

The economy may **not** be difficult for the banker, the lawyer and doctor on the Osceola County Compensation Board, but it is for most of the average workers and business owners in Osceola County, as it is across the country. If the County Supervisors are so disconnected from reality they don't believe there is a recession on then maybe the three news clips below may help them see it.

## Come to the Courthouse Tuesday morning January 20, 2009 - 8:30AM

and let's see if the Supervisors stand with the common people or the government employed elite. More so, let's see if one of the first actions new Supervisors Shulte and Bootsma (and even Pedley) do is vote themselves a fat pay raise!

“Everything must be done in a way that maintains a conservative approach to the budget.”

Phil Bootsma, *Ocheyedan Press News*, May 28, 2008

**Just how conservative is a 5.3% pay raise when people are losing their jobs?**

### Bankers: Farmers appear worried about 2009

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Farmers appear worried about their 2009 profits, and they have scaled back their equipment purchases, according to a survey of bankers in 11 Midwest and Plains states released Thursday. The bankers who responded to the monthly Rural Mainstreet survey say the current reduced crop prices, combined with high farm expenses, will create challenges for farmers this year. The survey's overall index dipped slightly this month, to 24.6 from December's 25. A year ago, the index stood at 55.7. An index greater than 50 indicates a growing economy over the next three to six months.

[http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2009/01/17/news/latest\\_news/doc4971e901aacbd143916450.txt](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2009/01/17/news/latest_news/doc4971e901aacbd143916450.txt)

### Culver blocks raises for state workers

By Rod Boshart Journal Des Moines Bureau | Posted: Wednesday, December 31, 2008

DES MOINES -- State employees not covered by a union contract who were in line for a bonus, raise or promotion this fiscal year probably won't be getting them, Gov. Chet Culver said Tuesday. The cost-saving measure affecting about 3,800 state employees -- excluding regent institutions -- is part of an effort to reduce fiscal 2009 spending in light of shrinking state revenues, said Culver spokesman Phil Roeder. "We're going to have to tighten our belt," the governor said.

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2008/12/31/news/iowa/c07fc072242b45f28625753000100aa9.txt>

### Jobless claims overwhelm state offices

The unemployment rate rose to 7.2 percent in December.

By [Ron Scherer](#) / Staff writer of *The Christian Science Monitor* from the January 12, 2009 edition

New York - Officials at state unemployment offices say they've never seen anything like it: Layoffs are happening so fast that those seeking unemployment benefits are overloading state computer systems, jamming phone lines, and making it necessary for administrators to hire temporary workers. In some states, it's so bad officials suspect that only half the calls are getting through. Frustrated, the unemployed are e-mailing anyone they can find at the state agencies or are just hitting redial on their phones, sometimes hundreds of times. The problem will get worse before it gets better, say some officials. "For the last six weeks, we have seen the highest [number of] weekly claims since we've been keeping records in 1985," says Mike Cullen, Colorado's unemployment insurance director. "And they are increasing at an increasing rate," Mr. Cullen says. Last Friday, some of this surge at state offices was reflected in the Department of Labor's monthly jobs report: In December, it said, the unemployment rate hit 7.2 percent, up from 6.7 percent in November. And employers shed 524,000 workers after letting go of 584,000 in November. The job-loss total for all 2008 was 2.6 million, the most since 1945. "What we are seeing is a portrait of an economy that is cratering," says Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services in Pittsburgh. "This explains why holiday sales were so weak, with people so concerned about their jobs, and why consumer confidence is so low."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0112/p01s02-usec.html>

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