

Honey Den lands \$30,000 from Main Street America

Candy store 1 of 25 recipients in U.S.; will use \$\$ for expansion

By Gregory R. Norfleet
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An idea to distribute sweets nationwide to raise money for various groups continues to bring in grant funding to The Honey Den.

This time, the West Branch company landed one of only 25 grants given out nationwide.

The candy store owner, Tiffany Frederick, will receive a \$30,000 Backing Small Business Enhancement Grant from Main Street America, supported by American Express.

“I was really excited because growing this national program is very expensive, so having this money should be able to get us to the finish line,” she said. “I’m excited to get it done.”

The program, “Give Sweetly,” (GiveSweetly.com) gives groups that sell the Honey Den’s premium gummies and chocolates up to 50 percent of the profits with no minimum

on the amount ordered. “It’s pretty wild,” Frederick said. “We’re thinking so big with it.”

Main Street West Branch helped Frederick apply for the grant. Executive Director Jessi Simon said Frederick “dreamed up” this idea and the dream is drawing attention while complementing her small business.

“They are truly innovative,” she said. “They help support her business ‘selling out the back door,’ as they say, so you can keep your front door open in these brick-and-mortar communities.”

Economic development leaders look for this two-pronged approach, she said.

“It’s just the reality of owning a small business these days,” Simon said. “This is exactly the kind of thing they want to see.”

And she’s right. The Backing Small Businesses press release states that the program “provides support to locally significant small business-

es with community reach.”

In the first round of grant awards, they searched for businesses that “increase the local impact.”

“When we support small business owners, we support entire communities,” Main Street America’s President and CEO Erin Barnes said. “These 25 recipients have already proven their commitment to making their communities better, and through these Enhancement Grants, we’re proud to give them the resources to go even further.”

American Express Foundation President Madge Thomas said she met some of the recipients who demonstrate a commitment to the long-term success of their local communities and are determined to grow and innovate.”

“The Enhancement Grants are designed to build on their momentum, helping them creating even greater impact in the neighborhoods they serve,” Thomas said. “We’re proud

to support their next chapter of growth.”

The MSWB executive director said economic development groups want to show examples of how small businesses can succeed through innovation.

“(Frederick) has done a great job of leveraging that idea and scooping up grant opportunities,” Simon said. “They’re not cheap and they’re not easy.”

She said Frederick “has done the legwork” to push her small business in the direction of further success.

Frederick said she prepared much of the content for the application and Simon helped tweak the wording to highlight the areas that grant committees find important.

“Without her, we’d probably wouldn’t get a lot of these grants,” she said. “She’s pretty integral to any businesses getting any of these grants.”

Frederick said the Give Sweetly program works locally as well, with about \$20,000 in donations this



Honey Den owner Tiffany Frederick poses insider her store May 31. Her candy store created a program that helps groups with fundraisers nationwide, which helped attract a \$30,000 Backing Small Business Enhancement Grant from Main Street America, supported by American Express. **Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times**

past year.

As an example, she said the All-Sports Booster Club sold gummies at West Branch sports concession stands and brought in about \$1,800 in profits.

The Honey Den must spend the funding by December.

“We look forward to hitting the ground running after I get back from maternity leave,” Frederick said.

Frederick’s small business model has earned her multiple grants, which she estimates at \$174,000 to date.

\$29K grant places energy-efficient coolers in Jack & Jill grocery store

Main Street West Branch helps secure more funding than state offered

By Gregory R. Norfleet
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They had one chance to hit the target, and they got it.

Jack & Jill Grocery Store customers will notice new coolers loaded up with produce.

Owner Rajan “Raj” Bhatta got them installed in July after he and Main Street West Branch successfully landed a \$29,000 grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

“This makes me so happy,” Bhatta said. “And my customers, too. I’ll get more shoppers with this produce.”

One of those four coolers can hold the same amount of produce as all of his display did before.

“I can place more product, so I can get more product,” Bhatta said.

MSWB Executive Director Jessi Simon said the Rural Grocery Energy Efficiency grant was a one-time program for small grocery stores to update

equipment.

“It’s exactly what he needed,” she said.

The \$29,000 grant exceeds what the IEDA planned to award. The grant application said the maximum request ranged from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

The grant also targeted independent grocery stores; chain stores were not eligible to apply.

