



# Pen City Current

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## Climbing out of Poverty

Close to 80 from Lee County attend orientation meeting in Fort Madison for anti-poverty effort

**CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - About 80 Lee County economic and business representatives were introduced to a program aimed at knocking down hurdles that prop up generational poverty.

Vern Reed, an at-risk counselor at West Burlington High School and trained specialist in the Bridges Out of Poverty international program, spoke to the group about how to move forward with getting a program going that would work in concert with Building Bridges - a southeast Iowa initiative that is already functional in Des Moines County.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Vern Reed, a specialist with Bridges out of Poverty, talks with a group of Lee County business, economic development officials, and others interested in learning more about the program Thursday morning at Comfort Inn in Fort Madison.

“

*We have to hold onto expectations. The expectation to be on time, to obey the rules, but we have to look at what's going on in their lives and why what they are doing is making sense to them..”*

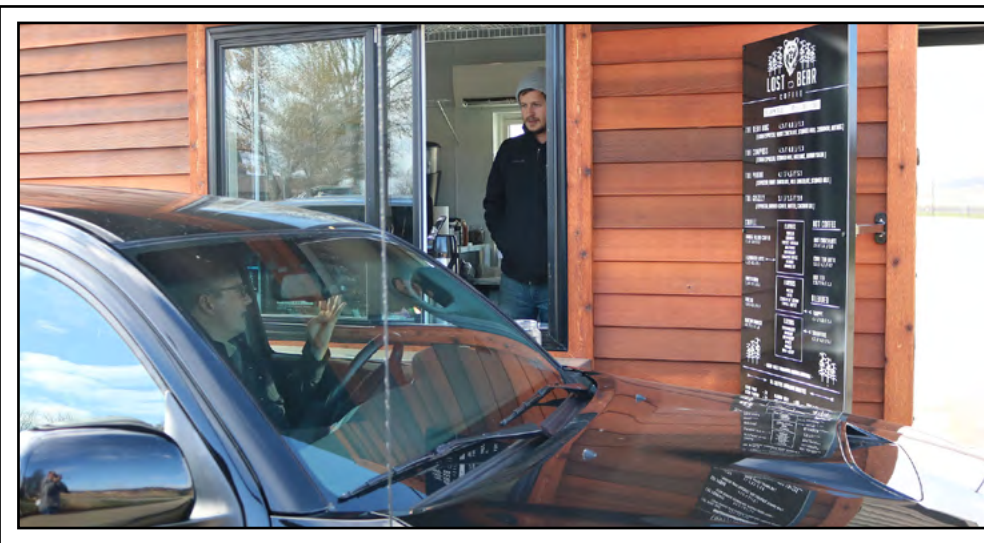
-Vern Reed

Bridges Out of Poverty trainer

The program aims at identifying the members of the county living in poverty and trying to knock down some barriers that make that poverty cross generations in families. After the identification, then the program aims at classes that help open lines of communication.

Reed said one of the key components of the class is incorporating all socioeconomic groups; poverty, middle class, and wealth into the program and bringing all minds to the table to start solving problems and building resources.

“The real experts on poverty are the people who’ve  
See **POVERTY**, page 9



Lost Bear Coffee co-owner TJ Widbin talks with customer Alan Hecht on Wednesday afternoon at the coffee shop's new location in the parking lot of the Baxter Sports Complex. The coffeehouse opened for business Monday morning and Widbin said business has been brisk and Monday was a great grand opening.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Lee County Compensation Board to meet

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - A meeting of the Lee County Compensation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 5:30 P.M., at the Lee County Correctional Center, 2530 255th Street, Montrose.

All elected officials are invited to make a presentation relating to any changes in duties during this past year.

The duty of the Compensation Board is to recommend Lee County elected official's salaries for fiscal year 2018/2019.

