

A man with a beard and a brown cap is smiling and leaning out of the window of a white truck. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. A large, silver side mirror is in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting.

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TO APPLY Applications may be requested by phone at 712-834-2691, email at everlycityclerk@gmail.com, obtained from our website at everlyiowa.com, or picked up in City Hall. Send resume and/or application to Josh Rinehart, Director of Utilities and Public Works; PO Box 197; Everly, IA 51338; everly.utilities@evertek.net; or deliver to Everly City Hall at 202 North Main Street.



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Every Monday during April, the *Spencer Reporter* is giving away two umbrellas to existing subscribers. To enter the weekly drawing, just cut out the mailing address on the upper right corner of the front page or take a photo of it. You can mail it to us at PO Box 197, Spencer, IA 51301; or drop it off at 310 E. Milwaukee; or take a photo and email it to circulation@spencerdailyreporter.com.

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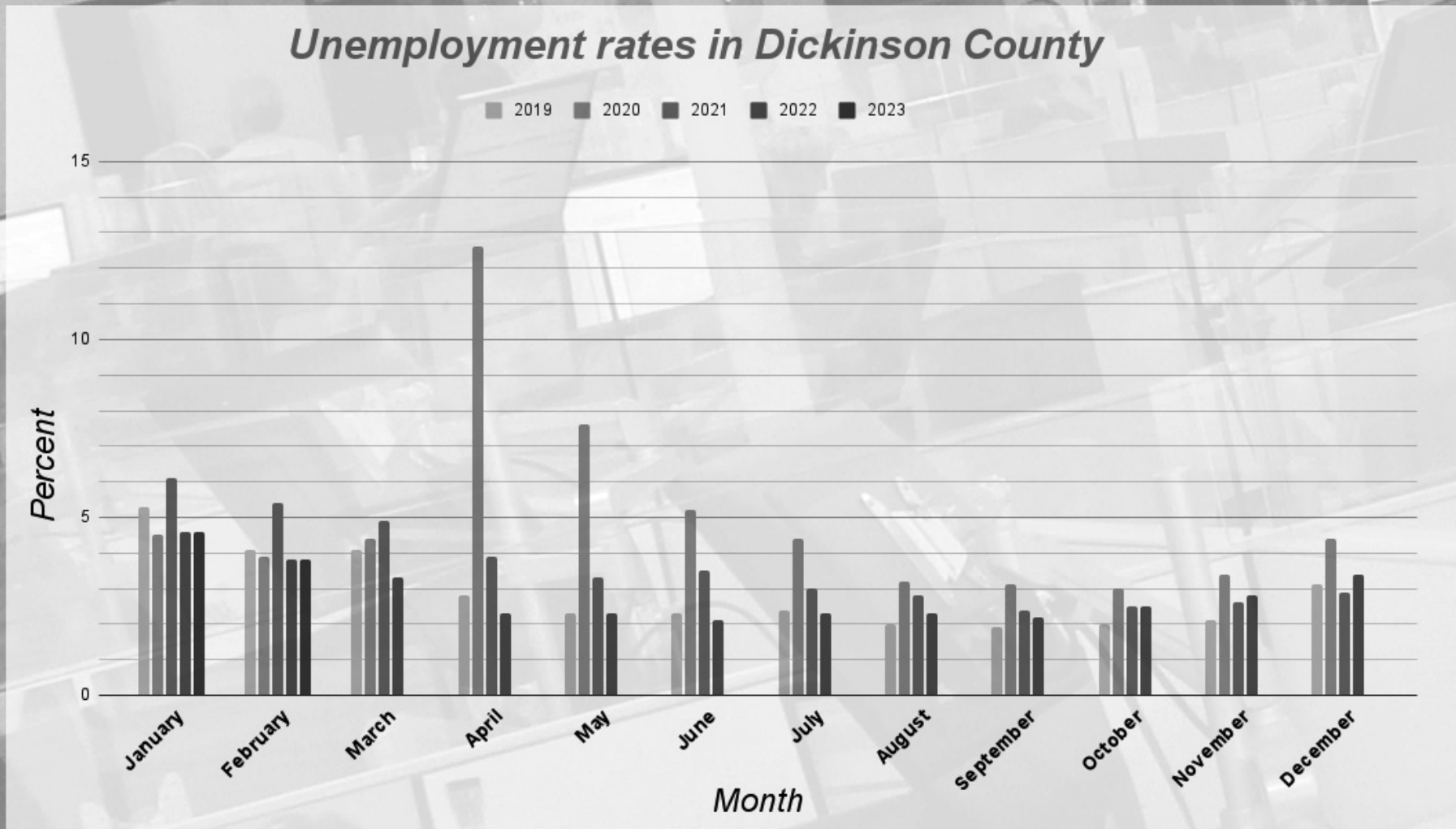
This promotion ends at 5 p.m., Friday, April 28, 2023

