



Pen City Current

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Fraise named one of top 50 developers on continent

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County Economic Development Group's President Dennis Fraise has been named one of the top 50 Economic Developers on the continent.

Consultant Connect, a consulting agency that is bridging the gap between economic developers and site consultants, announced this week that Fraise has earned the honor.

Fraise said Monday that he feels fortunate to be honored, but said the honor really is an indicator of what is happening in Lee County.

"It's a partnership between Dana (Millard, LCEDG project director), the board and the stakeholders. It



FRAISE

takes a good team and we're fortunate to be honored, but I think it's a real reflection of what's happening here in Lee County," Fraise said.

LCEDG has received national and international recognition for its Grow Lee and Grow Lee 2.0 efforts. The group also has a mark in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people simultaneously planting tulips. Fraise is also a sought after speaker at economic development events in and outside the United States.

He also is a co-host on a podcast with former Greater Burlington Partnership director Jeff Hutcheson, that was downloaded more than 60,000 in its first year.

Fraise said the Grow Lee efforts, the podcast and the

attention LCEDG has received statewide, nationally and internationally all contributed to the recognition.

"I think it was a couple of things. We got some recognition for our Grow Lee programs that caught the attention of the International Economic Development County, which is the largest economic development group in the world," Fraise said.

"I've also been asked to present at conferences in the past two years including Toronto and Atlanta, and we've done some academic peer reviews and that got us some attention as well."

The podcast, called 'Develop This!' is the No. 1 economic development podcast on iTunes with listeners in all 50 states. Fraise said that's where he's learning

See HONOR, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Less curve

Workers from Jones Contracting opened the new less curvy road on Avenue L at 35th and 36th streets Monday morning. Work is still being done on some of the side streets and sidewalk areas, but traffic was open in both lanes, both directions.



Matlock named FMCH Guardian Angel

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – A gift was received in honor of Wendy Matlock, FMCH Clinics, through the Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation Guardian Angel Program. The gift was given anonymously.

"Wendy is always kind, compassionate and very understanding. She is in the right

See ANGEL, page 8

Directors chat about student reps on school board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A very brief discussion that sifted out from a myriad of policy reviews, has left a door open to possible student representation on the Fort Madison School board.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors, the usual review of school board policies that may need aligning with the Iowa Association of School Boards was underway, when Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater brought up a discussion of IASB policy 202.5.

The optional IASB policy encourages school boards to seek out student opinions regarding the district's educational programs. The district currently does not have student representation on the board.

District business manager Sandy Elmore said the district used have student representation many years ago, but she said the time commitments of students made attendance difficult.

"It's a big time commitment. They have activities... homework. They actually sit at the table and have to report back to their peers," Elmore said.

Director Carol Ross asked if the board should look into whether there was interest from students.

Slater said if the board looks for interest at the school,

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For the Record/Sports

No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please **DO NOT** put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!



Ft. Madison Main Office:
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Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station:
111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA
1-319-524-6175

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
09/13/19 – 5:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Henry Ladyn Drive.
09/13/19 – 9:13 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of 33rd Street.
09/14/19 – 11:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
09/14/19 – 3:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1900 block of Avenue N.
09/14/19 – 3:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1000 block of Avenue E.
09/14/19 – 7 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1400 block of Avenue H.
09/15/19 – 7:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

09/15/19 – 11:51 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of Avenue F.
09/16/19 – 4:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
09/16/19 – 6:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.
09/16/19 – 8:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5800 block of Avenue O.
9/16/19 – 4:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Christian Jade Skog, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue L on charges of 5th degree theft and interference with officials acts. He was held at Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
09/13/19 – 1:46 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Leslie Ann Cady, 36, of

Coralville, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. She was transferred to another agency.
09/14/19 – 6:19 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Scot Andrew Flora, 50, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of 1st-degree theft. He was held in custody at the Lee County Jail.
09/14/19 – 6:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joelynn Helenthal, 18, of Keokuk, in the 2300 block of Plank Road on charges of possession of a controlled substance and dark window or windshield. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her own recognizance. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
09/14/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls
09/15/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.

