



Pen City Current

Sunday, February 25, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 61

CL student arrested after school threat

Student made threats on school trip about wanting to commit violent act against the school with a firearm

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber a Central Lee High School student has been arrested this afternoon after an investigation into a threat to commit an assault involving a firearm at the school.

Detectives were called to the Central Lee High School immediately after school officials had learned of the threat. The student was interviewed and sub-

sequently arrested and charged with harassment in the first degree, an aggravated misdemeanor. The student is also under 18 years of age, therefore authorities are not required by Iowa Code to release the name.

Weber said the parents of the student have been extremely cooperative and have surrendered all their firearms to local law enforcement. The Lee County Sheriff's department released a statement on Facebook, citing a tech issue with the depart-



WEBER

ment's email service. The Facebook post had more than 55,000 views and 200 shares within 24 hours.

"The investigation is ongoing, but we felt the public needed to know the threat was taken seriously and charges were filed immediately," Weber said. "The Sheriff's office would like to assure the public that steps have been taken to ensure the safety of our school and the students who attend it."

A statement placed on the district Facebook page stated the following:

"On Friday, February 23rd, the district was provided an anonymous tip about a high school student who, at a recent school activity trip, made verbal threats of committing an act of violence with a weapon. Upon

See **ARREST**, page 3

LCHD chaplains help times of passing

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - At points in our lives the unknown can be daunting. The unexpected can cause anxiety and fears. When it comes to Hospice, end-of-life care can be uncharted territory for patients and their loved ones. The Hospice Chaplain looks to be not only spiritual guidance, but a friend a patient and their family may need to help them on this journey.

Lee County Health Department - Hospice is fortunate to have two Hospice Chaplains to work with families. Larry Wallingford, Living Water Assembly of God in Keokuk, recently joined the team in September 2017 as our Hospice Chaplain, and John Simpson, First Christian Church in Fort Madison, has been on the LCHD-Hospice



Photo courtesy of LCHD-Hospice

Fort Madison pastor John Simpson, of First Christian Church in Fort Madison, talks with a family member as part of his services with the Lee County Health Department's Hospice program.

Team since 2000.

"Having two chaplains as part of our hospice team allows us to better serve our client base," said Teresa Gilbert, LCHD Hospice Program Director. "Both go above and beyond to assist our

clients and their families."

For Pastor Wallingford the call to be a Hospice Chaplain happened when he spoke with Gilbert at a funeral. He felt a calling to work with hospice, and made

it known to Gilbert. "I believe I have the skill set, compassion, growth, maturity and integrity to serve in the position, and so far it has been an enjoyable experience

See **HOSPICE** page 5

Study shows FMCH's impact on economy

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES - A recent study shows the local, regional and state economic impact of having a local hospital in Fort Madison.

According to the latest study by the Iowa Hospital Association, Fort Madison Community Hospital currently generates 494 jobs that add \$45,255,271 to Lee County's economy. In addition, FMCH employees by themselves spend \$10,981,954 on retail sales and contribute \$658,917 in state sales tax revenue.

"We understand the vital role Fort Madison Community Hospital plays in the economic success of Lee County. We continue to focus on providing quality health care and a safe, engaging place for our employees to work while maintaining financial viability. We are proud to be an integral part of the community," said Jeremy Alexander, President/ CEO of FMCH.

"FMCH is definitely an important contributor to the strength of the Lee County economy. We are fortunate to have such a robust employer, community partner and provider of quality health care services in Lee County," said Tim Gobble, Executive Director of the Fort Madison Partners.

The IHA study examined the jobs, income, retail sales and sales tax produced by hospitals and the rest of the state's health care sector. The study was compiled from hospital-submitted data on the American Hospital Association's Annual Survey of Hospitals and

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ALEXANDER

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Health News/Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

Rainbolt family holding benefit to offset son's final expenses

FORT MADISON - A benefit is being planned for expenses related to the death of Dakotah Rainbolt on March 3, 2018 at the Fort Madison Eagles, 4822 Avenue O. from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As part of the benefit a \$10 raffle is being held for a quarter side of beef from Dave's Old Fashioned Meats. Contact Gary's Trading Post at 319-561-1132 for more information or tickets.

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Pen City
current

Health care sector vital to Iowa economy

FMCH - Continued from Page 1

with software that other industries have used to determine their economic impact.