The IEDA specifically lists eight possible ideas for the money, and “more energy-efficient refrigeration and freezer equip-

ment” was the first one on the list.

Simon said the IEDA asked about small business needs, and local Main Street programs made the argument for upgrading old grocery store equipment.

“I think one of the cool things about being a Main Street-accredited program is that we get lots of opportunities to engage with IEDA leaders at the state level so we can provide feedback on the types of programs that our commu-

nities are really needing,” she said. “I think that it helps to be plugged in from the local level all the way up to the state level.”

Bhatta said he must pay for the coolers upfront, then turn in receipts for reimbursement. As a requirement of the grant, he also must put up 10 percent of the total cost.

He estimated that he sold 25 different kinds of produce before, “but now I’ll order 100 different products.”

Simon said she does not know how many grants the IEDA awarded, but knows it was not many.

“It aligned with a need in our community,” she said. “And we were able to help Raj work through the process. It’s a pretty tedious application.”

The IEDA application

notes that “food security is a critical issue in rural Iowa, and rural grocery stores play a key role in addressing it.”

“These businesses serve as local anchor institutions, contributing to rural prosperity by supporting community vitality, providing employment opportunities, offering healthy and fresh foods and keeping wealth within the community,” reads the application. “Conversely, the loss of a rural grocery store can have a negative impact on the community and food security.”

The IEDA said the funding came from a federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding, which is administered by the Iowa Energy Office, a division of the IEDA.

Cedar County Claims

7/16/2026
General Basic Fund
852.48-Access Systems Leasing-copies
2300.00-Ahlers-Cooney-Dorweiler-labor relations
17.25-Albaugh PHC Inc-maint
1295.00-Altorfer Inc-maint svc
723.38-Amazon Capital Services-lights
195.00-Templeton Inc AT Disposal-dumpster
1417.31-AT&T Mobility-phone
2260.24-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-phone
1000.00-Brett Becker-Home Base
2500.00-Bentley Funeral Home-funeral
368.00-Mike Blake-rent
482.77-Adam W. Blank-mil
683.71-Cedar County Health Fund-ins
267.26-City of Tipton-Elec
101.59-Commissioner of Insurance-509A
48.00-Conservative Publishing-subscription
700.00-Chris Cook-well
297.44-Copy Systems-copies
330.90-Mike Dauber-ME
58.01-Alexandria Donohoe-meals
219.45-Deana Drumbarger-mil
2700.00-Todd Duckett-well
553.28-Eastern IA Light&Power-elec
5700.80-E C I A-funding
52.66-Joanna Foor-meals
128.00-Gordon Fleisch Company-copies
64.00-Graybill Electronics Inc-lite
41246.29-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-inland marine
398.40-Hermesen Automotive LLC-tire rp
48.70-Robin Housley-mil
48.70-Shelly Howsare-mil
25.00-IA DNR Water Supply-water fee
276.00-Iowa City Tire, Inc-tires
180.00-Iowa County Attorneys Assoc.-training
225.00-Iowa Dept of Natural Resources-permits
1277.75-Iowa Paper-paper
1829.00-Iowa Prison Industries-fire rings
1199.68-Thiesen’s-Parts
150.00-Johnson County Sheriff-phone
192.00-Karl Emergency Vehicles-LEDS
2601.41-KMDE, LLC-solar
5352.00-Mainstay Systems of Iowa LLC-batteries
49.80-Michael Male-mil
2000.00-Gregory Manhart-well
274.66-Martin Bros Dist Co Inc-cleaner
110.96-Menards-clothing
170.00-Muscatine County Sheriff-svc
198.98-ODP Business Solutions, LLC-book
2589.98-Reserve Account-auditor
1040.88-Professional Office Services-renewals
2856.90-Progressive Rehabilitation-PT
417.00-Quill Corp-envelopes
267.29-Racom Corporation-mount spkr
3181.00-River Bend Transit-1st Qtr FY27
48.70-Bryan Schroeder-mil
5125.91-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
60.00-Secretary of State Notary-notary
36595.88-Solutions, Inc Harris Local-DL
832.26-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-parts
1606.50-State Hygienic Laboratory Univ-samples
54.20-Michael Stigers-mil
400.00-Walter Storjohann-well
84.98-Sarah Subbert-clothing
19434.24-Total Maintenance, Inc-contract
172.18-Vestis-mats/mops

