

# COURTHOUSE MIGHT BE HEATED BY THE EARTH

## Heat pump study underway

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution Tuesday to update the HVAC system in the jail and to proceed with a study on heating and cooling the courthouse with geothermal energy.

The resolution passed Tuesday allows Prochaska and Associates of Omaha to prepare specs for the purchase of heat pumps and an energy recovery system for the jail. The estimated cost of this project is \$45,647.

The proposed HVAC system will make it possible to regulate temperatures in the jail and sheriff's offices without heating or air-conditioning the entire courthouse. This is desirable on weekends and holidays when the jail remains open while the rest of the courthouse is closed.

Prochaska and Associates will also seek funding for an analysis of energy-saving possibilities for the courthouse, including the installation of a geothermal energy system.

Funding for the Technical Energy Analysis is available from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Energy Bank Program and from MidAmerican Energy. Half of the cost would be available upfront and half when the county implements the recommendations.

Additional rebates are available for energy-saving systems.



# BV joins 10-county effort at economic development

## Fort Dodge is hub for region

Leaders from Buena Vista and nine other north central Iowa counties have joined efforts to create a regional development organization focused on growing business and industry.

The Mid Iowa Development Corporation (MIDC) adopted its articles of incorporation May 3 and has applied to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development division for funding.

The ten counties that developed the regional MIDC effort - Buena Vista, Calhoun, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Kosuth, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster and Wright - have experienced negative economic trends in recent years due to losses in jobs, population and state and local government revenues.

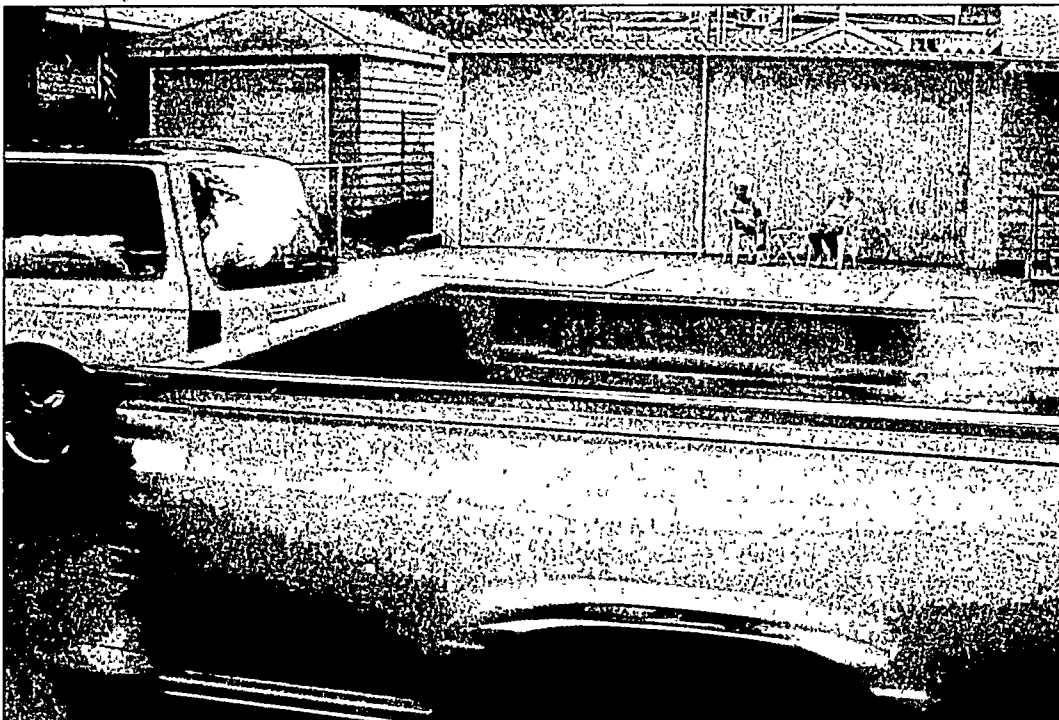
Economic development in the state is increasingly centered on regional hubs that allow outlying communities to develop housing, retail outlets and spin-off industries. This trend leads to programs developed from a regional perspective.