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## For the Record/Lottery Numbers



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Doug Krogmeier, far left, gets a quick phone picture of daughter Bailey on Santa's lap, while his other daughter Morgan waits her turn Thursday at Kempker's True Value Rental, as the line wraps around in the aisles of the hardware store. For more Santa pix from Thursday, see page 5.

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police report

12/05/17 - 1:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue L.  
 12/05/17 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.  
 12/05/17 - 3:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded 2000 block of Avenue M.  
 12/05/17 - 9:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Lillian Kaycee Rudd of Fort Madison at the Fort Madison Police department on a charges of Extortion - Class D felony, trespass, criminal mischief. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 12/05/17 - 9:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Nolan Aeneas Leveling of

Fort Madison, at the Fort Madison Police Department, on charges of trespass and criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 12/06/17 - 12:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.  
 12/06/17 - 1:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B.

arrested Elizabeth Diane Mortimer, 26, of Keokuk, no location given, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County jail and held.  
 12/07/17 - 2:11 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kimberly Rae Cannon, 39, no location given, on a charge of possession of a drug paraphernalia.. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

#### Lee County Sheriff's report

12/06/17 - 6:57 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Carl Robert Mahoney, 62, of Montrose, in the 1600 block of Green Bay Road on charge of trespass. He was released upon citation.  
 12/06/17 - 11:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

12/05/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.  
 12/06/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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 7 18 21 41 46  
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**12/8 MID-DAY**  
 0 8 5  
**12/8 EVENING**  
 0 6 1



**12/8 MID-DAY**  
 9 7 3 3  
**12/8 EVENING**  
 0 8 7 3

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# Sports



## Trout fishing still good at Wilson Lake

DES MOINES - The following is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources southeast Iowa fishing report for the week of Dec. 7, 2017

### Environmental Discovery Park North Pond

Might be out of warm days, but the trout are still out there. Rainbow Trout - Good: Try power bait under a bobber or a small jig or spinner worked through the shallow water.

### Lake Darling

The water temperature is going up and down with the air temperature, mostly staying in the upper 30's to low 40's. The docks have been removed for the winter.

### Lake Geode

The lake is drained. Fun to go out and hike around looking at the lake bottom. Be careful, some of the mud is still very soft and deep. Use extreme caution and don't try to walk across the lake bottom.

### Lake of the Hills

Rainbow Trout - Good: Work the shallow water from shore; trout won't be out very deep. Fish in 3 to 4 feet of water and some of the brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water.

### Wilson Lake

Rainbow Trout - Good: Work the shallow brush piles and culvert piles.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

### Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 3.20 feet at Lock and Dam 18 and has been fairly steady. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week. Sauger - No Report: Vertical jig with minnows or pull three-way rigs with minnows or stick baits.

Tailwater stages have been fairly steady this past week. Main channel water temperature is around 38-39 degrees and water clarity has been fair. There has been some tailwater fishing for walleyes and saugers but the bite has been hit or miss. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

# Mohrfeld takes 2nd at BHS swim meet

BY PCC STAFF

EAST MOLINE, Ill. - Holy Trinity Catholic sophomore Jacob Mohrfeld, took 2nd place in the 200-yard individual medley for the Burlington Grayhounds in 105-77 win over United Township of East Moline on Tuesday.

Mohrfeld's time of 2:27.25 was 3.44 seconds off the pace. He also took 2nd in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:10.98.

Central Lee senior Blake Wyrick took 1st place in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle races. He also anchored the 200-yard freestyle relay team that took first place. HTC sophomore Wyatt Hellman took 6th in the 200-freestyle with a time of 2:36.00. Hellman also captured 3rd in the 250 freestyle junior varsity event.

A complete list of the events is below.