4398.34-VISA/Bankers Bank-hotel/meals
43.45-Elizabeth Voss-mil
377.71-West Branch & Tipton Roofing-roof rp
General Supplemental Fund
11.39-Amazon Capital Services-seals
399207.95-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-prop ins
406.01-Reserve Account-election
206.00-Thomson Reuters-West
Payment-info chrg
18.50-VISA/Bankers Bank-textedly
Rural Services Basic Fund
26.87-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-phone
12.60-Conservative Publishing-legal
500.37-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-Auto
113.19-Hermesen Automotive LLC-oil chg
71.09-Genuine Parts Company Inc
NAPA-wire
30.00-Parkside Service-tire rp
14.19-Reserve Account-EZ
34.58-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
3378.61-Waste Management of Iowa-20 yrd
15.40-West Branch Times-legal
EMS-Essential Srv(Ambulance)
688.06-Amazon Capital Services-cases
198.06-AT&T Mobility-phone
80.00-CJ Cooper & Assoc-drug screen
57835.74-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-Tort Liability Ins.
22863.03-Henry Schein-Minor Equip
1115.00-Legacy Emergency Vehicles-equip
5717.80-Midwest Card and ID Solutions-ID printer
78.00-Progressive Rehabilitation-physical
130.16-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
1116.07-VISA/Bankers Bank-Med
1373.26-Zoll Medical Corporation World-monitor paper
Secondary Road Fund
831.60-Advantage FS, Inc.-Oil
93.86-Grainger Parts Inc. W.W.-culverts
56.00-Gray Barn Industries-Supplies
350.00-Mike Gritton -Safety
48.00-H & H Auto-Tires
199112.68-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-Insurance
175.00-Iowa Dep of Natural Resources-BROS-CO16(121)-8J-1
220.00-Iowa State University-ISRW
420.00-J.J. Nitching Company-Parts
16.86-Thiesen’s-Parts
785.70-L L Pelling Co Inc-Asphalt
12870.00-W J Leeper Construction LTD-Repairs
526.13-Genuine Parts Company Inc
NAPA-Filters
268.58-P&K Midwest, Inc.-Filters
113.44-Phelps the Uniform Specialists-Sundry
222.51-Reserve Account-Postage
2204.33-River Products Company-Rock
17700.00-Road Groom Manufacturing-New Equipment
311.81-Sadler Power Train, Inc.-Parts
918.19-Sinclair Tractor-Filters
386.49-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-Signs
19.79-US Cellular-Phone

494.80-VISA/Bankers Bank Attn: Cards-Sundry
1895.79-Wendling Quarries Inc-Rock
Transfer Station Fund
354.50-Alliant Energy-elec
1197.99-Cintas Corporation-towels
5.00-Clarence Telephone Company-email
16760.40-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-gen lib
207.55-Thiesen’s-grease/gloves
610.14-Liberty Tire Services LLC-waste tire
46.69-Reserve Account-Solid Waste
78.00-Progressive Rehabilitation-physical
27807.73-Quad Cities Landfill Millennium-landfill
548.39-Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.-filters
334.53-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
291.88-Wex Bank-DEF
Cedar Co Health Fund
1610.79-CEDAR COUNTY TREASURER
ACH MED-self funded med
372.48-United States Treasury Departm-720-V
Conservation Trust Fund
77.70-Brothers Market, LLC-Food & Provisions
188.70-VISA/Bankers Bank Attn: Cards-clothing
Reserve Officer Fund
2400.00-Stryker Sales Corporation-batteries
Early Childhood Ia-Cedar/Jones
17711.08-Grant Wood AEA-CART
649.85-Sherri R. Hunt-mil
4699.39-Lutheran Services in Iowa-PAT-LSI
7997.62-Young Parents Network-PAT-YPN
Jnt Disaster Serv.Fund
313.48-AT&T Mobility-phone
360.00-All Star Turf-mowing
9627.23-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-Gen Lib
9185.25-Johnson County EMA-Haz-Mat
1992.00-Mainstay Systems of Iowa LLC-maint
36.58-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
7.71-Verizon-river gauge
Recorder’S Records Mgt.