Fishing to starting to pop again in southeast Iowa lakes and ponds

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is in the mid-70's. Bluegill - Fair: Anglers are picking up nice bluegills in 6 to 8 feet of water in the flooded timber. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Work the flooded timber with soft plastics in 6 to 8 feet of water or around the big brush piles near the upper end of the lake.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The heavy rains in the upper watershed are forecast to make the water level at this end jump up a couple of feet by the middle of next week. Channel Catfish - Good: The rains should flush more food into the river; don't pass up any mouth of the feeder creeks.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is 75 degrees. The lake is still a little green. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers are starting to pick up more bass in the shallow water with the cool weather. Bluegill - Good: Anglers are picking up more bluegills, but they remain in the deeper 10 to 12 feet of water. Channel Catfish - Fair: Most catfish have moved into deeper water; start along the old creek channel.

Lake Darling

The recent rains knocked the green color of the water back a little, but it's still green. Water temperature is 75 degrees. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers are still picking up some bass in shallow, but the catch rates have dropped a little. Bluegill - Fair: The bigger bluegills are still mostly in the deeper water (8-10 feet) around the rock piles and brush piles. A few smaller ones are in shallow. Channel Catfish - Slow: If we get some rain this Sunday, they might perk back up. Black Crappie - Good: Catch rate is picking up a little. Work the deeper habitat as they haven't made that transition to shallow water just yet.

Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Bass fishing has picked back up. The bigger ones are in deeper water, but the smaller ones have moved in shallow. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers continue to pick up crappies out around edges of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Some anglers are finding them all the way down to 20 to 25 feet deep. Try vertical jigging or using a slip bobber and minnow. Bluegill - Fair: The nicer bluegills remain out in deeper water; smaller ones are in shallow.

Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

YVONNE JUHL

Yvonne Juhl, 77, of St. Louis, MO, went to sleep in Jesus on Friday, September 13, 2019.

She was born April 15, 1942, in St. Louis, Missouri, the daughter of Kort and Henriette Pfabe.



JUHL

Yvonne was baptized at Messiah Lutheran Church in St. Louis and confirmed and married at Ascension Lutheran Church in St. Louis. She attended Lutheran High School Central in St. Louis and Carthage College in Carthage, Illinois.

She worked at the Food and Drug Administration in St. Louis as an analytical drug chemist, where she met her husband, William (Bill) Juhl, who also was a chemist there. They were married on August 21, 1977 in St. Louis. Bill preceded her in death on August 10, 2016.

Yvonne enjoyed travel and visited fifty-one countries. She was a dedicated and skillful family genealogist, and loved to read. She was active in her church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Des Peres, and a long-time member of the choir. She dedicated many volunteer hours at the Alzheimer Association Office. During retirement, Yvonne and Bill continued their farming activity in southeastern Iowa with their partner Bob Galle.

She is survived by her brother Jerrald and his wife Esther Pfabe of Seward, Nebraska; her nieces, Rebecca Pfabe (husband Maury Higgins) of Lincoln, Nebraska; Susan Pfabe Wiggans (husband Scott Wiggans) of Denver, Colorado, and Kristin Pfabe of Lincoln, Nebraska; uncle and aunt, Eldon and Betty Anne Pfabe, of Sarasota, Florida; her uncle Ollie Eckert of St. Louis; and her close and dear friends Bob and Lori Galle of Montrose, Iowa.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation will be held Thursday, September 19th, 5 pm -7 pm at Bopp Chapel, 10610 Manchester Rd, Kirkwood, MO. Funeral services will be held Friday, September 20th, 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 12345 Manchester Rd, Des Peres.

A visitation in Montrose, the hometown of her husband, William, will be held on Saturday, September 21st from 10 am - 11 am at the Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose, 102 Cedar Street, followed by burial in the Montrose Cemetery.

Memorials may be to Montrose Riverfront, Inc (MRI) in Montrose or to the Alzheimer's Association of St. Louis or for Music at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Des Peres.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

DAVID CRAIG HAWTHORNE

David Craig Hawthorne, 66, of Farmington, Iowa passed away at 10:41 a.m. Friday, September 13, 2019 at his home.

He was born May 30, 1953 in Fairfield, Iowa, the son of Earl B. and Enid (Pearson) Hawthorne.



HAWTHORNE

Survivors include his sister-in-law: Cathy Hawthorne; seven nieces and nephews: Heath (Amy) Hawthorne, Heather Hawthorne, Scott (Sheila) Rodgers, Shelley Rodgers, Lori (Troy) Whitaker, Amanda Harlon and Nathan Harlan. Also surviving are many great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, one sister, Sharon Stone and one brother, Lester Hawthorne.