Event 1 Boys 100 Yard Medley Relay Junior Varsity Team Relay Finals Time  
1 BURLA 1:04.20 8  
1) Manley, Dalton JR 2) Watznauer, Jordan FR  
3) Linquist, Cal SO 4) Lewis, Jamar SR  
2 UTHS A 1:24.91 4  
1) Garcia, Mateo 09 2) Pyevich, Alex 09  
3) Bull, Jacob 10 4) Johnson, Brenden 09

Event 2 Boys 200 Yard Medley Relay Varsity Team Relay Finals Time  
1 BURL A 1:48.44 8  
1) Schuff, Kale JR 2) Rowland, Matthew SR  
3) Siefken, Niles SR 4) Wyrick, Blake SR (Central Lee)  
2 UTHS A 1:51.30 4  
1) Johnson, Jacob 12 2) Pyevich, Steven 11  
3) Lybarger, Jakob 12 4) Stevens, Cole 10  
3 BURL B 1:57.71 2  
1) Ketcham, Colton SR 2) Mohrfeld, Jacob SO (Holy Trinity Catholic)  
3) Groen, Conner SR 4) Venvertloh, Jacob SO  
4 UTHS B 1:59.56  
1) Lopez, Daniel 12 2) Flemming, Aaron 12  
3) Morse, Kade 09 4) Filby, Ethan 12  
5 BURL C x2:07.13  
1) Krieger-Coen, Josef JR  
2) Watznauer, Justin JR  
3) Godar, Will SO 4) Jameson, Taden SO  
6 UTHS C x2:08.26  
1) Hergert, Ethan 10 2) Finley, Jacob 11  
3) Weese, Jared 09 4) Tygart, Christian 11

Event 3 Boys 150 Yard Freestyle Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Hetzel, Cameron 10 UTHS 1:49.58 6  
2 Hillyer, Cade FR BURL 1:50.31 4  
3 Diekman, Grant 10 UTHS 1:54.89 3  
4 Kamrath, Jacob FR BURL 2:00.15 2  
5 Neises, Will FR BURL 2:12.51 1

Event 4 Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Gulick, Josh SR BURL 1:59.50 6  
2 Sommer, Jacob 11 UTHS 2:08.21 4  
3 Duerre, Landon SR BURL 2:12.85 3  
4 Hannah, Ryan 11 UTHS 2:18.12 2  
5 Williams, Tyler 12 UTHS 2:23.37 1  
6 Hellman, Wyatt SO BURL 2:36.00 (Holy Trinity Catholic)

Event 5 Boys 100 Yard IM Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Zoller, Aiden 09 UTHS 1:13.58 6  
2 Stacy, Tajaun 11 UTHS 1:14.37 4  
3 Geiger, Colby SO BURL 1:17.42 3  
4 White, Kanon 10 UTHS 1:19.80 2  
--- Linquist, Cal SO BURL DQ

Event 6 Boys 200 Yard IM Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Rowland, Matthew SR BURL 2:23.41 6  
2 Mohrfeld, Jacob SO BURL 2:27.25 4  
3 Morse, Kade 09 UTHS 2:27.42 3  
4 Groen, Conner SR BURL 2:28.33 2  
5 Lybarger, Jakob 12 UTHS 2:32.01 1  
6 Weese, Jared 09 UTHS 2:36.03

Event 7 Boys 50 Yard Freestyle Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Mojica, Isaac 10 UTHS 26.95 6  
2 Finley, Jacob 11 UTHS 27.32 4  
3 Williams, Patrick JR BURL 29.19 3  
4 Filby, Nolan 10 UTHS 33.55 2  
5 Neises, Will FR BURL 35.42 1  
6 Trimble, Nick FR BURL 37.69  
--- Lewis, Jamar SR BURL X28.47  
--- Popejoy, Cody 12 UTHS X29.97  
--- Dobbles, Ethan 09 UTHS X30.87  
--- Pyevich, Alex 09 UTHS X34.24  
--- King, Jakob 09 UTHS X35.52  
--- Kincaid, Christian 12 UTHS X35.53  
--- Bull, Jacob 10 UTHS X36.83  
--- Garcia, Mateo 09 UTHS X37.33  
--- Miller, Kaiden 09 UTHS X39.30  
--- Johnson, Brenden 09 UTHS X48.26

