



Pen City Current

Friday, March 2, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 66

FM Partners looking for houses, volunteers to paint

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON
- Spring cleanups will soon be underway and Fort Madison Partners wants to help out about five homeowners in Fort

Madison. The group is currently putting together a Paint-A-Thon that will take place on May 12 where anywhere from 50 to 75 volunteers will climb all over the sides of qualified homes painting the sides

and trim. The event will consist of teams of 10 to 15 people working on three to five homes. Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble said homeowners who think their houses may qualify for the free



GOBBLE

office for more informa-

tion at 372-5471. Applications are also available at any Fort Madison bank and Kempker's True Value & Rental, Inc. Kempker's is also donating all the paint for the inaugural event and is the Premiere Sponsor.

“Right now, we're still accepting applications for houses and working on putting teams together,” Gobble said Thursday. “What I'm really looking for is team leads, and that's a person who would

See **PAINT**, page 4

Area science kids take over Westland Mall

Central Lee, Holy Trinity students bring home honors

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON
- More than 183 students took over Westland Mall on Thursday morning as part of the 38th annual Southeast Iowa Superconference Science Fair.

Junior and senior high students showed 146 research projects on the day with winners advancing to district, regional, state, and possibly national competitions.

Students from Central Lee, Danville, Holy Trinity, New London, Pekin, Van Buren, and Winfield Mt. Union brought their display boards and projects to the mall.

Each division had two categories to enter projects, biological and physical and each project was judged a minimum of three times by volunteers from education, agriculture, business, and



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Grant Anderson shows how he set up his solar water heater experiment at Thursday's Southeast Iowa Superconference Science Fair.

conservation sectors. One of the younger students presenting at the fair was Grant Anderson from Central Lee's junior high, who took a closer look at what materials were the most efficient for heating water in a solar environment.

Anderson compared

the heating properties of copper tubing, clear plastic tubing, and black rubber tubing. He ran water from coffee cans through the U-shaped configurations of each tubing and then measured the time and temperature of the water coming from the tubing.

“The result was what I expected as the copper tubing has the warmest water,” Anderson said. “I thought it might be the black rubber tubing, because, well, it's black and that usually absorbs the most heat. If I did it

See **FAIR**, page 6

OFP brings in night of laughs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Old Fort Players are shifting gears a bit in March bringing in a comedian for a one-night only performance.

Jeremy Nunes, who's been working up a provincial comedy routine called “Front Porch Comedy”, will be at the OFP on March 10th only with a show beginning at approximately 7:30. An opening act may be released as part of the show at a later date.

Nunes' act is compared to a PG13 movie, so the OFP has set up a reduced rate fee for 14 to 16 year olds to come and enjoy the show. The teens can pick up tickets for \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. Adult prices are \$10 in advance \$12 at the door. For the first time ever, OFP staff has offered to deliver orders for six or more tickets within five miles of Fort Madison.

Tickets can be ordered from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 5 through the 9th or until sold out. The theater holds 92 guests. Orders can be placed by calling the OFP office at 319-372-9559. The show is sponsored in part by Jim Baier, Inc.

OFP spokesman Bob Britton said the event is being held as a fundraiser for Fort Madison's only locally produced playhouse.

Jeremy Nunes has appeared in “The Layover”, “The Break-Up”, “Last Comic Standing”, 2 PBS Mini Series, Comcast on Demand, as well as being on Sirius/XM and ESPN Radio.

After winning \$200 in a local comedy competition more than 15 years ago, the 6'6” comedian left the rural,

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Area News/Current-Lee

Keokuk duo nabbed on meth rap

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa couple on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Joseph Allen Akers, 34, of 1302 Carroll Street, Keokuk, Iowa and Carol Jane Feikert, of 621 Bank Street, were both arrested on February 28, 2018 in the 200 block of North 14th Street on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.



AKERS

Akers, is charged with the following:

- Delivery of more than 5 grams of methamphetamine second or subsequent offense, a class B felony with an enhancement,
- Delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a public park, second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with enhancements,

Maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor,

Two counts of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine and
See DRUGS, page 4

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.

Spring vendor show coming to Fort Madison

FORT MADISON - Spring Vendor Show, Saturday, March 10th, 9am-1pm, Roling Hall, 2217 Ave. I, Ft. Madison. Featuring 16 Vendors. Bake sale items will be available for sale from the Holy Family Parish BFF group

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/.



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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm

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No fee to the general public. To register, call Lee County Health Dept.-Hospice at (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672 by March 2nd.