David obtained a Bachelors Degree in Business and Accounting from The University of Iowa. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening.

Family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, Iowa.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

Burial will be in Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington has been entrusted for cremation.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes@wind-stream.com.



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 SM	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



9/15 MID-DAY
4 9 0
9/15 EVENING
3 5 2



9/15 MID-DAY
8 1 2 5
9/15 EVENING
3 0 2 1

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

COLUMBUS CLUB



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Wednesday "All You Can Eat" CHICKEN DINNERS

Served Every Wednesday 5:00-8:00pm

Adults includes 2 sides & a roll.....	\$8.00
Kids (ages 5-12) includes 2 sides & a roll.....	\$5.00
Kids under 5 eat.....	FREE
Carryout 4 pcs. chicken 2 sides & a roll.....	\$8.50
Kids (ages 5-12) 2 pcs. chicken, 1 side & a roll.....	\$5.50

Chicken also available by the piece (carryout only)



FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Served Every Friday Night 5:00-8:00pm
Dinner includes 2 sides and a roll

9 oz. Boneless Catfish Fillet	APPETIZERS
8 oz. Steak	Columbus Club Combo (Cauliflower, Mushrooms & Onion Rings)
Pork Chop	Brew House Combo (Cream Cheese Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Strips, Mushrooms, Shrimp, Mozzarella Sticks & Onion Rings)
Marinated Chicken Breast	Reuben Bites
Chicken Strips	Macaroni & Cheese Bites
Jumbo Shrimp	
Tenderloins	
Burgers	

Open to the Public for Wednesday & Friday Dinners

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Sports/Weather

Wagoner wins September sprint event Saturday

BY BRIAN NEAL
Pepsi Lee County Speedway

DONNELLSON – After three weeks since the 2019 regular season points ended, the Pepsi Lee County Speedway in Donnellson, Iowa returned to action on a rare Saturday in September. As HAPPS CNC Performance Engines, Mohrfeld Electric, and Henniges Automotive helped to bring the action in the Iowa Sprint League Non Wing Sprints, 305 Sprint Cars, Budweiser IMCA Modifieds, Roberts Tire Center SportMods, and Illinois Midget Racing Association – IMRA Midgets.

After all the qualifying events were completed, the 20-lap Roberts Tire Center SportMods were the first feature to take to the track. With Tony Olson and Brayton Carter drawing the front row for the event. Carter took advantage of his draw to jump out front on lap 1 over Olson and Jarrett Franzen.

While Carter paced the field out front, Franzen, Sean Wyett, who started 7th, Olson, and Austen Becerra battled two and three wide for the second thru fifth spots. Becerra, who was working the top of the track, was able to work himself into the runner up spot on lap 8, and then went to work on Carter for the top spot.

On lap 10 Carter started working into lapped traffic, which helped Becerra to close in on him. Just as it looked like the feature would go green to checkered without a caution, Draython Schanfish spun in turn 2 on lap 15 to bring out the yellow. On the restart Jim Powell and Barry Taft spun into the guardrail in turn 1 to bring the yellow light back on. The following restart saw Carter jumped back out front, with Wyett and Franzen close behind. Carter, who worked the bottom of the track, and Wyett, who was working the top, ran the final four laps side-by-side, with Wyett grabbing the

lead coming to the white flag. Going into turn 3 Wyett had a lapped car in his groove, that forced him to move down a lane. This would allow Carter to get up next to him coming off turn 4. Wyett would edge out the win by a nose to claim the \$800 top prize. Carter settled for a close 2nd, Olson was 3rd, Dylan VanWyk started 10th and finished 4th, with Franzen coming home in 5th.

Up next was the 20-lap Illinois Midget Racing Association – IMRA Midget feature, with Brent Burrows and Andy Baugh leading the field to green. But just as the green flag waved the yellow light would come on, as Will Armatage spun in turn 1 to bring out the yellow. On the original restart Baugh grabbed the lead on lap 1 over Burrows and Tyler Roth. While Baugh set the pace out front, Burrows, Roth and Mark McMahill were battling for the runner up spot. The action up front was brought to a halt on lap 11, as Tracy Hull, who was running 5th, got upside down in turn 2 to bring out the red. He would climb from his car okay. Baugh would jump back out front on the restart, with Roth and McMahill close behind. Baugh then held on over the final laps to score his second win in the two appearances of the season at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway. Roth was 2nd, McMahill was 3rd, Burrows was 4th, with Jeff Sparks rounding out the top 5.

