

PCDC

INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND THE

2025 BUSINESS HALL OF FAME BANQUET

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

6 PM — Reception

7 PM — Dinner & Program

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Richard Baier

President & CEO of the
Nebraska Banker's Association

BUSINESS HONOREES

Dairy Queen

Riteway Milk

LOCATION

Holdrege Country Club

MEAL

Catered by The Speakeasy

TICKETS

Open to the Public

\$50 Advance/\$60 at Door

RSVP by calling PCDC

at (308) 995-4148



#GONEWS
#GROW37

Two Local Businesses Honored Dairy Queen — Expansion Champion

In October 2024, Holdrege's Dairy Queen celebrated the grand opening of its new location at 924 Burlington. This October, Dairy Queen is being recognized as PCDC's Expansion Champion Business of the Year.

The business will be honored at the PCDC Business Hall of Fame Banquet on Thurs., Oct. 30, at the Holdrege Country Club.

Dairy Queen made a substantial investment in the community by relocating its business from its longtime location 224 4th Ave. to its new building on busy Highway 183. The move has been positive as this year Holdrege's DQ is number one in sales growth in its region that includes 32 stores from York to eastern Colorado. It's also number five in sales volume. The store increased its customer capacity from 350 to 600 customers per day. It can now accommodate larger crowds, including the frequent school buses that stop after games.



From left: Dairy Queen co-owner Stacey Johnson, General Manager Micheal Kimberly and co-owner Kelly Morten

The Expansion Champion Award honors established businesses that are growing, expanding and investing.

"In selecting your company, PCDC board members

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Rite Way Milk — Legacy Business Award

A local family-owned business that specializes in dairy transportation services has been selected as PCDC's 2024 Legacy Business of the Year.

Rite Way Milk, Inc., owned by the Stewart family, will be inducted into the PCDC Business Hall of Fame at a banquet Thurs., Oct. 30, at the Holdrege Country Club.

"In selecting your company, PCDC board members noted your long history of successful operations and multi-generational management," PCDC Board President Jared Engelbert stated. "For nearly 80 years, Rite Way Milk has served the dairy industry by providing reliable transportation to regional processing centers. Rite Way Milk is an important contributor to Phelps County's agri-business sector. The breadth and depth of your customer base is truly a testament to your dedication to excellence and customer service. Moreover, as a multi-generational business, Rite Way Milk serves as a guidepost to other companies, pointing to what's possible when sound, long-term strategies are followed. Your company is truly emblematic of the ideals that make Phelps County a

leading economic powerhouse."

Rite Way was founded in 1947 by Carrol (Curly) Geer. Norm Stewart has been a partner in the company since the 1980s. Norm and his wife, Corliss, and son and daughter-in-law, James and Katherine, have owned the company since 2017. Norm serves as president of the company, and James is vice president.

"The family aspect of our business is definitely the most important with my dad, Norm, still running the company at age 71 and my mom, Corliss, coming out of retirement from her previous career as a nursing home administrator to manage the Holdrege office," James said. "My wife, Katherine, helps me with truck and trailer maintenance full time as well as juggling our cattle operation and raising our two sons, J.P. and Cash."

The company manages pick-up and delivery logistics for Dairy Farmers of America, serving five regional dairy processing plants in Fort Morgan, Colo.;

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Phelps County Business Journal

Published quarterly and distributed to all businesses and residential addresses in Phelps County plus decision makers and leaders throughout the state and nation.

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Jeff Hofaker Brings Unique Experience to PCDC Role

Jeff Hofaker, former Sutton City Administrator, will step into his new role leading economic development in Phelps County on October. 1.

He takes over for Ron Tillery, PCDC's director for almost a decade. Tillery will continue working with PCDC through the end of 2025 to help ensure a smooth transition of ongoing projects.

"Economic development is a marathon (relay), and my intentions are to grab hold of the baton and perform at 110 percent to cross the finish line," Hofaker said.



Jeff Hofaker

Helping the Next Generation

Raised on a Kansas farm, Hofaker credits his father with instilling the idea of always striving "to make things better for the next generation." In his young adult years, Hofaker said he was inspired while being involved with leadership through multiple groups and thinking about the 'possibilities' or plans for communities.