Event 8 Boys 50 Yard Freestyle Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Wyrick, Blake SR BURL 23.77 6  
2 Johnson, Jacob 12 UTHS 24.22 4  
3 Godar, Will SO BURL 25.60 3  
4 Stevens, Cole 10 UTHS 26.31 2  
5 Filby, Ethan 12 UTHS 26.33 1  
6 Watznauer, Justin JR BURL 26.44

Event 9 Boys 1 mtr Diving Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Score  
1 Copas, Aydin 09 UTHS 102.35 6

Event 10 Boys 1 mtr Diving Varsity Name Yr School Finals Score  
1 Richardson, Keith 11 UTHS 160.00 6  
2 Earl, Tanner 10 UTHS 106.70 4  
3 Witherspoon, Elliot 10 UTHS 105.00 3

Event 11 Boys 50 Yard Butterfly Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Tygart, Christian 11 UTHS 32.61 6  
2 Linquist, Cal SO BURL 33.64 4  
3 White, Kanon 10 UTHS 35.01 3  
--- Williams, Patrick JR BURL DQ

Event 12 Boys 100 Yard Butterfly Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Gulick, Josh SR BURL 59.83 6  
2 Lybarger, Jakob 12 UTHS 1:02.36 4

3 Duerre, Landon SR BURL 1:05.41 3  
4 Lopez, Daniel 12 UTHS 1:07.10 2  
--- Hergert, Ethan 10 UTHS DQ

Event 13 Boys 100 Yard Freestyle Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Pyevich, Steven 11 UTHS 1:00.62 6  
2 Flemming, Aaron 12 UTHS 1:01.96 4  
3 Geiger, Colby SO BURL 1:05.69 3  
4 Hillyer, Cade FR BURL 1:12.31 2  
5 Kamrath, Jacob FR BURL 1:15.70 1  
6 Filby, Nolan 10 UTHS 1:20.68  
--- Dobbles, Ethan 09 UTHS X1:15.84  
--- Kincaid, Christian 12 UTHS X1:25.99  
--- Bull, Jacob 10 UTHS X1:31.29

Event 14 Boys 100 Yard Freestyle Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Wyrick, Blake SR BURL 53.04 6  
2 Schuff, Kale JR BURL 53.54 4  
3 Sommer, Jacob 11 UTHS 55.48 3  
4 Ketcham, Colton SR BURL 59.76 2  
5 Morse, Kade 09 UTHS 59.89 1  
6 Filby, Ethan 12 UTHS 1:00.60

Event 15 Boys 250 Yard Freestyle Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Mojica, Isaac 10 UTHS 3:19.62 6  
2 Diekman, Grant 10 UTHS 3:23.07 4  
3 Hellman, Wyatt SO BURL 3:31.27 3  
4 Manley, Dalton JR BURL 3:34.32 2  
5 Popejoy, Cody 12 UTHS 3:34.93 1

Event 16 Boys 500 Yard Freestyle Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Venvertloh, Jacob SO BURL 6:16.63 6  
2 Hannah, Ryan 11 UTHS 6:18.25 4  
3 Hannah, Seth 11 UTHS 6:34.01 3  
4 Krieger-Coen, Josef JR BURL 6:43.23 2  
5 Williams, Tyler 12 UTHS 6:43.27 1  
6 Jameson, Taden SO BURL 6:44.32

Event 17 Boys 100 Yard Freestyle Relay Junior Varsity Team Relay Finals Time  
1 BURL A 56.18 8  
1) Hillyer, Cade FR 2) Kamrath, Jacob FR  
3) Geiger, Colby SO 4) Williams, Patrick JR  
2 BURL B 1:04.24 4  
1) Lewis, Jamar SR 2) Watznauer, Jordan FR  
3) Trimble, Nick FR 4) Neises, Will FR  
--- UTHS A DQ  
1) Johnson, Brenden 09  
2) Miller, Kaiden 09  
3) King, Jakob 09 4) Garcia, Mateo 09

