

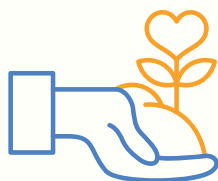
Western Iowa Development Association

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



ROAD TO RECOVERY

MINDEN TORNADO
ANNIVERSARY



IN THIS ISSUE



- 1 Forward with Strength
- 2 Minden Mayor Statement
- 3 Anniversary Fellowship Info
- 4 Rebuilding Minden
- 5 Community Photos
- 6 Resident Reflection
- 7 Community Photos
- 8 Community Photos
- 9 Connect With Us

MOVING FORWARD WITH STRENGTH

-Rebuilding after April 26, 2024

The tornadoes that hit Minden in the spring of 2024 altered the course of our community. Homes that held decades of memories were obliterated in moments. Years of dedication to our businesses vanished.

However, what remains intact are our bonds and our resilience. We are moving forward with determination, striving to enhance our community for the long haul. This journey is not a quick fix; it will require years for our community to fully rebuild. Nonetheless, the time to initiate this work is now.

Our long-term recovery efforts are being supported by the Iowa West Foundation, United Way of the Midlands Disaster Recovery Fund, and Pottawattamie County gaming funds. The City is grateful for their support.



LIVE • WORK • EXPLORE • THRIVE





WHAT'S IN PROGRESS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



- Seeking funding for housing, infrastructure, community amenities, and area businesses
- Planning and coordinating infrastructure projects
- Strategic acquisitions of properties



Kevin Zimmerman
City of Minden Mayor

There are many residential homes that were damaged and destroyed in the storm and they are being rebuilt and updated. This new construction and remodeling is all looking good for the town recovery, it is helping with the mental toll the Tornado had caused in our lives and the future is looking very exciting for the Minden residence and the entire area.

As the City of Minden's Mayor and our council are working hard moving forward with plans to rebuild our city buildings, parks, down town lighting, infrastructure, streets, curbs, sewer lift station and water plant facility. We have been working on lots of funding programs, Grants, FEMA, Iowa West, Lakin Foundation, Pottawattamie County, Iowa State, USDA, Insurance, Habitat for humanity and many other organizations that is available to help. We are also trying to help with the Minden community Club, with there future plans for a new community building, ball parks and etc.. We are also looking at the future for our north 40 acre housing development,. Bike and walking trails, dog parks, Pickle ball courts and any other program we are interested in giving to our community.

As you can see there are lots of balls being thrown in the air right now and we are trying to catch them as they come in to our hands.

“Thank you Stacie and WIDA for Keeping Minden in your thoughts and prayers and also in front of your followers. We are Minden Strong community and are moving forward in our recovery every day.”

Starting in our business district, there has been a lot of work and rebuilding being completed on several local businesses and we are excited to have them building back. There are several businesses that have been able to stay open or have reopened in the last year since the Tornado and there are 4-5 that will be opening up in the next month or so including some new businesses.

With a couple of grants and teaming up with Habitat of humanity of Council Bluffs we have been able to purchase 7 lots all together in a residential area of town to put in 3 new duplexes units. We also have a local investor installing 3- new 4 plex Town House Style homes on some empty lots in town. These 2 projects will be a welcome addition to our town and our shortage of housing in the area.





MINDEN, IOWA

- FORWARD WITH STRENGTH -

MINDEN TORNADO ANNIVERSARY

MINDEN
#SMALLTOWNSBIGSUPPORT
STRONG

**LET'S COME TOGETHER
TO CELEBRATE HOW
FAR WE HAVE COME!**



APRIL 26, 2025
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



MINDEN TRIANGLE
If inclement weather we
will be at the Minden fire
hall



**FOOD WILL BE
PROVIDED BY OUR
FRIENDS AT RAPID
RESPONSE TEAM (RTT)**

About The Event!

Join us as we come together to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the Minden tornado. Over the past year, we have faced challenges, supported one another, and demonstrated incredible strength. Let's reconnect, share stories, and celebrate our resilient community.