Hofaker has a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and business administration/marketing from Fort Hays State University and a certification in public management from the University of Nebraska Omaha. He also previously owned a custom harvesting business and still is a partner in Triple J. Farms in Logan, Kan.

Unique Work Experiences

Hofaker has a unique perspective of working in both local government and economic development. He has served as the Sutton City Administrator for 11 years. Before that, he was the Executive Director of Phillips County (Kansas) Economic Development for nearly 10 years.

"The past experiences of accomplishments across my 25 years in economic development, along with government, provide a strong segue into my new role in PCDC," Hofaker said.

In Phillips County, Hofaker helped launch the Prairie Horizon ethanol plant in Phillipsburg. In Sutton, he led the city in building a new four-field

baseball complex and a new playground in the city park, established a downtown enhancement challenge grant program under the LB840 economic development umbrella, led an effort to bring fiber to each residence in town, and set up a phased capital improvement schedule for renewing underground utilities and street improvements.

He was also involved in establishing a new housing subdivision area (Schwab subdivision), which covers 40 acres (in phase #1). The Schwab subdivision has 51 lots that were created in various sizes to suit different residents' needs.

Transitioning to Phelps County

Hofaker has already noticed a positive and progressive attitude among Phelps County business leaders, citizens, and government officials.

"It is exciting to be a part of a strong organizational team that has proven itself as a respected leader in economic development across the State of Nebraska," Hofaker said. "I am thrilled to be involved with entrepreneurial development and to see strong progress in the downtown creative district. The economic development momentum in Phelps County is strong, and I am excited to be able to become part of the team to see this progress continue."

Hofaker will hit the ground running with several major projects on the horizon in Phelps County, including the DG Fuels project, ZEA Sun, and Iron Horse Solar. He is looking forward to building local relationships through trust and face-to-face communication.

"Many leaders around the state already know that I am a team player," Hofaker said. "Working together as a team is vital to our success and sustainability. This does not happen without trust and teamwork."

Jeff and his wife, Stacey (an educator for more than three decades), have been married for almost 30 years. They have three adult children (Destiny, Tristan, and Daelynn) who all live in Nebraska. When he's not working, he enjoys supporting his family and their activities and being involved in philanthropic service to support his community and church family. He also enjoys working on the family farm in Kansas, reading, and collecting old books.

Rite Way Milk Reinvests in Community

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Wichita, Kan.; Hutchinson, Kan.; and Omaha. Rite Way has 10 full-time employees, including an office manager who works remotely from Elizabethtown, Kent.

"I attribute our success to the work ethic of our employees and ability to adapt and evolve with the dairy industry as new regulatory and industry standards arise," James said. "I recall a time in our industry where you either grew the size of your business, or you were pushed out for being too small."

In the late 1990s, the company grew to almost 80 power units and tankers, trying to keep up with the demand and competition. But, they found that even at that size, a larger company was always trying to "buy you out or push you out," James said.

"We had to rethink our goals of what we wanted our business to look like in the future," James said. "Sometimes the smaller businesses outlast the mega hauler companies, which in our case is what happened. We did eventually downsize our business to a more manageable size so we could focus on running it better and more efficiently, which meant going back to where it all started, right in small town Holdrege, Nebraska."

The selection criteria for the Legacy Business of the Year includes capital investment into the



From left: Norm, Corliss, JP, Cash, Katherine and James Stewart.

community. Rite Way is doing its part to make the community better with recent investments at its headquarters at 815 4th Avenue in downtown Holdrege.

"Some of the investments we are most proud of would be investing back into our community, whether it's working with the PCDC on adding an Airbnb above our offices or improving the overall looks of downtown Holdrege with the mural on the side of our building that was coordinated by

the Iron Horse Arts District," James said. "We also take pride in sponsoring local organizations such as 4-H, Holdrege Public Schools, and our county fair."

James expressed gratitude to PCDC for being chosen for the award. He said future goals for the company are to maintain its current trajectory with the business, keep investing locally, and be an asset to Holdrege and Phelps County communities.