Volunteers are needed in Iowa counties of Lee, Henry, Van Buren, Des Moines and in Illinois counties of Hancock & Henderson.

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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Obituaries/Sports

DNR says open water fishing occurring with thaw

The following is the weekly Iowa Department of Natural Resources report on fishing conditions along the Mississippi River and various lakes in southeast Iowa.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 7.67 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and has been falling. Flood stage is 10 feet. We have not received any tailwater fishing reports for walleyes and saugers. Unsafe ice conditions due to recent rains and warm weather.

River stages have fallen some since last weekend. Water clarity is poor and there is some debris floating. Tailwater fishing for walleye and saugers has been slow. There are unsafe ice conditions with the recent rains and warm weather. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

Central Park Lake

The lake is drained for the renovation project



that is going on now.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake is holding at winter pool of 683.4 feet and flow is about 2500 CFS. The CORPS is talking about starting to lower the lake to spring pool soon. The ice is going out and boat access may be possible this weekend. Water clarity is poor.

Diamond Lake

There is still ice on the lake, but it is unsafe and most of it may be gone by the weekend.

Hannen Lake

Ice conditions are poor and the ice is unsafe.

Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

There is open water around the lake; ice conditions are not safe.

Kent Park Lake

The lake is drained for the renovation project that will take place next winter.

Lake Macbride

Most of the lake still has ice, but it is unsafe. The warm weather and wind will open it more, but boat access may not be available yet this weekend.

Otter Creek Lake

Ice conditions are poor; ice fishing is not recommended.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still 8.5 feet low from the restoration project. Much of the lake still has ice, but it is unsafe. Boat access will probably not be available yet this weekend.

Rodgers Park Lake

Ice conditions are poor and the ice is unsafe.

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL LEE CASSIDAY

Michael Lee Cassiday, 44, of Franklin, IA passed away on Thursday, March 01, 2018 at 3:48 AM.



FREESMEIER

He was born on September 22, 1973 in Monmouth, IL to Jim C. and Bonnie Arch Cassiday. On July 17, 2010 he married Tabatha Grek in Keokuk. Mike was an iron worker for Local Union #577. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, hunting and could build anything.

Survivors include his wife, Tabatha Cassiday of Franklin, IA; a son, Jordan (Rena) Walker of Lomax; two daughters, Sadie (Tyler) Westbrook of Raleigh, MS and Becca Cassiday of Dallas City, IL; two stepsons, Aaron and Zeke Happs of Franklin, IA; three grandchildren, Lisa and Jordan Walker and Carter Westbrook; his mother, Bonnie Cassiday of Lomax; two brothers, Jimmy Cassiday and Joe Cassiday of Lomax, IL; three sisters, Tammy (Dennis) Smith of Lomax, IL, Connie (Krystal Sweeney) Neff of Mt. Pleasant, IA and Jamie Sue Cassiday of Lomax, IL; several nieces and nephews; mother and father in law, Earl and Sheila Grek of Franklin; sisters in law, Lea Grek of Franklin and Sheena (Larry) Thetford of Sinton, TX. He was preceded in death by his father, grandparents and a grandson.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4:30-6:30 PM. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Reverend Andrew Wiese officiating. Burial will be held in St. Peters Cemetery in Franklin, IA.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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From the Front/Local News

Tickets on sale all week starting Monday

NUNES - Continued from Page 1

Southern Illinois life behind to explore the comedy scene in Chicago. Once in Chicago, it was at The Second City and iO Comedy Theaters that he first developed the “front porch” comedy style that is now a staple of his act. In addition to his movie and comedy club credits, he also hosts the critically acclaimed “Back Table Podcast” on iTunes. He continues to bring his front porch show to comedy clubs, corporate events, colleges, fundraisers, country clubs, lodges, charity events, churches, and just about any place that has a stage.

He has since returned to his rural hometown where his parents manage a trailer park. Though he really wants to cash in on that goldmine, he continues to tour instead. “He got his start in community theater. He told me he likes to work smaller theaters,” Britton said.

“I questioned how small and he said right around 100. I told him we could seat 92 and he said, ‘That’s perfect’. So I got to talking to him about price and found out it wasn’t that bad. I thought about it for a while and talked to a couple of my board members and we decided if we could get someone who could co sponsor with us we’d go ahead and try bring him in and would see how it works. It’s basically a fundraiser that help us with some lower attendance.”

Britton said as another first, everyone who purchases a ticket will get a free bag of popcorn and water, pop and coffee available for sale.



