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... Durbin’s Garage

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The Durbins also have a paint booth, and do their own painting. Durbin’s Garage has been around for a few years.

“We’ve been here since 2017,” said Daryl, “but this is the first time we’ve done any advertising. It’s just been word-of-mouth.”

The business is located at 615 Second Street in downtown Ida Grove, across the street from Valley Veterinary Center. The Durbins can be reached at 712-364-5636.

“Most of our customers are local,” said Daryl, “but we’ve restored cars from Cherokee and we’ve done tractors from Odebolt. We do have a couple cars here from Chicago, one from a family member and one from a family friend.”

Daryl and Hunter have long had a knack for fixing up cars.

“We’ve always been car nuts,” explained Daryl, “and we just love working on them. We’ve got a pretty nice collection of classic cars ourselves. We figured, ‘we’ve got the knowledge, we just as well make some money on it so we can keep working on our own stuff.’ We have an LLC, and we got lucky enough to get this building. It’s a nice place to work on our own stuff, then people wanted us to work on their stuff, so we opened up a business. We plan on being full-time eventually.”

According to the Durbins, expansion plans are in the making.

“We eventually plan on having a service desk and a waiting area,” stated Hunter, “so when someone comes in to get their car serviced, they have a place to wait.”

“There are plans for expansion,” added Daryl, “so we can provide more services and have more equipment.”

Daryl explained some of

his background in engine repair.

“My dad was an aircraft mechanic,” he said, “and I kind of grew up with it. I got a job in Waterloo as a mechanic out of high school. I applied to Rasmussen’s in ‘93, and I’ve been there ever since. I’ve been trained through Ford all over the country, on everything from electric vehicles to you name it. Every year I was sent somewhere for training, like Minneapolis or Kansas City, sometimes for a week at a time.”

New technology has been one of the major changes over the years, according to the Durbins.

“Now everything is controlled by modules and computers,” said Hunter. “Unless you’ve got something pre-2005-ish, you’ll have to take it somewhere and hook it up to a scan tool to figure out what’s wrong with it.”

“The day of the backyard mechanic is pretty much out the window,” added Daryl, “unless you’re working on an older vehicle.”

Durbin spoke about some of the biggest challenges they face.

“One of the hardest aspects is to keep up with new technology and information,” stated Daryl. “With COVID and everything else, it’s also hard to get parts and get things repaired in a timely manner. It’s gotten better, but it’s not as good as it used to be. You might diagnose what’s wrong with something, but getting parts for it is out of your hands.”

Finally, Daryl shared what he likes the most about fixing cars.

“I really like taking something that isn’t running and getting it fixed,” he said. “I enjoy taking something that’s been sitting around for 20 years, and giving it life again. I like getting it back on the road so people can enjoy it.”

BC City Council approves building permits

The Battle Creek City Council met on Tuesday, March 12 at 6 p.m. in the Community Hall. Council members in attendance were Jary Vermeys, Jill Wingert, Abby Funderman, and Jeanette Holmes, as well as Mayor Pierce.

Ida County Sheriff Wade Harriman gave a report on his department.

Grant Patera with the Hoffman Agency was on hand to review the insurance renewal.

Larry Folk, Service Director, gave a report on his department. The amount of administration time it is taking, to get everything back in line and maintained, is more than expected. For that reason, he asked the city to consider hiring him for 20-24 hours a week. No action was taken.

The Mayor reported that

the county meetings will be conducted here on April 16. He has also requested that pot holes be patched.

The Proposed Property Tax Levy hearing will be conducted on March 26 at 6 p.m. as published.

Concerns with the can redemption cage were discussed, and will be communicated with the church by the Mayor or Vermeys.

The council members approved the building permit for 510 6th Street – addition to house; 500 Willow Street – driveway/sidewalk (Craig okayed the curb grinding); and 601 6th Street – deck on back, if it complies with the rear lot setback of 10 feet.

Planning and Zoning policy revisions were tabled, as they have not been received back from the attorney.



Photo by Mary Morgan • Ida County Courier

VT groundbreaking: (l to r): Steve Tomlinson - Chief Information Officer, Travis Mudloff - Senior VP of Door Division, Doug Clausen - President & CEO, Aaron Clausen - VP of Operations Door Division, Ryan Clausen - Senior VP of Countertop Division, Kathy Breyfogle - Mayor of Holstein, Joanie Clausen, Ann Duebner - VP of Human Resources and Lindsay (Clausen) Armstrong.

