Southwest Iowa Town Seeks Help to Strengthen Levee

When floodwaters from the Missouri River threatened to wash away the small southwestern Iowa town of Hamburg last summer, residents helped the Army Corps of Engineers to hastily build a makeshift levee to save it.

Now, the town of nearly 1,200 is asking for help from across the country to keep the levee. Town leaders have turned to the Internet to make their plea for help, building a site - www.hamburglevee.com - to try to raise the nearly \$5 million needed to ensure the levee meets federal certification standards. Short of that, the city would have to spend more than \$1 million to tear the levee down.

The website notes that if 1.5 million people give just \$3 each to the effort, the levee can be saved "for less than a latte."

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