John Nunes brings his comedy to OFP March 10

Teams, donations still being sought for project

PAINT - Continued from Page 1

be like a liaison between each team and the Partners office to make communication easier as we get closer to the event. That person doesn’t have to a paint expert or anything, but someone we can just pass information with.”

With homes being painted on May 12, Gobble said he’s hoping for 15 to 20 team members on each house to be able to paint the homes between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. He said Hy-Vee has agreed to provide lunch for all the teams when the painting is done. Those interested in forming a team for the event should contact the Partners’ office.

A prep week is also planned for Monday through Friday leading up to the paint day where volunteers would work on the homes in shifts to get them ready to be painted on Saturday.

“This is set up to be a great opportunity for businesses, industries, social groups or even friends and neighbors to get together and give back to the community,” he said.

With most industries running six or seven days, Gobble said the prep work week and the paint days would provide opportunities for those who may have trouble getting 15 people out on a Saturday to work throughout the week as part of community service project. But the teams are small enough to allow some families and friends to join up and make a difference.

Volunteers on the teams must be 16 or older, which would allow some students to be part of the event.

The homes do not have to have wood siding. Most siding materials are now paintable. Homeowners selected for the program will be allowed to pick two traditional colors and will work with Kempker’s staff with paint samples to get it just right.

For homes to be qualified, the home must be owner occupied and the homeowner must meet one of the following criteria: 55 years of age or older, disabled, single parent, or veteran. There is also an income qualification piece of the application packet as well.

Cash donations and sponsorships for the event are still available as well. Gobble said donations and sponsorships will help offset the cost of equipment and supplies. But teams are encouraged to bring any painting supplies they have such as sprayers and automatic rollers to help make the process more efficient. Rental equipment can also be coordinated with Kempker’s.



Keokuk residents face felony drug charges

DRUGS - Continued from Page 2

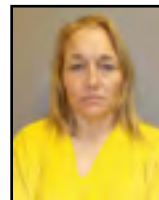
marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, Possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted on all charges, Akers could face up to 124 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Feikert is charged with aiding and abetting the delivery of methamphetamine in excess of five grams second or subsequent offense, a class B felony with an enhancement. If convicted, Feikert faces up to 75 years in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Akers and Feikert stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area. A search warrant was served in connection to this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Keokuk Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant(s) are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.



FEIKERT



Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

**HTC Foundation
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The Holy Trinity Catholic Schools Foundation Board is looking to hire a Development Director. This individual will work with the Board to grow the assets managed by the Foundation. Email resumes to Brian Foecke at bjfoecke@ft.nyi.com. Resumes are due by March 15th.



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**ASSISTANT
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Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking an Assistant Director for their Ft. Madison Center.

This is a year round clerical and administrative role - full time during the school year, part time during the summer. Benefits eligible.

The position requires strong organizational and interpersonal skills. A college degree is preferred.

Please contact
Stefanie Drollinger at
stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org
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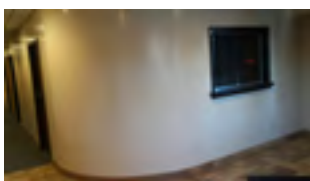
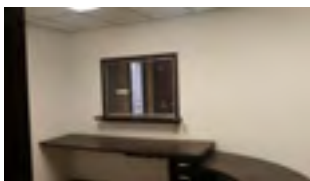
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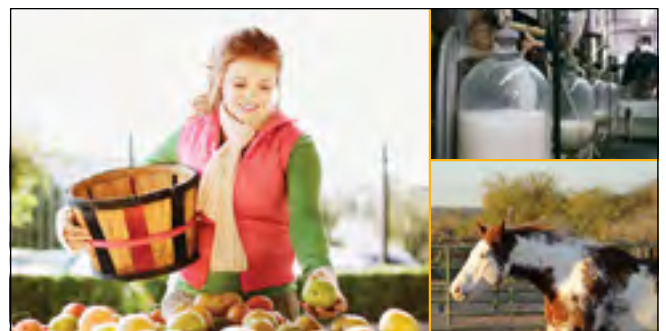
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From the Front/Weather

Hupp, Anderson win special honors

FAIR - Continued from Page 1

again, I think I'd paint the copper tubing black to get the most heat."

Anderson won Best of Show in the Junior High Physical Science category and Most Energetic Junior High Presenter.

In another very interesting project, Central Lee High School's Vanessa Hupp created her own "bioplastics" in a project called "Will that be plastic, or bioplastic?"