The study found that Iowa hospitals directly employ 74,691 people and create another 57,586 jobs outside the hospital sector. As an income source, hospitals provide \$4.8 billion in salaries and benefits and generate another \$2.3 billion through other jobs that depend on hospitals.

In all, Iowa's health care sector, which includes offices of physicians, dentists and other health practitioners, nursing

home and residential care, other medical and health services and pharmacies, contributes \$17 billion to the state economy while directly and indirectly providing 330,308 jobs, or about 20 percent of the state's total non-farm employment.

"Hospitals and health care are vital to the economy in all parts of the state, both urban and rural," said IHA president and CEO Kirk Norris. "With more than 330,000 jobs, health care is one of Iowa's largest employers, and hospitals remain, by far, the biggest contrib-

utor to that enormous impact.

"In Iowa cities and counties, hospitals are uniformly among the largest employers. Those jobs bring income to Main Street businesses and support local government services and infrastructure through taxes."

As possible cuts to Medicaid and Medicare are contemplated, hospital services and jobs are put at risk - and with them a large swath of the Iowa economy.

"These facts need to be front-of-mind among

our political leaders in Washington, DC and Des Moines. They need to understand that when legislation and regulations financially impact hospitals and health care, they also impact jobs and business in every part of the state."

The Iowa Hospital Association is a voluntary membership organization representing hospital and health system interests to business, government and consumer audiences. All of Iowa's 118 community hospitals are IHA members.



APRIL 24-27, 2018

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
ross@pencitycurrent.com

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Area News/Lottery Numbers

Further information may be forthcoming from county attorney

ARREST - Continued from Page 1

receiving this tip, the district administration acted immediately and contacted the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

The district searched the student's locker, computer, and personal belongings but found no weapon or evidence of a plan to commit an act of violence. The student was interviewed by local Lee County Sheriff detectives. Information has been turned over to the county attorney for any criminal charges. The student has been suspended from school grounds and activities for the near future. The district administration will make a determination of the student's enrollment at Central Lee after a full investigation is completed.

Safety and security are the utmost importance for the Central Lee School District. The district encourages our stakeholders to alert us of any suspicious activity or verbal/written threats. By working together, we can make our community and schools safe for our students."

Weber said further information may be provided by the Lee County Attorney's Office at a later date.

It's Time To Celebrate New Beginnings! Twenty8Teen

Thank you to all of our customers who helped us reduce our environmental footprint in 2017!

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

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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

2/24
14 23 35 50 52
Star Ball: 2
All Star Bonus: 4

2/23
7 11 13 19 58
Mega Ball: 9
Megaplier: 4

2/24
24 25 38 62 63
Powerball: 6
Power Play: 2

2/23 MID-DAY
0 6 5
2/23 EVENING
2 4 8

2/24 MID-DAY
3 7 3
2/24 EVENING
4 8 2

2/23 MID-DAY
6 8 0 0
2/23 EVENING
8 9 5 7

2/24 MID-DAY
5 8 7 4
2/24 EVENING
9 2 5 5

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:

Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.

Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.

Place all recyclable products loose in bins.

Do not recycle wrapping paper.

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. [Click Here](#) for more guidance!

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Keokuk, IA
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Letter to the Editor

U of I student from Florida writes on gun control

To the Editor:

You ask why we want gun control. What our definition of 'reasonable' is. What this will mean for all of the other gun owners, the ones with licenses and safes and use their guns for hunting and sport. I've got plenty of questions for you, but I'll save them for the end.

We want gun control because a gun is a tool, an instrument, yes, but it is a weapon. It is designed to kill. When you pull the trigger, you are triggering (yes. This is where the name comes from.) an explosion that then propels a projectile out of the barrel of the gun. These projectiles fly at an average speed of 2,500 feet per second (which is around 1,700 miles per hour.) Putting that in perspective, an F-16's speed at the maximum altitude of 9.32 miles is 1,500 miles per hour. The speed of sound in air is 767 miles per hour. We require the people who fly these planes to be extensively trained, scrutinized, and tested. We require them to have background checks and mental fitness tests. In 2017, 170 people were killed from military aircraft accidents involving planes like the one mentioned above from around the world. Let me make this clear: 170 people were killed in total around the entire world in 2017 from military aircraft accidents or incidents. The Gun Violence Archive is an "independent data collection and research group with no affiliation with any advocacy organization." According to the Gun Violence Archive, in 2017 there were 15,593 deaths from guns and another 31,185 were injured IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE.