Dairy Queen Expansion Brings Positive Results

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noted your substantial investment at a prominent location on Burlington Street, which would replace a popular but aging facility," the nomination letter stated. "Your decision required confidence in our market as well as in your ability to run your business. Competition in the fast-food sector is intense, and it takes dedication, determination, and creativity, not to mention skill. You excelled in all categories, and our community is the beneficiary."

The Holdrege Dairy Queen is co-owned by Stacey Johnson and Kelly Morten.

"We are very surprised and very grateful to be receiving this award," Morten said.

Johnson and Morten purchased the land on Burlington Street after they sold their Cozad location. Their DQ representative persistently encouraged them to build a new DQ Grill and Chill location as he saw the potential in Holdrege. After

two years of research and planning, they finally broke ground. The approval of tax increment financing encouraged their decision. Also, they were outgrowing the old location that didn't have enough seating, parking or a long enough drive-through lane to keep up with customer demand.

The new Dairy Queen boasts significant upgrades, including a larger seating area, a three-door freezer for more cakes, and more space for staff, including a separate area for cake decorating. These enhancements ensure a better experience for both customers and staff.

Small details such as a kids' menu posted at kids' eye level and a giant spoon door handle make the new location fun and unique. Plus, there's now ample seating compared to the former location.

"Our customers enjoy not being rushed out due to limited seating," Johnson said. "For our staff, the larger workspace means they're not tripping over each other, which was a challenge at the old

location."

For Johnson and co-owner Kelly Morten, the most rewarding aspect has been seeing their vision come to life and the community's enthusiastic response.

"It's an honor for us to give back to the community that has supported us for so many years," Johnson said. "Taking an empty lot and seeing the progress has been amazing."

With 25 employees, including 6 full-time, the Dairy Queen team is still growing, welcoming new hires to meet demand. As the business continues to thrive, the owners are focused on further improving efficiency and maintaining their connection with the community.

"A great thank you to the community for supporting us on this adventure," Morten said. "Also, I want to thank the staff for everything they do for Stacey and myself, and I want to thank the PCDC staff and board members for being supportive of us."

Fertilizer Plant First Project in B & I Park

Iron Horse Ag Invests Millions in Local Project

Iron Horse Ag's official groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, July 17, marked the launch of the first development in PCDC's Iron Horse Business & Industry Park.

Tye and Aimee Marquardt are investing millions of dollars into Iron Horse Ag, the dry and liquid fertilizer division of Nebraskaland Aviation. The new facility will span 40,000 square feet and occupy 18 acres within the business park.

"We must acknowledge the incredible foresight, strategic vision, and thoughtful planning of PCDC in developing the Iron Horse Business & Industry Park," Tye Marquardt said. "The 134-acre hub is equipped with seamless rail access, proximity to major highways like 6 & 34 (just 18 miles south of I-80), expandable power and utilities and shovel-ready sites that not only position Phelps County as a prime destination for agribusiness expansion but also open doors for diverse industries to thrive. Leveraging our region's fertile lands, abundant irrigation, and cost-effective resources to drive sustainable economic growth for years to come."

Marquardt said the new state-of-the-art plant will house up to 6,665 tons of dry storage and



From left: PCDC Board Member Doug Stevenson, Stueve Construction representative, Holdrege Mayor Jim Liffri, Aimee Marquardt, Tye Marquardt, PCDC Board President Jared Engelbert, Ashley Wolfe of OMNITrax, Shaun Keeshan of Black Hills Energy and PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery.

advanced liquid formulation fertilizer to help area farmers continue to lead the world in grain production. Phase 1 of the project, encompassing the dry fertilizer operations, is set for completion by March 1, 2026. Phase 2, which includes equipment and storage for liquid fertilizer, will roll out through 2026 and into 2027. Full operation of both facilities is expected by the end of 2027.

The project will "strengthen individual farm operations while bolstering the entire regional economy that so heavily depends on a thriving

agricultural sector," Marquardt said.

Road construction in Iron Horse Business & Industry park is also happening alongside the fertilizer plant construction.

PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said mile-long road will pass through the property connecting the east and west side. Funding for the road came from proceeds of the sale of the property, a \$400,000 grant from the Nebraska Department of Transportation, and tax increment financing.

DREAM Grant Helps Restore REC Exterior



Jeremy and Kim Klein have finished a restoration project on their Real Estate Connection building at 421 East Ave. in downtown Holdrege thanks in part to a PCDC GO! DREAM Building Integrity Grant and Signage Grant.

The REC building was covered in a cream-colored stucco that enhanced its appearance and added a fresh attractive look while preserving the building for generations to come. The stucco applied to the exterior brick addressed structural deficiencies in the building.

The work, completed by Kim's brother's company Lynch Contracting, involved installing a Sure-wall structural bonding cement over sheet mesh reinforcements and then applying the stucco finish.

Real Estate Connection has served Phelps County communities for more than 60 years. Owners Kim and Jeremy Klein



purchased the business from Dot and Gary Wall in 2015.

"We are proud to be longtime downtown Holdrege business owners, and we want to do our part to ensure our building is structurally sound and visually appealing for years to come," Kim Klein said.

"This exterior project was necessary due to the deteriorating condition of the brick and mortar, and the grant from PCDC was truly a blessing in helping us manage the steep cost. We are so grateful for their support, as well as the encouragement we've received from the community throughout this process."

For more information about PCDC DREAM grants, visit phelpscountyne.com/business-services.

New Childcare Solutions Taking Root

Local leaders step up to expand childcare options

When Jaimee and Joe Anderson moved to Holdrege in March 2022, it took seven months to find childcare for their infant son. She was lucky to have a “flexible and supportive employer” who allowed her to work from home with her baby. The Andersons pieced together a childcare plan consisting of college students, family, and others until a spot opened up at a full-time center.

The Andersons’ childcare experience is one of many stories that underscore the urgency for a community effort to solve critical childcare shortages in the community. Employers and community members are stepping up to solve the shortage.

Thrive Childcare Center

Anderson’s employer, Adjacent Properties, wanted to be part of the solution and began seeking options to renovate an existing space before she started working there. This summer, Adjacent announced its decision to build the new Thrive Childcare Center just south of the Holdrege Elementary School.

As Director of Operations for Adjacent, Anderson is managing the project. She has toured childcare facilities around Nebraska and is doing “research to ensure this building has everything needed for children and the provider to thrive.”

Adjacent sought bids from local childcare providers to operate the facility.

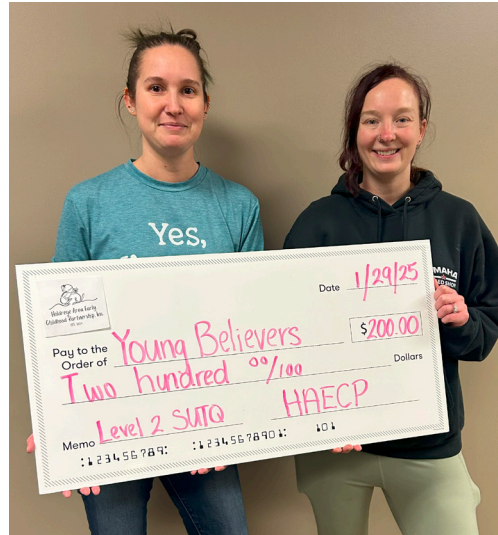
“We opened the request for proposals to the entire community, partnering with the Holdrege Area Early Childhood Partnership to make sure every childcare provider in Holdrege received the invitation to apply,” Anderson said. “Our board was truly impressed by Young Believers’ submission. It was evident that she (owner Amber Push) invested significant time, effort, and care into meeting all of the criteria.”

Thrive Childcare Center is currently in the design phase. A construction date has not yet been set. The center aims to serve about 100 children with room for expansion.

Loving Care Childcare Center

Loving Care, operated by Jessica Russell, currently leases space at Trinity Church to provide care for 70 children. However, the contract with Trinity will end on December 31.