Event 18 Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Relay Varsity Team Relay Finals Time  
1 BURL A 1:37.74 8  
1) Rowland, Matthew SR  
2) Siefken, Niles SR  
3) Gulick, Josh SR 4) Wyrick, Blake SR  
2 BURL C 1:47.28 4  
1) Venvertloh, Jacob SO 2) Watznauer, Justin JR  
3) Jameson, Taden SO 4) Duerre, Landon SR  
3 BURL B x1:48.32  
1) Mohrfeld, Jacob SO 2) Hellman, Wyatt SO  
3) Krieger-Coen, Josef JR  
4) Godar, Will SO  
4 UTHS A 1:48.84 2  
1) Sommer, Jacob 11 2) Filby, Ethan 12  
3) Weese, Jared 09 4) Hergert, Ethan 10  
5 UTHS C 1:54.94  
1) Mojica, Isaac 10 2) Zoller, Aiden 09  
3) Popejoy, Cody 12 4)

Event 19 Boys 50 Yard Backstroke Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Stacy, Tajaun 11 UTHS 34.05 6  
2 Manley, Dalton JR BURL 36.74 4  
3 Hannah, Seth 11 UTHS 37.30 3  
4 Watznauer, Jordan FR BURL 40.10 2

Williams, Tyler 12  
6 UTHS B x1:59.19  
1) Tygart, Christian 11 2) White, Kanon 10  
3) Hetzel, Cameron 10 4) Diekman, Grant 10

Event 20 Boys 100 Yard Backstroke Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Johnson, Jacob 12 UTHS 1:00.43 6  
2 Schuff, Kale JR BURL 1:01.24 4  
3 Ketcham, Colton SR BURL 1:11.91 3  
4 Lopez, Daniel 12 UTHS 1:11.96 2  
5 Groen, Conner SR BURL 1:12.25 1  
6 Stevens, Cole 10 UTHS 1:15.51

Event 21 Boys 50 Yard Breaststroke Junior Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Hetzel, Cameron 10 UTHS 35.72 6  
2 Kamrath, Jacob FR BURL 42.34 4  
3 Pyevich, Alex 09 UTHS 43.47 3  
--- Trimble, Nick FR BURL DQ  
--- Miller, Kaiden 09 UTHS DQ

Event 22 Boys 100 Yard Breaststroke Varsity Name Yr School Finals Time  
1 Rowland, Matthew SR BURL 1:07.85 6  
2 Mohrfeld, Jacob SO BURL 1:10.98 4  
3 Pyevich, Steven 11 UTHS 1:11.88 3  
4 Flemming, Aaron 12 UTHS 1:13.37 2  
5 Finley, Jacob 11 UTHS 1:17.22 1  
6 Watznauer, Justin JR BURL 1:23.86

Event 23 Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Relay Junior Varsity Team Relay Finals Time  
1 BURL A 2:02.83 8  
1) Hillyer, Cade FR 2) Linquist, Cal SO  
3) Trimble, Nick FR 4) Godar, Will SO  
2 UTHS A 2:21.86 4  
1) Filby, Nolan 10 2) Bull, Jacob 10  
3) Dobbles, Ethan 09 4) King, Jakob 09  
--- BURL B DQ  
1) Lewis, Jamar SR 2) Neises, Will FR  
3) Watznauer, Jordan FR  
4) Williams, Patrick JR