MDIC's regional approach will enhance local economic development efforts by sharing resources, building regional awareness, coordinating projects, enhancing training pro-

grams and collecting and managing regional data.

The ten counties involved create a regional trade area and commuting patterns around Fort Dodge. During the interim and growth phase of the MIDC, a volunteer board made up of two representatives from each of the counties will be assisted by local development directors to implement a work plan. Included on the interim board is Chris Nolte, Executive Director of Storm Lake Development Corporation.

MIDC's application for a rural business opportunity grant requires start-up funding. Additional matching dollars will be provided by participating counties, communities, financial institutions, utilities, corporate foundations and the private sector in general.



## Alley closed for bike ride

The alley behind St. Mary's Catholic Church will be closed from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. today (Saturday) for the Diocese of Sioux City Centennial Bike Ride. The alley is between Seneca and Cayuga from Second Street to Third Street.

# Investigators stumped on infant death

Time cards found at the Harold Royley Recycling Center appear to be unrelated to the one- to two-day-old baby boy whose remains were found in a dumpster last week.

The source of the time cards has been found, and has no connection to the victim, says Sheriff Eddy. The time cards are no longer considered a key to the investigation.

Refuse might be brought to the recycling center by any of several garbage services, from any town in the county. During recycling, it is intermingled.

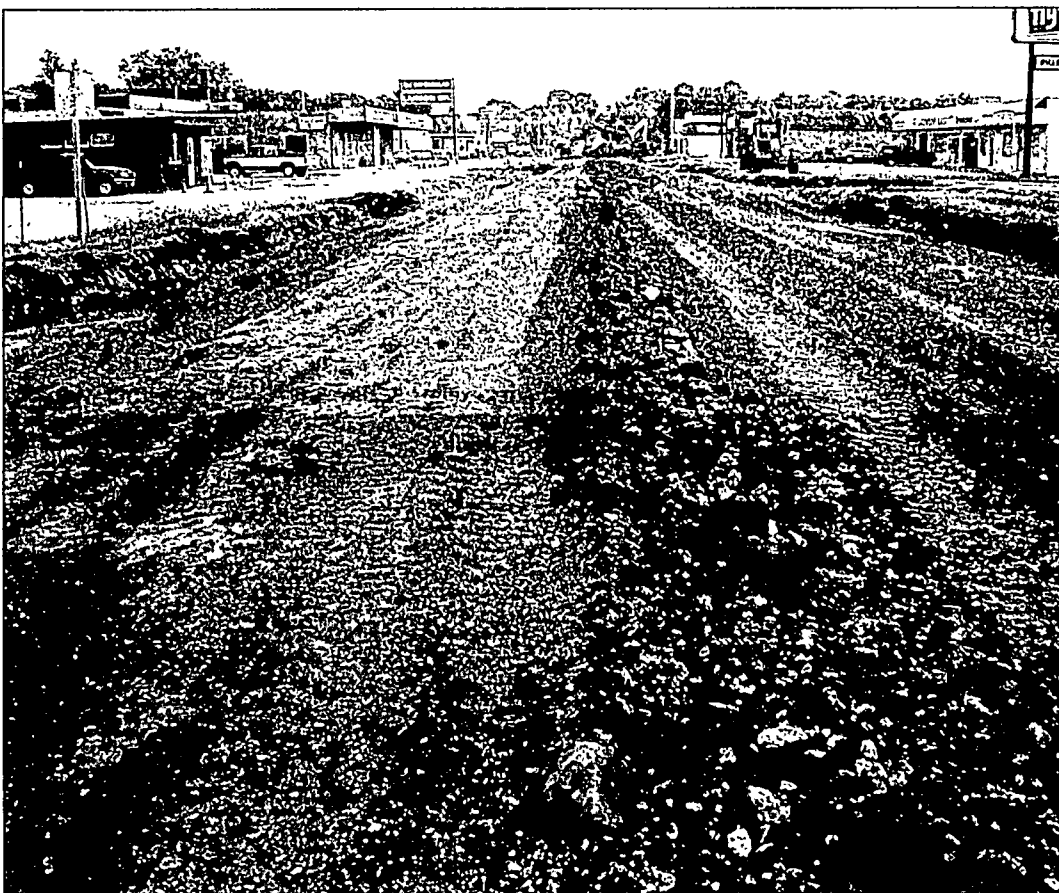
Following the original report Thursday, sheriff's officials spent five hours sorting through refuse at the recycling center. They looked for anything with a name, anything baby-related.