In Florida, the only requirement for owning a gun is that you be 18 years old. You do not need a permit to purchase a gun. You do not need to register a firearm- in fact, it is ILLEGAL for any person to. "Florida prohibits the knowing or willful keeping of any list, record or registry of privately owned firearms or their owners." The only thing you need a permit for is to carry a concealed handgun. To be fair, there is a three-day waiting period before purchasing a handgun. Criminal background checks are allowed but not required in 62 of the 67 counties in Florida. "The Florida Constitution, Art VIII Sec. 5(b), permits counties to enact ordinances that require a criminal history records check and a 3 to 5-day waiting period when any part of a firearm sale is conducted on property to which the public has the "right of access", such as at a gun show conducted on public property. These local option ordinances may not be applied to holders of a concealed weapons permit/license. Only Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and

Volusia counties have enacted such ordinances."

The Air Force requirements to QUALIFY to be a pilot of the planes mentioned above are much more stringent: "QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

MINIMUM EDUCATION

Bachelor's degree

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of theory of flight, air navigation, meteorology, flying directives, aircraft operating procedures and mission tactics [This means taking a five-hour, 380-question test]

Completion of Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training [12 weeks of rigorous physical training, high standards of conduct, and field leadership exercises]

Completion of a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) [This involves speaking to family and friends, coworkers, and thorough examination of their life]

Additional requirements specific to specialty

Completion of Officer Training School (OTS), Air Force Academy (AFA) or Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC)

Must have begun pilot training between the ages of 18 and 29"

"But flying a plane and shooting a gun have nothing else in common."

Okay. Let's talk about things that are harder to get than guns.

When you buy cold medicine like Sudafed, Mucinex-D, and Zyrtec-D, you not only have to show identification to establish that you are over the age of 18, but the purchase is logged in a database and personal information is kept about you for AT LEAST two years. There is also a regulation on how much of these drugs you can buy- no more than nine grams in thirty days. These regulations are imposed because of the active ingredient in these kinds of medicine, pseudoephedrine. This is the same ingredient used in crystal meth.

In 2015, the CDC released new statistics on drug consumption. This is the most recent data, and it states that around 4,500 people died from methamphetamine overdose in 2015. That same year, 13,516 people died as the result of a gun. These statistics are for all methamphetamines, not just crystal meth.

"It's regulated because of all of the people using it."

Okay. Let's go back to crystal meth. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime says that 24.7 million people abuse crystal meth. It doesn't specify whether that is in the United States or in the world, but it doesn't matter too much because of this next statistic.

There are over 300 million guns in the United States.

Another example. It is harder to ADOPT A PUPPY than it is to buy a gun in Florida. "Prospective adopters must be 21, bring two forms of identification — a government-issued ID and a proof of address — but, unlike gun buyers, may be asked to provide personal references. To make sure that the pet is not going to a dysfunctional home, some pet organizations like the Big Dog Ranch Rescue in Wellington, Fla., also have one of their team members perform a home visit before handing over the pet."

We've already been through how easy it is to buy a gun in Florida. Let's look at other states.

California is known for having very strict gun laws. To purchase a gun (which must be done through a dealer and must be a "California legal" firearm), a customer must apply through the California Department of Justice, provide proof of residency, the dealer must conduct a background check, and then go through a ten day waiting period after purchase before actually being able to own the gun. In private transfers, in which the person providing the gun is a licensed dealer in the state of California, the party must complete both a Private Party Transfer form and the dealer submits a Dealer's Record of Sales form. The ten day period is still intact. All handgun purchasers (excluding private party transfers and Certificate of Eligibility holders) are limited to one handgun purchase per 30 days. To buy a handgun, the party must have a Firearm Safety Certificate, which is obtained through taking a written test proctored by a DOJ instructor and is valid for only five years. They must also perform a Safe Handling Demonstration. The FSC requirement applies to all firearms. If a party wants to buy a gun in Nevada and bring it back to California, they would have to go through a registered Federal Firearms License who would ship it to another Federal Firearms License in California, who would then complete the Dealer's Record of Sales form and the ten day period is intact. This doesn't nearly cover all of California's gun laws, but you get the idea.