Event 24 Boys 400 Yard Freestyle Relay Varsity Team Relay Finals Time  
1 UTHS A 3:49.65 8  
1) Lybarger, Jakob 12 2) Sommer, Jacob 11  
3) Stevens, Cole 10 4) Johnson, Jacob 12  
2 BURL A 3:51.06 4  
1) Gulick, Josh SR 2) Ketcham, Colton SR  
3) Duerre, Landon SR  
4) Schuff, Kale JR  
3 BURL B 4:09.62 2  
1) Jameson, Taden SO 2) Venvertloh, Jacob SO  
3) Siefken, Niles SR 4) Groen, Conner SR  
4 UTHS B 4:17.93  
1) Williams, Tyler 12 2) Hannah, Ryan 11  
3) Hannah, Seth 11 4) Zoller, Aiden 09  
5 UTHS C x4:19.88  
1) Weese, Jared 09 2) Morse, Kade 09  
3) Stacy, Tajaun 11 4) White, Kanon 10  
6 BURL C x4:38.49  
1) Manley, Dalton JR 2) Geiger, Colby SO  
3) Hellman, Wyatt SO 4) Krieger-Coen, Josef JR

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# Scene Around Town: Santa Stops at Kempker's True Value Rental



Santa with Harper Gray, parents - Brad and Elaine Gray



Santa with Keelynd Ross, parents - Jimmy Ross and Chasta Zumdomme



Santa with Audrey Lemek, parents - Chris and Maddie Lemek



Santa with Torey, Arriston, and Arriyon Potter, parents - Josh and Allee Potter

Tis' The Season of Gifting...  
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# Letters to the Editor/Current-Lee

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## Letter to the Editor

### Bushong's service better than national chain stores

Dear Editor,

I would like share my recent experience with a local business in downtown Fort Madison. I

I was out Christmas shopping on my day off and stopped to have my wedding ring inspected and cleaned at the store where it came from. I do this twice a year, as required, to keep the warranty up to date. It was a little over ten years ago that my husband surprised me with my beautiful ring and proposed to me on Christmas Eve.

While the salesperson at the jewelry store was checking my ring, I was surprised to hear that I had a loose diamond in my band. The salesperson said they'd have to send it in to get it fixed and it would be out for about 20 days.

"Really?" I said, "Where do you have to send it to?"

They replied, "To our repair center in Florida."

I explained that I really didn't want to send my ring out at this time. (I've heard the awful stories about how these rings get sent out and don't come back with their original stones or they come back only to have more issues later.) They warned me that they couldn't update my warranty until my ring was repaired and if the diamond did fall out before then it wouldn't be covered by the warranty.

I took my chances and left that chainstore in the mall. When I got back into Fort Madison I stopped at Dana Bushong's. My dad and my sister had good things to say about Skip so I thought I'd see what he could do about my ring. When I explained to them what the other store had said about my ring Skip just sort of shook his head as he held my ring and said he'd be right back. He came back in about 10 seconds and said it was fixed. I was so relieved! And then irritated by what the other store had said.

Skip took the time to show me my ring under the microscope and explained why my diamond was loose. He also showed me how it wasn't going to fall out.

So if you're reading this and if you or someone you know is considering a jewelry purchase, go see Skip and Michele and the honest people downtown at Dana Bushong Jewelers. You'll thank me later.

Cheryl Yaley  
Fort Madison, IA

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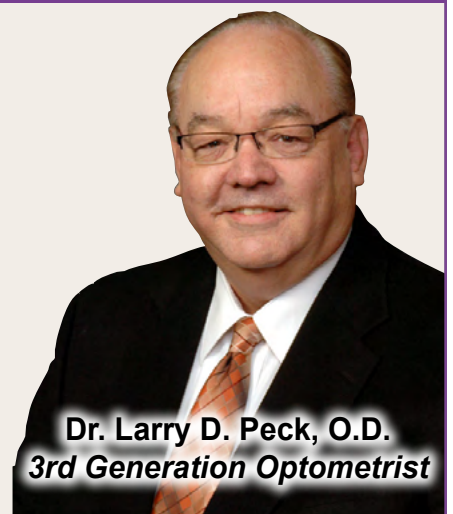
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## From the Front/Weather

# Next step for Lee County is building the team

**POVERTY** - Continued from Page 1

been living in poverty. They're the experts and they need to be in the discussion. But it takes all the groups to be invested in the discussion to start real change," Reed said.