Found in the vicinity of the remains were time cards, machine-dated 1990 and 1991, with first names hand written at the top. Sheriff's officials had hoped that the time cards might narrow the search to a particular town or part of town. They also pulled diapers and clothing, as possible evidence.

Because of the condition of the body when it was found, little is known about the infant. "There's not a lot to go on," Eddy says. Preliminary autopsy results revealed that the child was a male, and not African-American.

The sheriff's office is awaiting results of further tests. These will show whether the child was born alive. Even if the child was born dead, the mother could be charged with improper disposal of a body.

The case is reminiscent of the two-day-old "Baby Doe" found dead in the closet of an abandoned Storm Lake mobile home in October of 1995. That case was never solved.



## Life along the detour

Top and middle: Naomi Shaeffer and Bernice Welp spent the afternoon Wednesday in Bernice's driveway watching the cars go by. North Erie Street has never seen so much traffic, according to the ladies. It is the a detour route for North Lake Avenue. Cars line up almost eight deep at the stop sign near the Welp house and getting out of the driveway can be a problem. Above: Lake Avenue is a no man's land. Photos by DOLORES CULLEN

## Police monitor tobacco sales over next month

The Storm Lake Police Department, working in conjunction with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division, will again be participating in "Cops in Shops, a Century Council Trademark Program."

Some of the 27 local tobacco retailers will be monitored with this program over the next month. The program places police officers into local retail stores that are licensed to sell tobacco products. As underage patrons attempt to purchase the tobacco products, police intervene and file charges.

The program is a cooperative and proactive effort between law enforcement and tobacco retailers to curb the purchase of tobacco products by underage patrons. The Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division provides overtime reimbursement to the City of Storm Lake for this endeavor.

If you have any questions, contact Capt. Bob Swanson at 732-8010.

⇨ NEVER ⇩  
 ⇨ BUY GAS ⇩  
 ⇨ AGAIN! ⇩  
**\* INTERESTED? \***  
**LEARN HOW!**  
 ▶ Abner Bells Coffeehouse ◀  
 ▶▶ Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> ◀◀  
 ▶▶▶ 7:00 pm ◀◀◀  
[www.redinc.appgas.com](http://www.redinc.appgas.com)

**Thank You**  
 for your support in  
 the Primary  
 Election  
*Shari O'Bannon*



Paid for by: Committee to RE-ELECT SHARI O'BANNON

Introducing...  
**Jeff Stewart**



Central Bank Insurance is pleased to announce the addition of Jeff Stewart as VP/Insurance Manager. Jeff is licensed to sell life, health, commercial, crop, and property and casualty insurance. He brings over five years of experience in the Insurance and Financial Services fields.

Jeff is a 1977 graduate of Storm Lake High School and has lived and worked in the Storm Lake area his entire life. Jeff and his wife Vanessa live in Alta.

We invite you to stop in and visit with Jeff at any time. We're excited to have him on the Central Bank team!

**HOME • LIFE • HEALTH • AUTO**



**CENTRAL BANK INSURANCE DIVISION**

600 Lake Ave • 712-732-7030  
 Storm Lake  
[www.centralbankidic.com](http://www.centralbankidic.com)

Wouldn't it be fun to win...?

Iowa's **POWERBALL** It's America's Game

Iowa's **Hot Lotto** Try Hot Lotto too!

**\$31 MILLION** | **\$2.7 MILLION**

Buy Your Tickets Today For Saturday's Drawing!