Riley Kreisel and Wyatt Burks led the field to the drop of the green flag in the 25 lap Iowa Sprint League Non Wing Sprint Car feature, with Kreisel jumping out front on lap 1 over Burks and Chris Parkinson. The pace was slowed on lap 3, as Glen Saville spun in turn 2 to bring out the yellow. On the restart Kreisel moved back out front, with Burks and Parkinson following. Just after the lap was scored complete, Chuck Alexander spun in turn 4 to bring out the yellow. Kreisel once again grabbed the lead on the restart, with Burks and Parkinson still following. Then just after that lap was scored complete, another caution came out. This time Katlynn Leer slowed in turn 1 to bring out the yellow. Once again Kreisel grabbed the lead on the restart, with Burks and Terry Babb, who started 10th and over took Parkinson for third, close behind. Disaster would strike Kreisel on lap 7, as he slowed off turn 4 with mechanical troubles to bring out the yellow. This would give Burks the lead on the restart, with Babb and Parkinson following. Without another caution to slow the pace, Burks would pull away to an easy win and claim the \$1,000 top prize to go with it. Babb was 2nd, Parkinson was 3rd, Colton Fisher was 4th, with Dan Keltner finishing 5th after starting in 21st.



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 17 Sep	Light Rain High— 83.9° F Low – 69.5° F
WED 18 Sep	Light Rain High— 86.4° F Low – 71.0° F
THU 19 Sep	Moderate Rain High— 84.8° F Low – 72.1° F
FRI 20 Sep	Moderate Rain High— 83.0° F Low – 70.6° F
SAT 21 Sep	Moderate Rain High— 76.6° F Low – 67.1° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Current Lee/Classifieds

CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Bloodhound Booster Events

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

Girl Scouts Discovery Night

All girls are invited to join in on a free Discovery night on Sept. 18 at the Fort Madison Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information visit the website at www.girlscoutstoday.org or call 800-798-0833.

North Lee County Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year's theme is "idols of strength".

Volunteer Fair

The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library's Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening

The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food,

music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Bootten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stueker-juergen DJing until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Fort Madison Farmer's Market

The farmer's market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the market.

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat. The Kensington is also offering a free classic movie at the Fox Theatre on Sept 23 at 1 PM. Sabrina starring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

FMHS Band Classic

The FMHS Band is hosting their Classic (16th Annual) with bands coming from near and far. The scheduled date is this Saturday Sept. 21 at Richmond Stadium. Gates will open at 11a.m. and the event starts at noon with the FMMS Band and National Anthum.

The FMHS Band will give an exhibition performance at 3:40. With awards to follow.

Concessions available along with a Pie Shoppe!

Directors want more input allowing student reps on school board

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

directors would have to be on board with moving in that direction.

"I would hate to put this out there and bring it back and say, 'Hey there was interest' and then have the board say, 'Well...we'd like to wait a year or two. So I think before we garner interest, the board needs to be on the same page. That would be my recommendation,'" Slater said.

Board President Tim Wondra said it was difficult enough to get students to the board meetings for the regular student rep reports.

But Director Dianne Hope said she would like to see the board leave the option on the table.

"There's positives here. Lots of positives. The fall back is that they may not attend all the time because of commitments and different things," Hope said.

"I'd like us to think about this. I'm not sure we want to think about it in a meeting like this, but maybe through the SIAC group, there's students on there and maybe they could provide some input."

Slater agreed with Elmore that the time commitment is a consideration.

"If it's done right, it's a huge time commitment for students," Slater said.

She said she served in a district that did have student reps brought on and it was a very large time commitment, but she said for the right person it helps their

resume and engagement. The student had to apply and a board subcommittee was convened to interview candidates.

"It's not just time on the students side, it's time outside the regular board meeting to create an application, interview and provide feedback. This was a very large district with lots of student interest, but it's an extra time commitment for the board as well," Slater said.

Director Lois DiPrima said she favored included the policy on the books, but Wondra said if it's included, the board would be obligated to pursue it.

Slater, at the board's direction, said she would not bring the policy back for action, but said it could be revisited at any time.

