will hire another six full-time positions for a total of 11 full-time jobs and later approximately 34 part-time positions.

"The excitement for this location in Holdrege is substantial," Janning said, and more employees may be needed after the store opens depending on the sales volume.

Janning, who has worked for Hy-Vee for a decade starting at the Kearney store, is originally from Arapahoe and said that friends and family in



Remodeling has started on the new Holdrege Hy-Vee location on north Burlington Street. The store will employ 11 full-time and at least 34 part-time employees.

her hometown are also excited to have Hy-Vee closer to home. Many would drive from Arapahoe to Kearney just to shop at Hy-Vee. She said Hy-Vee is seeking to expand into smaller communities like Holdrege to give rural areas more access to better food selection.

An estimated opening date had not yet been announced as of mid-September as they await the remodeling timeframe. Large crews of workers

filled the store and parking lot of the Hy-Vee the week of Sept. 11 as remodeling began in full force.

Janning said the store will have meat and produce departments and a deli with a market grill serving hot foods like fried chicken and other meals that community members may request. It will not house a pharmacy.

For questions or referrals, contact Janning at (515) 240-6458 or kaitlynn.janning@hy-vee.com.

Floral Shop Updates Greenhouses

A renovated greenhouse should be completed at Holdrege Floral Expressions & Greenhouse just in time for poinsettias to arrive in November.

Bill Dahl, co-owner of the business 518 East Ave. in Holdrege, said the greenhouse sustained recent wind damage, and it was more feasible to replace it than to repair it. The old greenhouse was demolished in July, and a new greenhouse was installed.

The new greenhouse has many modern conveniences, such as automatic climate control and a weather station on top that automatically closes the greenhouse vents in certain weather conditions. Customers will

appreciate level sidewalks and not having to "duck" while shopping inside the greenhouse.

The project also included demolishing two greenhouses that were converted into store space at the front of the building. Next spring, a new building will be constructed there to house a conference room to plan wedding and funeral flower arrangements. An outdoor display area with picnic tables and an umbrella is also planned.

Dahl and his daughter, Lori Hunt, purchased the business six years ago. Dahl said they appreciate the community support for the business, and they are excited to create a better experience for their customers.

Levander's Adds Holdrege Location

Levander's Body Shop has opened on the east edge of Holdrege at 1515 U.S. Highway 6.

"We have always recognized Holdrege as a great community that fits our culture," CEO/President Brian Levander said. "When the opportunity to be in both Holdrege and McCook came about at the same time, we were quick to act."

The site was most recently a collision repair center owned by Janssen Auto Group.

Levander's remodeled the office space inside the building and gave the exterior a facelift before moving into the space.

Brian started his company in July 1997 after graduating from Southeast Community College in

Milford. The Holdrege location is the 16th location in 14 communities. The company will soon add a 17th location in Lincoln.

Brian attributed his company's growth to "great people in great communities."

"Our culture and people are what makes us stand out," he said. "Giving back to the communities we serve is vital."

The Holdrege location offers complete auto body collision repair and hail repair.

Four employees work at the Holdrege site. The company offers its employees paid vacations and holidays, a 401K, free training and a "great work-life balance."



PO Box 522
Holdrege, NE 68949-0522

Or Current Resident

Your SOURCE for
local business
opportunities
and economic
development news
in Phelps County!

PHELPS COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL



TAKE A LOOK
INSIDE

- 1 BD NEWS
- 2 RETAIL COACH
- 3 LIVE HERE
- 4 LOOMIS FEATURE
- 5 NURSING CLASS
- 6 NEW PEOPLE IN BIZ
- 7 BUSINESS UPDATES

Glenwood Expands Fiber to Holdrege

The addition of high-speed fiber internet in Holdrege is great news for local businesses and residents as it means faster and more reliable internet.

In early August, Glenwood started a project to install fiber internet in the entire town of Holdrege. Fiber internet is buried underground, and data travels through cables filled with plastic fibers or thin glass. It's up to 20 times faster than cable internet, which means greater productivity for local businesses.

At home, fiber internet improves the speed and efficiency of streaming devices for home entertainment, and there's no need to worry about slow internet during peak hours. According to Glenwood, homes with fiber internet rise in value by an average of 3.1 percent.

"Glenwood's decision to expand its fiber network throughout the entire community of Holdrege is a part of our strategic plan to continue our investment in rural

Nebraska," said Jennifer Reiman, Human Resources Manager for Glenwood. "This fiber expansion project is funded 100 percent by Glenwood."

Glenwood is a telecommunications provider, serving residents and businesses in 14 Nebraska counties. It mainly serves rural areas. Glenwood fiber internet is already available in Funk. Glenwood is making it easier for people to live in and do business in small-town Nebraska, specifically Phelps County.

"Having this infrastructure in Holdrege places us to take advantage of future opportunities," PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said.

Prices for the fiber internet start at \$49.95 for residential and \$59.95 for business.

For information on how to have fiber internet connected to your home and business, visit gtmc.net/community/holdrege.