All Minden residents are invited for lunch and fellowship as we reflect on our journey and look forward to the future.



WE ARE MINDEN STRONG!



LIVE • WORK • EXPLORE • THRIVE

CONNECT WITH US



WIDA.IOWA.ORG

PAGE 3



STRENGTH & RESILIENCE

REBUILDING MINDEN

As we all know, on April 26, 2024, Minden faced a devastating EF3 tornado that caused significant destruction. The tornado, part of a larger outbreak across the Midwest, damaged 180 homes in Minden, with 40% destroyed, and obliterated 90% of the business district. Tragically, one resident lost their life, and several others were injured.

In the aftermath, the community rallied together to begin the recovery process. A FEMA Disaster Recovery Center was established in Minden to assist residents with aid and resources. Additionally, the Minden Iowa Community Fund was created to support cleanup and rebuilding efforts.

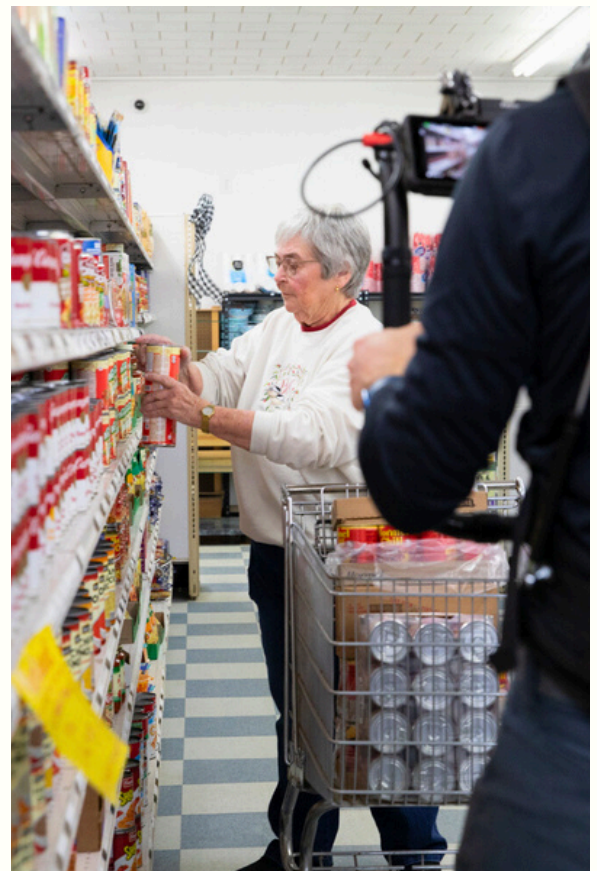
Despite challenges with insurance claims delaying some recovery efforts, the town has made significant strides in rebuilding. In February 2025, the Iowa Economic Development Authority granted \$1.2 million to Minden for affordable housing projects, marking a significant step forward in the town's recovery.

As Minden continues to recover, the town's experience serves as a testament to the strength and determination of its residents. The rebuilding process has not only focused on restoring physical structures but also on reinforcing the sense of community that defines Minden.

With ongoing support from local and state agencies, as well as the unwavering commitment of its citizens, Minden is poised to emerge from this tragedy stronger and more united than ever.

COUNTRYSIDE MARKET

And many more businesses impacted in the devastation.



MINDEN SMOKEHOUSE CATERING

And many more businesses impacted in the devastation.



My name is Paige Myers. I own Minden Smokehouse Catering in Minden, IA. I was born and raised in Minden, where I grew up running around town with my cousins and friends. I went to school at Tri-Center, playing pretty much all sports but softball was my favorite. While in off seasons of sports, I worked at local businesses in Minden. You may have seen me at Minden Bowl, Tim's Service, Minden Grocery, or Minden Meat Market.

I started catering for Jeff Hodges when I was in 8th grade! I would tag along and do the easy jobs at events. Eventually I worked my way up to manage the catering side of the locker. I worked in the meat market for 7 years. I did many jobs at the locker but running the catering was my favorite! While working at the locker, I met my soul mate, Cole Myers. He had also worked at the locker as the slaughter guy and butchered on the table.

