

Audubon FFA: Living to Serve in Liberia, Africa

Eight members of the Audubon FFA traveled to Monrovia, Liberia, and surrounding areas in Africa on Dec. 26, to Jan. 4. Members included Kerrigan Larsen (12), Addesyn Hocker (12), Mattie Nielsen (12), Edward Miller (12), Colton Hansen (11), Emily Foran (11), Lane Elmquist (10), and Harlow Miller (10). Audubon FFA Advisor, Mrs. Brittany Elmquist and Audubon chaperone Jason Hocker were also a part of the group. The team traveled with Barb Meister of GoServ Global and Pastor Stephen Wonbenyakeh and Florence Wonbenyakeh of Serve Africa.

Liberia lies on the West Coast of Africa with a population of over 5 million people.



Edward Miller and Colton Hansen at the Hope Center in Nimba County. They are with children from the orphanage and surrounding village.

ple. Striving to overcome trip possible through grain

the impacts of two devastating civil wars, the country is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world with an estimated 1.6 million people living below the food poverty line, and about 670,000 living in extreme poverty. Our FFA chapter has worked with GoServ Global on previous mission trips to Haiti as well as domestic relief efforts in Iowa and throughout the Midwest. GoServ Global and Serve Africa were interested in taking our team to Liberia as they are beginning to grow and serve this area and felt the trip would be beneficial to all involved.

The team and Audubon FFA chapter is very thankful for those that made this



Pictured (left to right): Jason Hocker, Edward Miller, Lane Elmquist, Colton Hansen, Florence Wonbenyakeh, Pastor Stephn Wonbenyakeh, Emily Foran, Harlow Miller, Mattie Nielsen, Kerrigan Larsen, Brittany Elmquist, Addesyn Hocker, Barb Meister. The team is wearing shirts and dresses made specially for us by some of the Liberian team in Monrovia.

drive donations, financial donations, supplies, and prayers. Our chapter is successful because of the community and school support of our endeavors. We have one last fundraiser that will be held on Sunday, Jan.28 at 3 p.m. at the Audubon High School. We hope to see a huge crowd for Donkey Basketball! Please visit our Facebook page for pictures and more information on future presentations highlighting the trip and details on donkey basketball.

The team members have highlighted the different areas of the trip as well as their takeaways below. The timeline of the trip is as follows and then the members discuss the topic areas in more detail.

- Day 1 — Travel
- Day 2 — Arrived in Monrovia
- Day 3 — Travel to Nimba County, Hope Cen-

- ter Orphanage
- Day 4 — Nimba County, Traveled Ivory Coast, Hope Center Orphanage
- Day 5 — Nimba County, Agricultural Projects, Hope Center and Village Feeding
- Day 6 — Church in Ganta, Traveled back to Monrovia
- Day 7 — Monrovia Hope Center Orphanage, Hope Center and Village Feeding
- Day 8 — Monrovia Touring
- Day 9 — Monrovia Touring, Liberia College, Travel
- Day 10 — Travel
- Please reach out if you have any questions our team members would love to visit with you!
- Travel — Colton Hansen
- We left Des Moines on Dec. 26. Our flights had lay-

overs in Chicago and Brussels, Belgium. We landed in Monrovia, Liberia the evening of Dec. 27. In total it was about 35 hours of travel. At the Roberts International Airport in Monrovia, we loaded in a 15-passenger van where we met our drivers and guides that we would have for the remainder of our trip. It took about two hours to reach our hotel the first night and we quickly realized the “roads” were not like we were used to. In Liberia there are basically no laws with driving. There is no correct side of the road, streetlights, or stop signs. They use their horns for road communication. I for sure thought we were going to see cars in the ditch throughout the trip, but we didn’t see one. I thought it was impressive watching our drivers throughout the whole week taking us

place to place and showing no signs of stress. We typically were driving on somewhat paved roads or dirt roads both of which were very rough. Our team did have another vehicle that several of us would ride in and carry supplies. It took a while to get from one place to another but during this time we listened and learned from Pastor Stephen and Florence as they told us about the history, culture, and current happenings in Liberia. There was also always something to look at as the roads were full of people carrying buckets on their heads with produce, roadside markets, or bathing and washing clothes in riverbeds.

To Be Continued in Next Week’s Audubon County Advocate Journal.

Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
January 16th, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present were Doug Sorensen, Rick Thompson, Heath Hansen, Chassity Musfeldt, Craig Williams, Rob Welch, Miranda Bills, Janell Bluml, Kent Grabill, John Hansen, Todd Johnson, Ben Linde, Mitch Rydl, Todd Johnson, Deb Campbell, Tyler Thygesen, Shannon Cece- via phone, Jared Hershberger-via Zoom & Corey Eberling via Zoom.

Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion with Craig Williams and approving Darrell’s Place liquor license. Vote-all in favor. Former State Senator Craig Williams joined the meeting. Williams introduced himself and announced he will be running for House District 11, which includes Audubon County. The Supervisors and Williams discussed several issues that the County feels are important, and need addressed. At 9:30 am Department Heads met with Supervisors. Recorder Bills said she had a sign up for 2024 Wellness Committee. The Courthouse Holiday Closing dates were discussed with concerns on the Christmas Holiday. Kent Grabill from Roadside Department inquired about the Courthouse closing due to bad weather and how it should be handled for non-essential employees. The upcoming move during the HVAC project was discussed. In order to meet the needs of all the offices, two separate locations may be required for employees to work from. Treasurer Deb Campbell discussed the investment reports. The interest rates on the CD’s are significantly higher now. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve the meeting minutes of January 2nd, 2024. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting minutes of January 3rd, 2024. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the placement of the State of Iowa flag in the Board of Supervisor’s room. Discussion with Jerad Hersberger & Corey Eberling from APEX via Zoom was had pertaining to the recent Planning & Zoning meeting regarding Wind Turbine setbacks. They wanted to check in and see how the meeting went. Opinions on both sides were voiced and heard and the Committee decided to approve the Setback. APEX said they have a building leased in Audubon and will get an office open soon. They will be holding a landowner dinner in March. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve Iowa Prison Industries to move items in the Courthouse Vault on 1-29-24. Vote-all in favor.

Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads & Maintenance updates. He said crews have been busy working 12-hour shifts with the recent snowstorm. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the DOT ROW permit with Carroll County. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to appoint Todd Nelson to the Board of Adjustments for a 5-year term. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve Darrell’s Place liquor license. Vote-all in favor. Chairman Hansen discussed having the different municipalities of Audubon County meet with the Board a couple times a year to keep a good open line of communication. They set out a schedule for them to visit throughout the next couple months. The following schedule was tentatively set: City of Audubon 1-23-24, City of Exira 1-30-24, City of Kimballton 2-6-24, City of Gray 2-13-24, City of Brayton 2-20-24 & ACED 2-27-24. The Supervisors would like a joint meeting with all of the cities the first Tuesday of March, July, and November at 10:30 am if possible. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting dates as stated above. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to appoint Sara Slater to the Airport Authority Board. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept/file the Recorder’s Report of Fees Collected for December 2023. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept/file the Sheriff’s 2nd Quarter Report for October-December 2023. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the 2023 Audubon County Employee’s gross wages as follows:

RYDL, MITCHEL	\$124,783.20	HANSEN, BRANDON	\$51,452.87	HANSEN, HEATH	\$32,373.48
SWENSEN, CHRISTOPHER	\$101,474.76	THYGESEN, TYLER	\$51,032.88	JUELSSGAARD, KYLE	\$31,776.28
JOHNSON, TODD	\$89,343.50	BILLS, LINDA	\$50,506.20	PALMER, JACOB	\$31,356.45
BEANE, DAVID	\$83,464.98	SORENSEN, LAWRENCE	\$50,268.59	HEMMINGSEN, ALICE	\$30,344.11
PARRIS, GEORGE	\$82,988.28	KOMMES, AMANDA	\$50,119.90	LAURITSEN, GAGE	\$30,220.83
LINDE, BENJAMIN	\$81,428.00	NELSON, COURTNEY	\$49,494.92	TURNER, JASMINE	\$27,741.38
BROOKS, MICHAEL	\$78,718.89	JACOBSEN, THEODORE	\$49,354.58	JAMES, JIMMY	\$27,274.21
ROKKE, JASON	\$76,907.39	BAYLOR, ANGELA	\$49,334.93	MUSFELDT, CHASSITY	\$26,099.38
SEATON, DERICK	\$73,492.94	WITTROCK, BRIAN	\$49,308.61	KILMER, MICHELLE	\$22,174.20
BLUML, JANELL	\$72,791.96	WANNINGER, LOUIS	\$48,897.85	KELLER, JENNIFER	\$19,204.76
FREDERIKSEN, LISA	\$72,625.44	CHRISTENSEN, DALTON	\$48,590.25	THORN, TODD	\$18,275.00
PAULSEN, SHAWN	\$65,867.26	CHAPMAN, ROBERT	\$48,482.94	HENKLE, TIFFANY	\$17,289.22
CAMPBELL, DEBBIE	\$65,045.90	RATTENBORG, JOEL	\$48,463.70	SAMPSON, JAMES	\$15,164.99
BILLS, MIRANDA	\$64,638.28	HANSEN, JOHN	\$47,972.33	KOHOUT, TONY	\$12,893.52
THYGESEN, MELISSA	\$63,713.97	BOHLMANN, SHAWN	\$47,477.26	JOHNSTON, CRAIG	\$12,554.29
HARDY, BRANDON	\$63,382.70	CANIGLIA, TERRY	\$47,472.16	PARTRIDGE, TYSON	\$12,129.60
HAAG, BRUCE	\$62,705.04	KREMER, JONAH	\$45,441.97	CRAMER, WILLIAM	\$8,133.08
SCHLEIMER, JAMI	\$60,738.72	SMITH, TYSON	\$45,117.68	LIEKHUS, KALEB	\$7,985.25
BAIER, CORY	\$59,667.59	PEPPERS, BART	\$44,539.82	SMITH, GAGE	\$7,752.98
JACOBSEN, CASSIE	\$57,446.60	NELSON, CHRISTINA	\$42,296.45	ZAIGER, ANN	\$6,021.46
POWELL, LISA	\$56,230.96	IRLBECK, SARAH	\$40,419.84	HANSEN, KATHLEEN	\$4,920.50
MUNCH, DIANA	\$56,052.14	REMSBURG, JANELL	\$39,833.99	MARTEN, BECKY	\$3,250.07
GRABILL, KENT	\$55,543.58	CHRISTENSEN, GABRIEL	\$37,729.48	PERKINS, GEOFFREY	\$2,599.20
LEBECK, CATHERINE	\$54,542.72	NIELSEN, TODD	\$37,596.27	KLEIN, ANDREW	\$2,100.00
HANSEN, RICHARD	\$54,279.28	MCLERAN, MATTHEW	\$36,617.55	MICHAEL, BRETT	\$1,200.45
STEFFES, DEBRA	\$52,224.92	SORENSEN, DOUGLAS	\$33,327.00	FRANSEN, THOMAS	\$325.00
RIESGAARD, DUSTIN	\$51,705.85	THOMPSON, RICK	\$32,398.48		

2023 TOTAL GROSS WAGES \$3,516,513.04

Gail Richardson with the Audubon County Library presented an overview of the annual report. Richardson discussed all the activities and services that the Audubon Library provides. The library budget from last year was discussed and they would like an increase for the FY25 year if possible. Custodian John Hansen gave an update of the Vault status. He mentioned that Brent with Site Services said they had storage unit containers available if the County would like to rent one for some of the Vault items to be temporarily stored in.

Budget workshop with the Supervisors will be held on Friday the 19th and Monday the 22nd. Engineer Rydl said he would be getting his budget turned in next week. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve claims for payment as submitted by various departments and listed in a separate publication in the amount of \$214,735.32. Vote-all in favor. Shannon Cece with Graphite Construction talked to the Supervisors over the phone regarding the updated HVAC schedule. She said it may not be ideal for everyone, but it would be the most efficient for the project if the majority of the Courthouse employees were completely vacated from the office from April to possibly December. The Department Heads will have a chance to review the updated schedule and more discussion will follow. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept/file the following MMP’s: Reischl Farms LLC- Chris Reischl #60480; Darlys Halbur #59617; Kent Grabill #58071; Pheasant Ave Farms LTD #58382; Handlos Home East #59727; Dan Jorgensen #60478; Triple K Snyder Inc South #60957; Handlos 4A King Farm #61964; Handlos Steffes East-6A #61952; Triple K Snyder Inc Home #62061 & Jason Christensen #57968. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Sorensen Second- Hansen to accept/file Auditor’s Month End Reports for December 2023. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Hansen Second- Sorensen to accept/file Clerk of Courts Fees Collected for December 2023. Vote-all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