“Since notice of the lease ending, we have looked at or inquired of 18 plus buildings



LEFT: Amber Push, owner of Young Believers, pictured here with one of her employees, earned a grant for being part of HAACP’s incentive programs. RIGHT: Brettany Wilson (Little Learners Children’s Academy) was awarded a Keys for Kids grant from HAACP’s recent fundraiser.



or locations,” Russell said. “Our board and community partners continue to work tirelessly to secure land and funding so we can build a new, permanent childcare center in Holdrege. While our original goal was to open a new center by the end of 2025, we are currently helping families find a way to fill in the service gap as the lease ends at Trinity and until construction is complete.”

Her plan is to construct a new \$2.5 million childcare center to meet the needs of local families for decades to come. She recently established Loving Care Early Childcare Center as a 501 (c)(3), a step that allows her to pursue grants, tax-deductible donations and other funding options. PCDC connected her with Troy Stickles of J Rose Partners to assist in fundraising efforts.

Holdrege Area Early Childhood Partnership

HAACP started in 2022 with a grant from the statewide Communities for Kids (C4K) program. It became an official nonprofit in 2024, and McKenna Fahrenbruch, owner of Graceful Exposure Social Media Agency, was hired as the executive director. Its mission is to work with all area childcare providers to ensure that Holdrege families have access to safe, quality childcare to foster a thriving community where both children and businesses can flourish.

“Addressing the childcare shortage is such an important issue right now because without accessible childcare, many of our businesses simply cannot thrive,” Fahrenbruch said. “Parents can’t be in the workplace if they don’t have a safe and reliable place for their children.”

PCDC has invested in the Holdrege Area Early

Childcare Partnership, and PCDC Board Member Grant Ericksen represents PCDC on the board.

HAACP recently partnered with the Six Regions One Nebraska program, which provides mentoring and a \$2,500 stipend to new in-home childcare centers. It has resulted in two new in-home childcare centers in Holdrege recently.

In addition to helping create more childcare options in the community, HAACP’s goal is also to support local childcare centers with educational opportunities to improve the quality of childcare in the community. Fahrenbruch said 10 local childcare providers have participated in the statewide Step Up to Quality training program through the encouragement of HAACP.

HAACP’s first annual Keys for Kids dueling pianos fundraiser in August raised more than \$17,000, and \$16,500 of those funds were given to childcare providers who applied for grants.

“As our incentive programs continue to grow and more providers want to participate, we’re actively seeking additional business sponsors,” Fahrenbruch said. “The more support we receive from our local community, the more childcare providers we can bring into the program.”

Fahrenbruch said more childcare is needed. She said another local provider hopes to announce soon plans to open a new large childcare center in a soon-to-be vacant building in the community.

“If you are a building owner with space or a childcare provider interested in expanding into a center, please reach out,” Fahrenbruch said. “We’d love to connect and help make these projects happen.”

To contact Fahrenbruch, call (720) 939-3436.



Andrew VanCampen



Holly Rahmann



Lacey Keeshan



Lindsay Sullivan



Tyler Fries

PMHC Announces New Senior Director Leadership Structure

As part of its continued commitment to providing exceptional quality and compassionate care to the families it serves, Phelps Memorial Health Center has announced an update to its internal leadership structure.

To better support the organization's growing services, enhance collaboration, and strengthen communication across departments, PMHC has introduced a new Senior Director leadership tier. This strategic adjustment is designed to improve operational alignment and continue supporting the vision of being the first choice in healthcare for the region.

"We're proud of the growth our organization has experienced, and we recognize that continued progress must be matched by thoughtful leadership support," said CEO Mark

Harrel. "These changes allow us to reinforce the strong foundation we have in place and prepare for future opportunities to serve our community."

The newly appointed Senior Directors include:

- Andrew VanCampen, Senior Director of Information Systems & HIPAA Security Officer
- Holly Rahmann, Senior Director of Strategy and Communications
- Lacey Keeshan, Senior Director of Patient Care Services
- Lindsay Sullivan, Senior Director of Finance and Controller
- Tyler Fries, Senior Director of Pharmacy Services & Medical Practitioners

Under this new structure, several department leaders will now report directly to the Senior Directors, allowing for more focused strategic and operational support. Others will continue their direct reporting relationship with PMHC's executive leadership team, which includes Mark Harrel, Chief Executive Officer; Loren Schroder, Chief Financial Officer & Chief Operating Officer; Tesha Broadfoot, Chief Nursing Officer; and Rachel Dallmann, Chief Ancillary Officer.