Fast forward 6 years, we have grown so much together! I bought the catering from Jeff in 2024. Cole is now an industrial service technician at Rasmussen Mechanical. We have 4 beautiful children, Charlotte (9), Harper (9), Dakota (2), and Isabella (1). We love going on adventures and family vacations. Our older daughters also love riding their horses and barrel racing.

The tornado that hit Minden in 2024 was absolutely devastating. Three of our family members' homes were a complete loss. Luckily the catering building had very minimal damage. The roof was stripped off and the catering vehicles were destroyed.



*Paige Myers
Minden Smokehouse Catering*

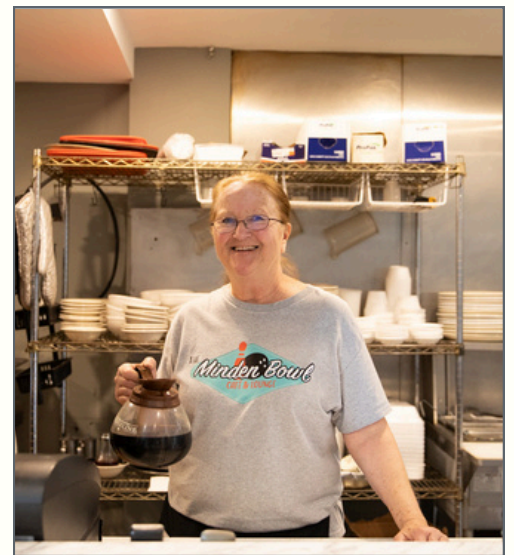
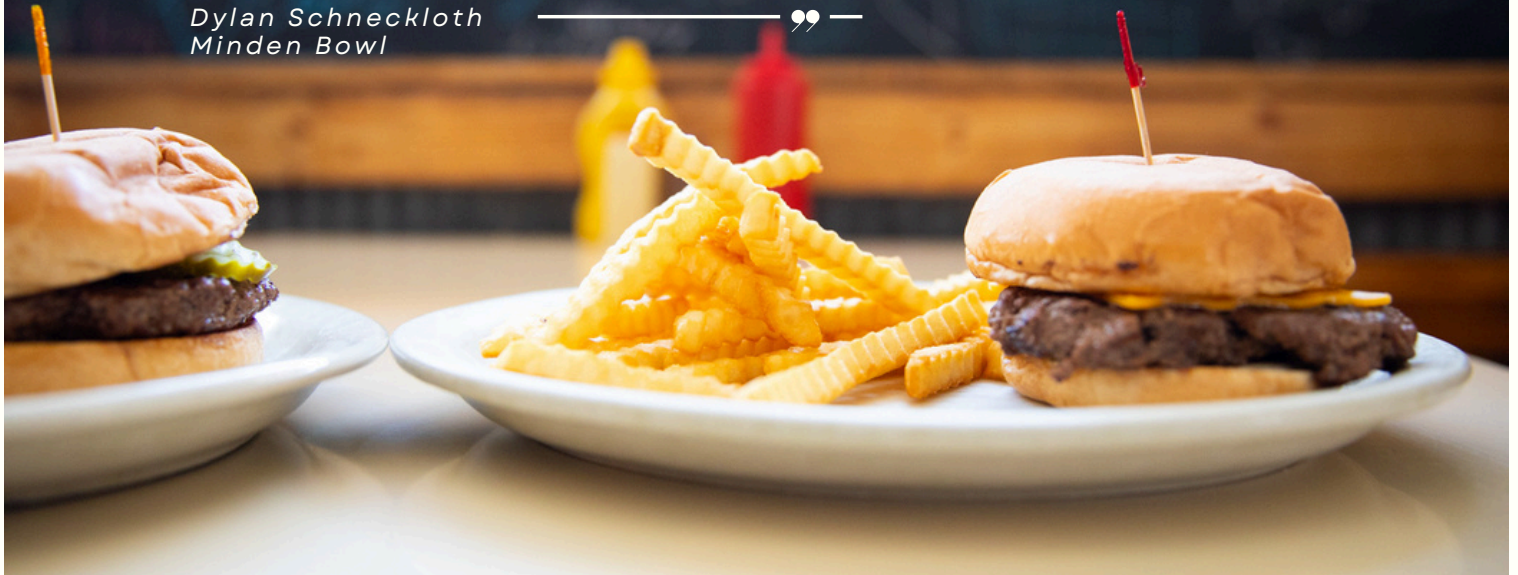
People were without power for many days. The town was at a standstill trying to clear paths, so volunteers could come help. My youngest daughter was 2 weeks old, and I had a c-section so my mobility of carrying heavy items was limited. The best thing I could think of to help everyone was to offer free lunches and dinners. We brought our generator from home and were able to cook food in roasters. I had a couple tables set up in the kitchen for people to come sit and take a break. It wasn't the best, as it was lit up by flashlights! But the community was able to come and chat with each other. The presence of my newborn baby definitely helped put smiles on faces!