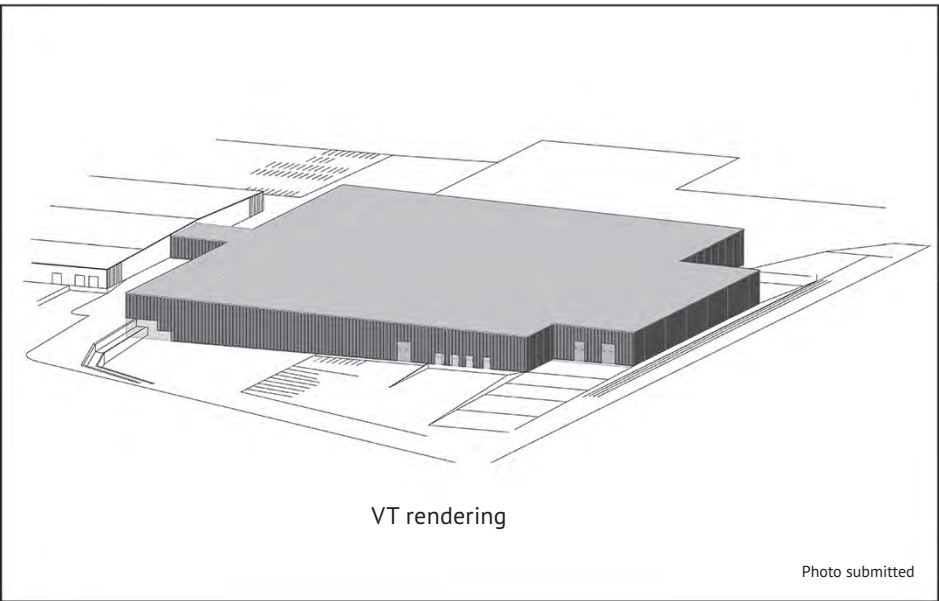
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feet to the production footprint on the Holstein campus, marking the company’s largest addition to date. Not only will this development accommodate increased capacity for finished goods and provide space for future opportunities, but it will also improve efficiencies for the company’s existing manufacturing processes—allowing VT to better serve their customers world-wide.

Doug Clausen, President and CEO said, “This expansion and investment in technology continues to strengthen the valued customer partnerships that have afforded VT its growth throughout the past 68 years, and it will sustain us well into the future.”

VT Industries serves as



VT rendering

Photo submitted

North-America’s leader in the commercial wood door industry—built on the cornerstones of quality, service, and innovation.

About VT Industries, Inc. Headquartered in Hol-

stein, Iowa, VT Industries, Inc. is North America’s leading manufacturer of commercial architectural wood doors, countertops, and surfaces. The company’s three divisions serve

customers from sixteen facilities strategically located throughout the U.S. and Canada. Visit the company’s website at www.vtindustries.com for more information.

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includes the old football field area and the tennis courts in the southwest parcel. Voting in favor of the motion were board members Aschinger, Whitmer and Witzke. Voting against the motion were board members Kalin, Ruble, Schossow and Wittrock, and the motion failed 4-3.

The board did agree to approach the City of Galva regarding their interest in the tennis courts.

The members also agreed to approve the student teacher cooperative agreement with Morning-side University, and the student teacher cooperative agreement with the University of Northern Iowa.

The required second budget hearing will be conducted on April 16 at 6 p.m. in the Holstein Media Center.



Photo by Brent Harm • Ida County Courier

Home of the Raptors!: The Schaller-Crestland 6th graders and all of the 7th and 8th graders will be in the Schaller building next year.

The school board members discussed the live streaming of board meetings with platforms such as Huddle Live, YouTube and Facebook. Mr. Bisenius will explore the options with the technology department.

The board also discussed options regarding athletic apparel orders, and possibly going through only one vendor.

In his superintendent report, Mr. Bisenius updated the boards on radon mitigation at the Galva,

Schaller and Early buildings. Discussion also centered around the purchase of a new bus for the district.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Schaller media center.



Photo submitted

Kiwanis donate to Easter Egg Hunt:

The Ida Grove Kiwanis made a donation to the annual Ida Grove Easter Egg Hunt. Pictured at the check presentation are, front: Kiwanis president Morris Hurd, Amy Forbes, and Karla Meier. Back: Pastor Neil Wehmas, Duane Ernst, Justin Reininger, Pastor Luann Benge, Tony Bennett, Doug Schmidt, Dennis Clausen, Peter Goldsmith, and Kurtis Krager.

IDA COUNTY FAIRBOARD

MINI GOLF FUNDRAISER

March 22 • 5-8 p.m.

Holstein Vet’s Hall

Legion will have the bar open.

Meal provided after golfing.

Tee off: 5 p.m.

Team of 4 \$10 per person

Pre-register with Peggy 712-210-0110 or register at the door.

Grab your putter and a ball to join the fun in Holstein!