467.45-Iowa Land Records-maint
3394.04-Solutions, Inc Harris Local-Indexes
E911
200.00-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-data
188.57-Clarence Telephone Company-data
230.00-F&B Communications-data
7454.40-GEO COMM INC-maint
3595.41-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-Gen Lib
3.00-CenturyLink Lumen-data
1992.00-Mainstay Systems of Iowa LLC-maint
554.10-VISA/Bankers Bank-util
Assessor
25.27-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-Phone
4158.67-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-Assessor
294.18-Reserve Account-Assessor
19.08-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
3084.05-Solutions, Inc Harris Local
Go-DBDR
89.60-West Branch Times-ad
1078377.35-Grand Total
WBT 31

Cedar county board

(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY’S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR’S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE–WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV) TIPTON, IOWA
July 21, 2026
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. July 21, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul(via phone), Kaufmann(via phone), and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present.
Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.
Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve agenda.
Ayes: All

Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. Deputy Jackson thanked everyone for card and support during his treatment.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of July14, 2026.
Ayes: All
Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve Claim Disbursements #446271 - #446416 paid on 7/16/2026.
Ayes: All
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to approved Auditor Outstanding Warrant list.
Ayes: All
Discussion held on need for two real estate agents for Eminent Domain Commission. No decisions were made.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to deny support for Auto Tour and App on Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway for 2026 as it never budgeted or authorized.
Ayes: All
Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve one-year lookback period recommended by HR Attorney Galloway to be added to Cedar County Handbook.
Ayes: All
Community Services Director Tischuk met with Board to discuss Cedar County Opioid Settlement Funds Report and an application to be utilized to request funds. application reviewed by County Attorney Blank but needs to be updated and brought back to Board for approval.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve Cedar County Opioid Settlement Funds report dated July 21, 2026.
Ayes: All

Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve a utility permit for Alliant Energy on 150th Street and \$100 fee applies.
Ayes: All
Absent: Kaufmann
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bell to approve a utility permit for Eastern Iowa REC on Eureka Avenue and \$100 fee applies.
Ayes: All
Absent: Kaufmann
Abstain: Bixler
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bell to approve a utility permit for Eastern Iowa REC on Taylor Avenue and \$100 fee applies.
Ayes: All
Absent: Kaufmann
Abstain: Bixler
Engineer Fangmann reported on complaint on Jackson Avenue Board received. He feels vegetation has grown back and it stable. Consensus of Board to have Fangmann work with property owners to resolve complaint.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to adjourn at 9:18 a.m., to July 28, 2026.
Ayes: All
Absent: Kaufmann
Jon Bell, Chairperson
Nicki Welch, Auditor
WBT 31

Classifieds Get Results

FARMLAND FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. – PRICE REDUCED! 80.00 acres located 3 miles SE of Tipton. 76.57 crop acres with a 90.00 CSR2. **\$17,250 \$16,750/acre.**

CEDAR CO. – 77.16 acres located on the Cedar River, 10 miles E of West Branch. 34.50 crop acres with a 64.40 CSR2. An additional 37.22 acres are forest reserve & 2.90 acres are in CRP. **\$7,750/acre.**

CEDAR CO. – 55.15 acres located 10 miles SE of West Branch. 48.60 crop acres with a 71.60 CSR2 & 6.55 acres are in CRP. **\$10,500/acre.**

LOUISA CO. – NEW LISTING! 101.80 acres located on a hard-surfaced road between Crawfordsvill and Winfield. 101.45 crop acres with an 82.50 CSR2. **\$15,250/acre.**

LOUISA CO. – NEW LISTING! 80.00 acres located between Crawfordsville and Winfield. 80.95 crop acres with an 81.30 CSR2. **\$14,000/acre.**

MUSCATINE CO. – NEW LISTING! 100.00 acres located northwest of West Liberty. 98.37 crop acres with a 52.60 CSR2. A premium-quality farm! **\$17,500/acre.**

SCOTT CO. – 55.18 acres in Davenport along I-280. 45.09 crop acres with an 80.20 CSR2. **\$15,000/acre.**

LOTS FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. – A 1.49-acre lot located 3 miles south of West Branch, close to the Village of Downey. 71 330th St., West Branch **\$99,500.00**

LINN CO. – PRICE REDUCED! 2.73 acres located SW of Mt. Vernon. A beautiful lot overlooking scenic views. 898 Henik Rd., Mt. Vernon **\$499,000.00 \$194,000.00**

Mt. Vernon, IA
319.895.8858

All Acres are 'More or Less' unless noted
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