This leadership evolution reflects PMHC's ongoing investment in its people, culture, and systems, ensuring that the hospital can continue to meet the needs of rural families with dedication, compassion, teamwork, and integrity.

Ackerson Named Rural Med CEO

Dr. Amber Ackerson, J.D., is the new CEO of ruralMED Management Resources and the Executive Director of the ruralMED Health Cooperative, L.C.A.



Amber Ackerson

Ackerson is a passionate advocate for rural health care and has been instrumental in developing systems that empower rural communities. Her contributions, such as spearheading ruralMED's Women's Leadership Community Mentorship Program and addressing

Nebraska's workforce shortage through the Governor's Task Force, exemplify her dedication to rural health.

"I am thrilled to take on these new roles," Ackerson said. "I look forward to continuing our mission of providing exceptional resources to rural facilities and our collaborative work with Critical Access Hospitals across the state.

Together, we will build on our successes and drive innovative custom solutions to meet the evolving needs of our partners."

Since March 2017, Ackerson has demonstrated exceptional leadership capabilities in her tenure with ruralMED Management Resources, where she has served as in-house counsel and compliance.

Ackerson's previous roles include Senior Vice President/Human Capital/General Counsel/Corporate Secretary at Orthman Manufacturing, Inc., and general practice at Heldt & McKeone Law Office.

PMG Selects Lamb as Director

Brenda Lamb has been hired as the Director of Phelps Medical Group. She joined PMG as a consultant in April and transitioned into this permanent role in July. She brings more than 25 years of experience in the healthcare industry by serving in leadership roles in critical access hospitals, rural health clinics, physician-owned practices, and corporate healthcare organizations.

Lamb's journey in healthcare began in radiology, where she developed a passion



Brenda Lamb

for patient care and team development. Her experience was complemented by a bachelor's degree in healthcare management and a master's degree in human relations and business.

"My passion is ensuring people are able to maximize their abilities, which will

directly impact the exceptional care they can give to the patient," Lamb said.

She said the amazing culture at Phelps Medical Group encouraged her to take the role.

"From the moment I walked in, every employee made eye contact, smiled, said hello, and helped me find my way," Lamb said. "It has been like no other healthcare facility. The values of integrity, compassion, dedication, and teamwork are not just words here – they're practiced every day."

Lamb is a native of Polk. She and her husband, Brent, have two sons, Aidan and Isaac. They live in Gretna but plan to relocate to Holdrege.

Axios Celebrates 5 Years With New Programs

A local nonprofit is celebrating five years of empowering students to live up to their potential and is adding new services this fall to further help the next generation.

Axios Workforce and Talent Development started in 2020, and more than 1,000 students have learned valuable work and life lessons in the program. This fall, 305 students from schools in Holdrege, Minden, Loomis, and Elwood are participating, and new services will soon be offered.

The program, created by Holdrege resident Alex Mahundi, provides a holistic approach to workforce development through education, faith and collaboration. Axios helps students identify their strengths and connects them with local employers if jobs match their specific talents and abilities.

"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."

In addition to the school curriculum, Mahundi and his staff also visit with students individually at the Holdrege office at 511 West Ave.

Starting Oct. 1, Mahundi and his team will offer tutoring and mentoring services for students in grades 7-12 in Loomis and Holdrege as a pilot program.

"Our goal is to provide students with more time to engage with their parents, rather than doing homework," Mahundi said. "Less homework stress equals more quality time at home to spend with parents who have a massive influence on their kids' future."

Mahundi said most of the program's tutors are either former educators or current students in



Axios Founder Alex Mahundi teaches students in Loomis about life skills, finding their unique strengths and connecting those strengths to local employers. Axios recently added tutoring services.

college on a teaching track. Tutors are qualified and screened and will listen, guide and inspire the younger students.