He said one of the biggest hurdles he's come across is changing the lens through which those not living in poverty, view those who do. He said poverty needs a three-lens view through the individual, the institution, and the community.

Reed has helped build a program in Des Moines County that has graduated more than 40 adults from an initial Getting Ahead class and built an "Investigations" night class for students living in poverty.

In one of the most hard-hitting moments of the presentation, Reed showed, as part of one of the Investigations class, a standup survey where he asked students to stand up if they could answer yes to a number of questions. One of the questions was if the students were aware of anyone in the school that had thought or talked about committing suicide and almost every student

**“**  
*We have to do something for our youth. We can't take care of them for the rest of our lives. I'd love to, but we got a short wire here.”*

-Sylvia Mills-Echols,  
 Keokuk Association for Race and Equality

stood up in the video.

Reed said the way poverty is viewed has to change for real results to take hold.

“We have to hold on to expectations. The expectations to be on time, to obey the rules, but we have to look at what's going on in their lives and why what they are doing is making sense to them,” Reed said.

Dennis Fraise, Director of Operations for the Lee County Economic Development Group, said he was happy with the attendance.

“We had hoped for 70 to 75 people and we had to bring in more chairs and that's a great problem to have,” he said. That tells us that people realize that we have an issue with poverty in Lee County and people want to be involved.

He said the next step is to establish a steering committee that would start investigating what a program would look like in Lee County and how to collaborate with the current southeast Iowa plan.

“We're gonna start putting our steering committee together and try to get a look at Vern's schedule after the holidays and then start building a team,” Fraise said.

Reed said the programs aren't cookie cutter and Lee County's program may not look like a program in other counties or communities across the state and country.

Sylvia Mills-Echols, a former teacher from Keokuk, who's now a part of Keokuk Association for Race and Equality (K.A.R.E.) said she was impressed with Reed's



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lane Van, Pastor at Fort Madison Methodist Church, and Jim Posz, a retired state social worker, participate in a dialogue exercise as part of an orientation meeting for Bridges out of Poverty Thursday in Fort Madison.

presentation and said it's time to do something to get Lee County kids off the streets. The group brought five people to the presentation.

“I was so glad to see that Lee County was involved,” Mills-Echols said. “We're part of K.A.R.E., it's a caring organization so were definitely supportive. I think most of the people were in there.”

She said she wanted to personally be involved in the program to help the youth and families that are struggling.

“I definitely want to be

involved. I hope we can get some of these kids off the streets that aren't motivated and don't have a vision. We have to do something for our youth. We can't take care of them for the rest of our lives. I'd love to, but we got a short wire here.”

Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Erin Slater said Reed's presentation is an important conversation to continue in the county.

“I think this is an important conversation, not only for education, but for the communities

so we can wrap ourselves around families that want to better. They just need help and support to do that,” she said.

But she said movement has to come as a group and not individually.

“I think we need to take this conversation and make sure we continue it in a broad fashion so we're not just episodically as individual groups trying to wrap ourselves around the issues,” she said. “Put multiple groups around the same table - then I think we can be more effective.”

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 08 Dec



Light Snow  
 High – 31.2° F | Low – 29.1° F

SAT 09 Dec



Light Snow  
 High – 25.4° F | Low – 11.8° F

SUN 10 Dec



Clear Skies  
 High – 32.7° F | Low – 32.5° F

MON 11 Dec



Clear Skies  
 High – 36.2 F | Low – 27.1° F

TUE 12 Dec



Light rain  
 High – 42.5° F | Low – 39.9° F

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