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UNEMPLOYMENT FALLING AS GOVERNOR EXPANDS APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS

Unemployment in Dickinson County tends to drop during the area's summer season on which many local businesses rely. June of 2022 marked the county's lowest rate of unemployment since October of 2019. The county's unemployment rate hit a high point of 12.6% in April of 2020, during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those numbers were still able to drop close to 3% before Labor Day that year. (Graphic by Seth Boyes)



Seth Boyes
Dickinson County News
news@dickinsoncountynews.com

Dickinson County's unemployment rate dropped by almost an entire percent as of a February report from Iowa Workforce Development, but local unemployment is still higher than the national average. Dickinson County reported a rate of 3.8% for the month — down from 4.6% in January.

The numbers has so far paralleled last year's stats, according to Workforce Development — and June of last year, marked the county's lowest rate of unemployment since October of 2019.

National unemployment rose from 3.4% to 3.6% between January and February of this year, but Iowa Workforce said Iowa actually decreased its unemployment overall in that same timeframe — going from 3.0% to 2.9%. State officials said there were about 1.67 mil-

lion working Iowans as of the February report, which they noted was 1,300 more than recorded in January and 3,900 more than at the same time the previous year. In fact, Workforce Development said February's total is 8,400 above numbers reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Despite ongoing pressures tied to higher interest rates and nationwide inflation, new data show that Iowans continue to move from unemployed to employed," Iowa Workforce Development Director Beth Townsend said. "In February, we saw more Iowans who had been looking for work find a job, and we maintained our increased labor force participation rate. Our economy has increased the number of jobs by more than 8,000 since the beginning of the pandemic. All of this demonstrates the resiliency of the Iowa economy despite major national headwinds."

The February report said Iowa's non-farm employment in the state didn't show much

change, adding about 300 people. However, the report noted there had been what it called a "historically large" addition of 7,000 non-farm jobs in January.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' office announced that same month it planned to expand grant funding for registered apprenticeship programs between Iowa's schools and health care facilities. The governor opened applications for a \$15 million round of grant funds on Jan. 11 this year.

The grant program debuted last year and in June awarded almost \$2.5 million to eight different entities — including the Grant Wood Area Education Association, which received almost \$1.2 million for more than a dozen school districts in eastern Iowa. The grant program's overall funding was expected to support about 450 apprentices in Iowa. The 2022 grants were meant to help students pursue pathways to nursing careers, according to Workforce Development, but the state's 2023

program was expanded to include apprenticeships for EMTs, specialists in behavioral health or substance abuse, as well as direct support professionals.

Officials with Iowa Workforce Development said positions in health care and social assistance continue to have the highest number of openings among its online job listings. More than 3,100 registered nursing positions were being advertised as of March 29 this year, according to numbers from Workforce Development, with nearly 1,000 more advertising positions for nursing assistants.

"Iowa is always looking to open more doorways to new careers, and registered apprenticeships are proving that this is possible even in the highest-demand fields," Townsend said. "Research shows that most apprentices will pursue careers in the same fields as their apprenticeships, so we welcome any applicants who are ready to help us expand the number of health care career options in Iowa."



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SPENCER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SEARCHING FOR STAFF POSITIONS



District always in need of gifted teachers and support personnel

Randy M. Cauthron
Spencer Reporter
news@spencerdailyreporter.com

The need for staffing is being felt in a wide variety of industries and professions today. School districts are not isolated from the labor pool shortage.

"Spencer Schools are in the same position as other employers," Spencer Superintendent of Schools Terry Hemann said. "We have fewer applicants than we need for positions. For teaching positions, there is a shortage of teachers nationwide and in Iowa. We have fewer applicants for teaching positions than ever before."

