

Connection

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June 2021

Bopp F&B scholarship winner

Emma Bopp, a senior at Calamus-Wheatland High School from Wheatland, has been named this year's local F&B \$500 scholarship winner.

Bopp plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to major in secondary science education.

In her application essay, she wrote of her love for helping others and a desire to return to a rural community to teach and coach. She also shared the valuable life lessons she has learned from her teachers and coaches that have helped her become successful both in and out of the classroom.

High school seniors who live in households in the F&B local telephone service area were eligible for the award. Students submitted an application form and essay. Three finalists were selected for interviews.

A primary goal of the scholarship is to ensure that children have the privilege of attending college and encourage young people to return to rural areas after graduation.

The local F&B scholarship program was started in 2003 because the Board of Directors and employees of F&B are committed to the education of local youth and believe learning is a



EMMA BOPP

lifelong process.

Emma's parents are Jerry Jr. and Andrea Bopp.

Keith Urmie national FRS scholar

Keith Urmie, a senior at Tipton High School from Bennett, has been named one of 33 national Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) \$2,500 scholarship recipients.

FRS is the philanthropic arm of the NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, of which F&B is a member.

Urmie plans to attend Iowa State University to major in agricultural engineering.

In his application essay, he wrote of growing up on a farm and his interest in agriculture. It is with this background that he intends to establish a ca-

reer focused on designing and improving farm equipment. He also shared how he plans to continue being involved in his community through volunteering and advocating for agriculture.

The FRS scholarship program awards one-time scholarships to students from rural communities for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company that also contributes a portion of the scholarship award.

Urmie was selected from a



KEITH URMIE

pool of more than 750 applicants from across the nation.

Keith's parents are Bill and Patty Urmie.

Appreciation Days postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual F&B customer appreciation days events for this month have been postponed. The annual events will resume in 2022.

Directory changes

Our customer service team is in the process of preparing the listings for the 2021 Eastern Iowa Regional Telephone Directory.

Please review your listing in the 2020 directory and report any changes or inaccuracies to the F&B office by July 1.

Iowa One Call

Doing any digging this summer? Be sure to call Iowa One Call at 1-800-292-8989 or dial 811 at least 48 hours in advance to have underground utilities marked. The service is free and it's the law.



Personal Home Safety System

Independence for seniors and peace-of-mind for their adult children

In the event of a fall or other medical emergency, a Personal Home Safety System from F&B is a lifeline to immediate assistance.

As seniors spend more time at home during the Coronavirus pandemic, there is a renewed interest in ensuring that loved ones have the ability to live independently at home while keeping help close at hand.



The Personal Home Safety System package includes a base unit that attaches to any phone line and a wireless pendant or wrist band. Whether

family is nearby or far away, most seniors want to remain at home. With a Personal Home Safety System, family and friends can be comfortable knowing they are safe.

Call Technology Solutions at (563) 374-1322 for details.



How it works:

- Customer wears a wireless wrist band or pendant.
- When the button is pressed, an alert is sent to the 24/7 monitoring center.
- A specially trained attendant will attempt to make contact with the customer.
- The monitoring center will notify family or emergency personnel if needed.



F&B Communications, Inc.

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BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 3 pm

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS HOURS

Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Saturday 9 am to noon

PHONE NUMBERS

Business Office
(563) 374-1236 or (563) 574-1236
Trouble/Repair
(563) 374-1238 or (563) 574-1238
Internet Tech Support (24/7)
1-888-832-4322
Technology Solutions
(563) 374-1322

WEB SITE

www.fbc-tele.com

EMPLOYEES

General Manager: Ken Laursen
Assistant General Manager:
Aaron Horman
Office Manager: Ariell Connelly
Administrative Assistant:
Carla Olson
Customer Service: Michelle
Harrison, Amanda Horner, Kelly
Scott

Plant Supervisor: Derek
Hendrickson

Plant Technicians: Scott Butt,
Drew DeLoe, Nick Jewell

Technology Solutions:
Brooke Cavey, Chandler Gannon,
Landon Gordon, Matt Morris

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paul Ketelsen
Vice-President: Ryan Vander Heiden
Secretary/Treasurer: Brenda Kay
Directors: Doreen Henning,
Trina Knoche, Joel Paulsen,
Roland Reiling

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Congrats, graduates

F&B Communications wishes the best to all of the graduates in our communities — whether graduating from preschool, elementary school, high school or college. No matter where you are in your educational journey, moving forward is cause for celebration.

Good luck, graduates! We look forward to seeing what the world has in store for you.



Fiber Project Update

F&B's fiber optic construction projects in Lowden, Bennett and Delmar continue in June.

Main line construction of underground conduit and cable vaults is nearing completion in Delmar as this first phase of the project is scheduled to be finished this month.

Crews have resumed installation of underground drop conduit from our service distribution boxes to homes in Lowden and Bennett. This work will continue all summer.

The fiber optic upgrade is a multi-phase project. Once construction is complete, technicians will install electronic equipment at each site and schedule in-home conversion appointments.