The program includes:

- Academic Tutoring – Core subjects, test prep, homework help, and more
- Mentorship – Caring adults who listen, guide, and inspire
- Career & College Readiness – Field trips, guest speakers, and career exposure
- Life Skills – Time management, goal setting, and accountability

Mahundi said in addition to more family time, the impact to students will be stronger confidence and resilience, improved academic performance

and the ability to set and achieve goals.

Tutoring sessions are offered twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:15 a.m. to noon and from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Holdrege Middle School and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in Loomis.

Mahundi said community members can get involved in several ways:

- Volunteer as a mentor
- Partner with Axios as a school, business, or organization
- Support the program financially or with in-kind contributions

For more information, visit the website at axiosworkforce.org or call 308-293-8320.

Phelps Medical Welcomes New Family Doctor

Phelps Medical Group welcomed Dr. Kevin Amthor, D.O., to its medical team on Sept. 2. Dr. Amthor is a board-certified family medicine physician dedicated to providing comprehensive, patient-centered care for individuals and families across all stages of life.

Dr. Amthor and his wife, Kendra, have been married for 11 years. They recently moved to Holdrege with their four children Nora, Charlie, Jack, and Gemma. He was drawn to Holdrege because of family members who live in Holdrege, and his parents and in-laws also live within a few hours. Amthor's hometown is Goodland, Kan.

"The other important part of choosing Holdrege was my ability to practice full-spectrum medicine with a great group of providers," he said.

Dr. Amthor is a member of the American Board of Family Medicine. He earned his Doctor of



Kevin Amthor

Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan. Dr. Amthor was also inducted into the Psi Sigma Alpha Medical Academic Honor Society.

"My family medicine residency trained me to truly practice full-spectrum family medicine," Dr.

Osteopathic Medicine degree and a Master's of Bioscience from Kansas City University, College of Osteopathic Medicine and College of Biosciences, in Kansas City, Mo. He completed his Family Medicine Residency at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita, Kan., and holds an undergraduate degree in biology from

Amthor said. "With that training, I have interest in all aspects, including outpatient care of all ages, pediatrics, inpatient and emergency medicine and OB with C-Sections."

Dr. Amthor is most looking forward to delivering babies and serving generations of families.

"As a family physician, I have the unique ability to follow a mother and baby through pregnancy and also care for them both following delivery," he said. "I had a mentor who cared for patients for many years and had the opportunity to deliver two generations within one family. When I think of my future and my practice, I think of the continuity and many years of caring for my patients and their family members."

When he's not working, Dr. Amthor enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, hunting, and other sports.



PCDC
PHELPS COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Post Office Box 522
Holdrege, NE 68949

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**PHELPS COUNTY
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

Business and Economic
Development NEWS in
Phelps County and
Central Nebraska

INSIDE

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PCDC Wins International Newsletter Award

The Phelps County Development Corporation's newsletter has been honored with a 2025 Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

The recognition comes in the category for communities with populations less than 25,000, and PCDC was celebrated at the IEDC Annual Conference in Detroit, Mich. in September.

Each year, IEDC honors economic development organizations, government entities, initiatives, and programs that consistently demonstrate excellence in the field. The honorees lead transformational projects that revitalize communities and advance the practice of economic development.

The PCDC Business Journal is a quarterly publication distributed to every household in Phelps County, as well as to key leaders and policymakers across Nebraska. Each edition is developed by PCDC staff in collaboration with KRJ Public Relations, led by owner

Kristine Jacobson. Together with the PCDC team, KRJPR helps plan content, gather information, write stories, capture photos, and design the publication. In 2025, the newsletter received a fresh new look with an updated masthead and color scheme designed by PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery.

The journal is designed to keep readers informed and engaged about economic development in Phelps County by highlighting PCDC programs, business news, and community growth opportunities, all with the goal of supporting and expanding the local economy.

"We're honored that the PCDC Business Journal has been recognized with this award from such a prestigious organization like IEDC," PCDC Executive Director Ron Tillery said. "It reflects our commitment to keeping the community informed and engaged in economic development. Partnering with KRJ Public Relations ensures we can share our story in a clear, compelling, and professional way."