It has been a journey for sure, but here we are a year later. Staying strong and rebuilding our town!

LIVE • WORK • EXPLORE • THRIVE

— “ —
*You can shake us, but you can't
break us. We are Minden Strong.*

*Dylan Schneckloth
Minden Bowl*



And many more businesses impacted in the devastation.

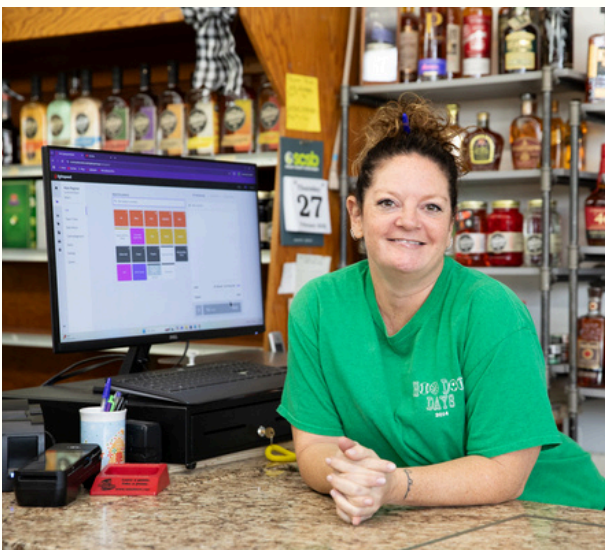
LIVE • WORK • EXPLORE • THRIVE

CONNECT WITH US



WIDAIOWA.ORG

PAGE 7



And many more businesses impacted in the devastation.

LIVE • WORK • EXPLORE • THRIVE

CONNECT WITH US



WIDAIOWA.ORG

PAGE 8

CONNECT
WITH US



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

WIDA is asking our members to keep us in mind when you want to share your business events, successes and information with the community. There is no cost to you as a member. Whether it is exciting news regarding your business or an upcoming event, we will find the perfect way to showcase your information. Send a description of what you would like to share, and we will be happy to place your news in our newsletter and on the WIDA Facebook page.

Send your business news by the 20th of every month to: WesternIowaDevelopment@outlook.com to be included in the newsletter. For more information, you can also call us at (712) 406-6234.

Our members benefit from the visibility that we bring to the local business community, including opportunities to connect with potential customers and partners, as well as access to resources and support to help you succeed. Additionally, WIDA provides a platform for members to share their stories and experiences so that others can learn from their successes. We hope you make the most of your WIDA membership and that it helps you to continue to grow your business!



3.2K
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



816
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



1,514
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Your generous and ongoing support provides our 501(c)6 nonprofit organization with the resources necessary to promote our members and western Iowa communities, advocate for a favorable economic climate and quality lifestyle, and promote overall tourism in the region. Building strong, thriving business communities takes each of us working together, and WIDA is proud to serve as a resource, connection, and voice for business.

LIVE • WORK • EXPLORE • THRIVE