California is number eight on the CDC's index of firearm mortalities from 2016. Florida is number 25. While California had more deaths total, Florida had more deaths per person. California had 7.9. Florida had 12.6. With a higher population, higher percentage of immigrants (29% vs. 19.5% in 2014), and cities known for violence, California had less deaths from firearms per person. Because of their gun laws. Because of the laws

See LETTER, page 8

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From the Front

Hospice program helping pastors - help families

HOSPICE - Continued from Page 1

working with the hospice team.”
 When Pastor Simpson arrived in Fort Madison, as a new pastor he was called on to see if he would have any interest in serving on the hospice team. “I was intrigued by the offer, however being the new guy in town I wanted to get my bearings with my new church and my new community, so I agreed to help out on an as-needed basis.” Simpson said.
 He has been called on many times to talk with families, and to participate in the Hospice Tree of Love ceremonies.

Starting the Conversation

Part of the hospice journey for a chaplain involves the navigation of finding a commonality between them and the patient and family. Both Simpson and Wallingford agree that they will spend time just letting the patient do the talking. Asking questions about how they met their spouse, how long they’ve lived in the area, what sort of work they did – all these seem to bring people together and to ease into possibly more difficult topics like dying and heaven. “I want them to feel safe in sharing whatever they have on their mind and in their heart,” states Wallingford. “I try to focus on the basic needs of every person is loved and wants to be loved, and also valued and cared for. If I am able to do that then we find that common ground.”

Simpson says he loves a good story. “I try to get them to share memories. The more they talk, the better I like it.” He also tries to bring the family in on the conversation. He has watched children learn things about their parents that they didn’t know about. “It truly is a remarkable thing how at this point in their journey they are still learning new things about each other. Memories that they can carry with them.”

The Elephant in the Room

For some, hospice can be a realization of what is to come. For those who practice a religion, and for those who

don’t, entering hospice can bring up the “what’s next” question.
 “I don’t avoid the subject of death, nor do I focus on it entirely,” Simpson said. “I let them tell me their feelings, share their faith traditions, and how they feel about things, particularly about dying.”
 It is sort of that elephant in the room. The subject that should be discussed, but the one many don’t want to. Simpson keeps in mind that death is the one thing everyone has in common.
 For those who haven’t practiced their religion in a while, and for those who don’t believe, the LCHD-Hospice Chaplains are still available for those who would like to visit.
 Simpson said he will ask a family if they would like to pray.
 “Some take me up on the offer, and some don’t, which is completely fine,” he said.
 Wallingford has had families who wish to pray about non-related hospice issues. He feels that at this stage of life some feel forgotten.
 “I’ve only worked in hospice for a short time, but even for their families, there is a sense of being overlooked.” Wallingford said, “So I try to send a note so they know I’ve remembered them, and that I am praying for them.”

Celebration of Life

As pastors, they see firsthand working with families through the lifespan. Meeting with a young couple who is preparing for marriage. Then seeing that couple start a family and seeing families grow through the many celebrations of life, including the celebration of life at a funeral. For Wallingford, working in hospice has taught him to slow down and take time to value life, and that is something he tries to express in his visits.
 “Life is so short. It’s here and then it’s gone,” he said, “It’s amazing what a short phone call, a note, a card, or a short visit does to encourage people at the end of their life.” Those small gestures mean something not only to the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Larry Wallingford of Living Water Assembly of God in Keokuk works with family members as part of his role with the Lee County Health Department’s Hospice program.



patient, but to the family as well.”
 Simpson said no matter the path one takes the end is the same for everyone.
 “In my position as a pastor, and as a hospice chaplain, we are invited into the personal lives of one’s life journey. It may be toward the end of that journey, but we are still on the path together,” Simpson said.

Lee County Health Department – Hospice began offering hospice ser-

vices in 1989; making them the first hospice in Southeast Iowa. They serve Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Van Buren counties in Iowa, and Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois. For more information on the Lee County Health Department-Hospice services call (319)372-5225 or visit www.lee-countyhd.org.


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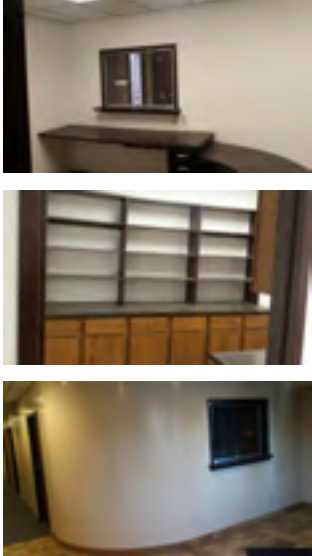
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison concerning the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget. Copies of the detailed proposed budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk and at the Library.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at mblind@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on March 6, 2018.

Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk

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Letter to the Editor/Weather

Student offers views on gun control, mental health issues

LETTER - Continued from Page 6

the state has imposed on its citizens.

Ask for my sources. I'll give them to you. And if you see something that you know to be incorrect, please tell me. I'm open to changing my opinion. But these are the facts that I have checked and double checked and that I believe to be true and accurate. You can scream "Fake News" all you want. You can say that I can't possibly be able to form this opinion on my own, that I'm being paid to do this, that I am an actor. You can doubt that my opinion should be broadcast to the media because I'm seventeen, I haven't graduated high school, I don't have my college degree, I don't have enough experience to have an opinion. You're wrong.

I have the experience of waking up 1,000 miles away from my little brother to find out that his school was on lockdown because of a threat made by a seventeen-year-old boy with a violent streak. I have the experience of learning that there's a rumor going around my old high school that someone has a hit list in their backpack and calling the school myself to make sure it wasn't true, that my friends were safe, that my family was safe. I have the experience of checking the news the days after both of these threats to find headlines of local newspapers talking about a new restaurant that opened and the comic convention that's coming into town. I have the experience of people asking me if I'm okay, if I knew

anyone at Parkland, how close my house is to the school, how I'm holding up and do I need to leave class to take a mental health day?

What I haven't gone through? The things that Cameron Kasky, Emma Gonzalez, Sarah Chadwick, David Hogg, and all of the survivors of the shooting that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. I haven't had to hide in a classroom from a CHILD with a deadly weapon used by our own military to fight wars. I haven't had to pray to whatever God exists for mercy, for this to please end, for whatever is happening to stop because I'm scared. I have, however been through my own trauma. And I can tell you that these children that you're trying SO HARD to ignore will not go away because when we've been hurt, when we're scared and determined and frustrated with the people who are supposed to know more than we do we will never give up on changing something we know is wrong.

We aren't children anymore.

When you're mistaken for a shooter and arrested and your thoughts go to the people you could have saved, you've lost your childhood.

When you see your friend shot by a military-grade weapon and you have to stay quiet so that you won't be next, you've lost your childhood.

When a gunman is storming your school and you're crying silently and hiding and praying, you've lost your childhood.

No one should have to.

Our gun laws were written over 200 years ago, when the guns didn't shoot 400 rounds per minute, when ammunition wasn't easy to reload, when we didn't have what we have now. I believe that the citizens should have the right to protect themselves from a tyrannical government. I do not believe that guns should be outlawed completely. I believe that our gun situation today is out of hand because we have more guns than we have people, because so far, in 2018, we've had 18 active school shootings, because the people or gun debate is still on the table. We need restrictions.

I'm going to be able to vote in November. A lot of the survivors of the shootings will be. You can bet that I'll be rallying and campaigning and doing my best to reform the laws in this country because right now they aren't protecting us.

I said I had questions for you. Here they are. Do not mistake them as sarcastic.

How many more will it take? How many more dead children, dead students, dead teachers will it take before you relent? How many more 'mentally disturbed' terrorists will it take for you to decide that enough is enough? When will you realize that yes, it partially is a gun problem?

I'm not denying that there is definitely a component to these shootings that doesn't come from guns. The people who carry these out are mentally ill. But the arguments that says it's on the parents for not raising their children properly, the arguments that say it's about morals, it's about the lack of God in our government, those arguments are ridiculous. It's about the lack of mental health care available in this country. That's another argument. I'll have that one another time.

The children are leading this movement. Do you realize how ridiculous that is?

I do. And I'm standing with those same kids who, last week, were scared for their lives because a maniac who was known to be mentally disturbed and mentally ill was allowed to purchase a military grade assault rifle. You don't have to agree with me. You don't have to like me. It won't matter what you feel towards me because this is bigger than a single person, a single issue, or a single shooting.

Shayla Ides,
Freshman, University of Iowa

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SUN 25 Feb
 Clear Skies
 High- 35.9° F | Low - 29.0° F

MON 26 Feb
 Light Snow
 High- 34.3° F | Low - 25.1° F

TUE 27 Feb
 Snow
 High- 33.1° F | Low - 23.0° F

WED 28 Feb
 Snow
 High- 27.4° F | Low - 24.8° F

THU 01 Mar
 Light Snow
 High- 32.5° F | Low - 22.4° F

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