Outside of credentialed teaching staff and administration, the Spencer School District offers a variety of position opportunities including teaching assistants, food service staff, bus drivers, maintenance staff and custodians. The district employs 350 staff, of which approximately 175, or half, are support staff positions.

"We have both full-time and part-time sup-

port staff positions," Hemann said. "The majority of support staff positions are every day positions."

He added, "We know of several teaching positions that are open for next year. We did add a high school math position at the semester. ... We are also looking to add a high school science position for next school year. We are adding these positions to address the increased student numbers at the high school level."

There are several positions open in all areas to including, teaching, teaching assistants, custodians and bus drivers; as well a need for substitutes moving forward.

"For any of our positions within the district, we want people who want to work in a school environment," Hemann said. "We want people who are willing to be flexible and willing to step-in and step-up when needed. ... We view all of our staff as on-going learners. We look to hire those who are still wanting to grow personally and professionally."

Pay ranges for support staff positions range from \$14.31 an hour up to \$19.23 depending on the position.

Spencer Schools provides an online application process which is accessible the district website at Spencerschools.org.

Interested applicants may also call the district office at 712-262-8950.



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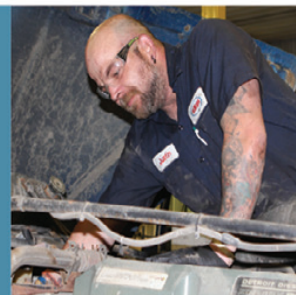


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JOB COACHING OPPORTUNITIES AT HOPE HAVEN IN SPENCER



Celia Brocker
Spencer Reporter
news@spencerdailyreporter.com

Local opportunities to assist disabled individuals with career training and support are available at Hope Haven. The nonprofit's Spencer location has positions open for a job coach and job coach lead for its clients.

The position of job coach comes from a program in Hope Haven called My Choice, a community-based employment service option providing competitive job opportunities for Hope Haven clients. The job coach instructs and teaches clients a variety of specific job and work skills.

"(Job coach) is a position that we've had since 2013, and we've actually continued to grow the program as we've had more demand over the last few years," said Toni Faber, employment services manager of My Choice locally.

With support from the U.S. Department of Labor, My Choice was started with the goal of getting clients out of sheltered workshops. While clients were doing assimilated work in these walled in facilities, Faber said they were not earning a full wage or growing their social network by being a part of their community.

"There was a big legislative push back then to get people into the community, and the goal with that was twofold," Faber said. "One, to give people chances at getting out there and getting fully engrained in their community, but also to meet the unmet work needs that we had in the area with our local businesses."

A job coach at Hope Haven in Spencer will instruct clients on appropriate social and work-related skills, promote integration at the work site whenever possible, monitor relation-

ships and provide job coaching at various sites, among other responsibilities.

Applicants for the job coach positions must have an Associate degree, or a high school diploma or GED and six months of experience. Upon receiving the position, applicants must complete job coach training.

Since the introduction of My Choice and job coach positions, Hope Haven has helped approximately 400 people get jobs in over 300 businesses spanning its 11-county service area, and has developed over 650 jobs. The program ended up being a win for everybody, Faber said. Hope Haven clients were earning livable wages while filling employers' needs and curbing the workforce shortage.

"We're in almost every industry that you can think about," Faber said. "We've had a lot of employers that have stepped up to the plate and just been champions through the process of empowering people with employment."

Faber reported she has seen the My Choice program and the job coach position have a positive effect on the lives of Hope Haven clients.

"With working comes making new friends, and lifetime relationship building with people they either work with and people they serve in some capacity," Faber said. "They are also gaining their own financial independence and freedom to have spending money, and then they're spending that back in our local communities. It's really exciting to see people be able to truly be empowered and gain some independence through their employment."

For more information on Hope Haven's job offerings in Spencer or to apply, visit <https://www.hopehaven.org/careers/> or apply on www.Indeed.com.



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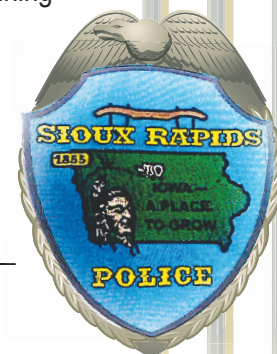
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