In other action, the board:

- approved trips for the FFA group to Indianapolis and the annual junior high science trip to the Florida Keys.
- got an update on the district Creative Learning Center statistics from instructor Deb Hentzel and Fort Madison High School Principal Greg Smith.

the classifieds

HELP WANTED

BARTENDER & WAITRESS NEEDED

Columbus Club in Fort Madison is looking for a part-time bartender who is available to work primarily evening hours a few nights a week. We are also in search of a waitress who is available from 4:30 to 8:30 Friday evenings. Contact Mandy at 319-470-2762 for details.

PART-TIME ASSISTANT COOK

Holy Trinity Jr./Sr. High School is seeking a part-time assistant cook. The position is for 4-5 hours on days that lunch is served. For more information, please contact Paula at 319-837-6131 or paula_bales@holyltrinity-schools.org.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670



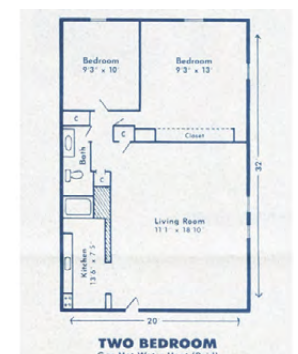
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Fort Colony Restaurant

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DAILY SPECIALS

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Fort Madison, IA 52627

Classifieds

PEN CITY CURRENT Business Directory

Eric Pettit Lion
 Sat., Sept. 21st
 8:00-11:00pm



1135 Ave. E
 Wednesday-Saturday
 6:00pm



Patrick Profeta
 General Manager

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- Tune-Up



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 Junior Stewart, Owner
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 State Farm Agent
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NMLS #139716, NMLS MLO #1359992
 MLO License #24290

State Farm Bank

Some products and services not available in all areas.
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Scene Around Town/From the Front

On Sept. 11 th , Doug Reavis traveled from Fancy Gap, Virginia to Fort Madison, Iowa to deliver his story and inform students of the impact their words and actions have on their peers. Doug shared his story about his younger brother, Chris, who was profoundly brain damaged and despite not being able to communicate, was still kind and showed love to everyone he met.



Anonymous donor recognizes FMCH employee

ANGEL - Continued from Page 1

job, she has NEVER been judgmental and has always taken exceptional care of me. I have had many struggles along with so many others, she has always listened and encouraged me. I finally found something that helps me. I woke up and heard the birds singing for the first time in years. If it wasn't for Wendy, I would have given up already. Thank you FMCH for employing the right people in the right places. She has truly changed my life and I am forever grateful."



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Fraise says honor is one to be shared with LCEDG

HONOR - Continued from Page 1

the most because he gets to interview the top economic development officials and leaders in the world.

"It's kind of for fun, but it gives me a chance to interview movers and shakers in economic development and broadened my horizons. That's really kind of cool for a couple guys from Iowa," he said.

Fraise said Ron Kitchens is the managing partner of Consultant Connect as part of the Southwest Michigan First economic development arm in Michigan.

Kitchens wrote in the announcement that the distinction is aimed at acknowledging those who are creating a buzz around economic development.

"This annual list recognizing North America's Top 50 Economic Developers is designed to acknowledge the hard work of the top leaders in this field and elevate the conversation around economic development and job creation," Kitchen wrote.

"Each of the leaders represented on this year's list are beyond deserving of this recognition for their efforts in building our communities."

Fraise said it reflects the innovation of LCEDGs work

"I think its a reflection that we're doing some good, innovative work. And what I'm most proud of is the partnerships that exist here between educators, business, industries and economic development," Fraise said.

"Every time I see them sitting down at a table together I know we were a catalyst for that.

"I think were doing the kind of work that's important for the long term of the county and region and that gets noticed. We're doing the work that people think magically happens."

He said economic development has changed dramatically over the years.

"Economic Development is changing so rapidly and gone is the day of chasing smokestacks. It's workforce and being able to respond quickly to requests. You have to be on top of your game and things are moving incredibly fast," Fraise said.

"I think that's good when organizations or companies are looking for us and see this type of news."

Fraise said the most important thing for communities and developers to focus on is understanding the need to blur traditional lines and boundaries by working together in substantive ways for the greater good of the community.

"Economic developers will need to take a more proactive approach to help communities understand and address workforce issues."

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