<u>Heath Hansen</u> Chairman, Board of Supervisors	<u>Chassity Musfeldt</u> Audubon County Auditor Clerk
ACE HARDWARE2687.82	AGRI LAND FS INC2773.68
AGRI LAND FS INC 7314876.24	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES981.53
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY107.88	ATTN: TRUST FEES DEPT UMB BANK N.A.....600
AUDUBON CITY LIBRARY7650	AUDUBON CO ADVOCATE JOURNAL1571.92
AUDUBON CO AIRPORT AUTHORITY ...13321.89	AUDUBON CO ECONOMIC DEVE7611.75
AUDUBON CO MEMORIAL HOSP16757.26	AUDUBON CO SHERIFF235.72
AUDUBON CO SOLID WASTE MGMT COMMISSION15592	AUDUBON COUNTY NEWSPAPERS17010
AUDUBON DIESEL LLC16.6	AUREON COMMUNICATIONS LLC1217.9
BAUER BUILT TIRE CENTER INC6357.6	BETHANY CEMETERY200
BOWEN CEMETERY60	C/O MELISSA BAHNSEN IA COUNTY RECORDERS ASSN250
CAMERON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY55	CARROLL CO SHERIFF364.62
CARROLL REFUSE SERVICE135	CASS HEALTH201
CENTRAL IA DISTR INC290	CINTAS60.61
CYPRESS SOLUTIONS INC18.5	D & J SUPPLY212.7
DISTRICT IV RECORDERS ASSOC100	DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP CEMETERY5
EBENEZER LUTHERAN CEMETERY75	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND18750
EXIRA CEMETERY ASSOC2005	EXIRA CITY3897.67
EXIRA PLUMBING & HEATING1633	FORCE AMERICA INC5066.27
FRANK OLSEN62.87	GALLS LLC231.85
GUTHRIE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH9183.58	HALEY EQUIPMENT INC225.36
HAMLIN LUTHERAN CEMETERY145	HANSEN’S M&M SERVICES899.25
HEARTLAND BUSINESS SYSTEMS LLC109	HEATHER TOFT200
HOLY TRINITY CEMETERY90	HOUSBY MACK INC22.5
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CEMETERY655	IMWCA6217
IN RIGHT DOORS13200	IOWA DIV OF LABOR SERVICES40
ISAC210	JASMINE TURNER3081.55
JASON ROBERTS LLC6048.68	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL396.95
KIMBALL MIDWEST70.5	KIMBALLTON CITY CLERK1275
KYLE HINNERS65.21	LINCOLN TWP CEMETERY50
LUCOCKS GROVE CEMETERY10	MATTHEW HACKWELL2300
MEDIACOM203.88	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO2863.36
MIDWEST GROUP BENEFITS INC6198.42	NACVSO50
NEW OPPORTUNITIES INC1325	NIELSEN AUTOMOTIVE INC190
OAKFIELD BAPTIST CEMETERY25	OAKFIELD CEMETERY250
OAKHILL CEMETERY430	OLSEN’S OUTDOOR POWER199.7
PATRIOT POST FRAME, LLC435.5	PENGUIN MANAGEMENT INC2820
PITNEY BOWES INC179.16	PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER2059.9
PLEASANT HILL CEMETERY85	PRO POWER LLC396
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT72.13	R&S WASTE DISPOSAL86.63
RASMUSSEN, JO320.68	RED OAK WELDING SUPPLIES INC22.8
REGION XII COUNCIL OF GOVTS841.36	REMSBURG SERVICE INC9.95
RICHARD BAKER50	ROLAND FUNERAL SERVICE1500
SECURE SHRED SOLUTIONS LLC470	SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CEMETERY15
SIoux CITY TRUCK SALES PETERBILT47.46	SOUTHSIDE WELDING & MACH LLC880.56
SPINUTECH LLC150	ST JOHN’S CEMETERY WEST230
ST JOHN’S LUTHERAN CEMETERY185	ST PATRICKS CEMETERY ST PATRICK’S CATHOLIC CHURCH 315
THE IRON SHOP LLC156.9	THE OFFICE STOP50.2
TRIVISTA278.11	UNITYPOINT CLINIC-OCCUPATIONAL42
UNPLUGGED WIRELESS LLC100	VERIZON WIRELESS40.01
VIOLA TOWNSHIP CEMETERY80	VISUAL EDGE IT dba COUNSEL224.54
WAGWORKS141.65	WASPY’S TIRE & SERVICE CENTER120
WASPY’S TRUCK STOP24.5	WATSON AND RYAN PLC165
WEST CENTRAL IA RURAL WATER19.4	WESTERN IA WIRELESS100
WINDSTREAM IOWA COMMUNICATIONS1001.29	ZIEGLER INC1935.77

Grand Total: 214735.32