Hupp was concerned with the time it takes the environment to break down a plastic bottle and whether or not there was a better product to use.

"We read that it takes over 1,000 years for a

plastic bottle to decompose, but the average time a person actually utilizes a plastic bottle is 12 minutes...12 minutes!" she said.

So she "mixed up a batch of her own bioplastics using common household products like gelatin, corn starch, water, and other materials.

"So I took the bioplastics and buried them in soil where we introduced some natural bacteria that help create an environment for decomposing and several of the bioplastics were completely gone at the end," Hupp said.

Hupp received the Top Physical Science Award

by the Lon Rosine Foundation, which came with \$100.

Henry Morris, a 6th grader at Holy Trinity, presented on the impacts of acid rain on the growth of corn.

"I thought that since it was acid rain it wouldn't be good for the corn but when I pulled out the corn and measured the roots in the corn I saw that the higher the concentration of acid rain, the larger the roots were," Morris said.

Morris said he used Merschman Seeds for the corn and maybe that brand of seed was better equipped to handle the make up the acid rain, which he said he was able to purchase online.

Holy Trinity Catholic High School's Wyatt Hellman presented on what impacts the formation of streams. Hellman set up a trough and tried different materials in the trough including rocks and even created different channels in the dirt in the trough to determine how sediment moves through the streams and how the smallest influences can have a large impact on the future of the stream.

He said the research could be used in the future to help with erosion run off or helping lengthen the lives and effectiveness of the streams themselves.

A complete list of the winners

from the fair are listed below.
High School Biological Awards:

Best of Show:
Kayla Livesay, Van Buren
Division I:
Lauren Starnes, Van Buren
Liana Sweezer, Winfield Mount Union
Division II:
Mackenzie Winslow, Van Buren
Faith Diephuis and Rebecca Pilcher, Central Lee and Van Buren
Honorable Mention:
Kamryn Banks, Van Buren
Shannon Garrels, Van Buren
Claire Wills, Central Lee
Brooklyn Pardall, Central Lee

High School Physical Awards:

Best of Show:
Aaron Wills, Central Lee
Division I:
Pearl Krieger-Coble, Winfield Mount Union
Division II:
Summer Smith, Central Lee
Ace Padget, Van Buren
Honorable Mention:
Vanessa Hupp, Central Lee
Aleaya Klesner, Central Lee

Junior Physical Awards:

Best of Show:
Grant Anderson, Central Lee
Division I:
Mackenzie Taylor, Van Buren
Sidney Gruntmeir, Central Lee
Division II:
Cooper Klienkopf and Carter Felser, Danville
Reece Kacht, Van Buren
Emily Barnhardt and Shane Barnhardt, Central Lee
Ruger Smith, Central Lee
Honorable Mention:
Cade Bemis, Pekin
Colton Comstock, Pekin
Laura Mehmer, Holy Trinity
Kyler Dickey, Pekin
Karissa Moeller, Central Lee

Junior Biological Awards:

Best of Show: Tie
Gracey Genkinger, Central Lee
Paisley Grafton, Central Lee
Division I:
Faith Neeley, Van Buren
Annabelle Cormier, Van Buren
Division II:
Morgan Grell and Chloe Fisher, Winfield Mount Union
Macy Watkins, Central Lee
Kayla Box and Alexa Dingman, Holy Trinity
Brooke Mueller, Holy Trinity
Bella Graham-Thomas, Central Lee
Honorable Mention:
Claire Roth, Pekin
Teagan Denning and Natalie



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At left, HTC's Roselynn Strickland speaks with Judge Mark Clifford of Donnellson on the mathematics of dance in her entry. Above, Central Lee's Vanessa Hupp shows the "bioplastic" materials she made in an effort to create a plastic that would decompose faster in landfills.

Randolph, Holy Trinity

Jacob Hohl, Central Lee

Andrea Hoy, Pekin

Cohyn Jury and Nathan Davidson, Van Buren

Logan Lauderman, Pekin

Lily Reneker, Pekin

Avary Bartholomew, Van Buren

McKenna Caviness and

Shea Scott, Van Buren

Jasmine Padget, Van Buren

2018 SEISC Science Fair

Special Awards:

Top Biology Award sponsored by

Schiller's (\$100): Kamryn Banks

2nd place Biological Science Award

by Schiller's: Mackenzie Winslow

Top Physical Science Award

by Lon Rosine Foundation

(\$100): Vanessa Hupp

2nd place Physical Science

Award by Lon Rosine Founda-

tion: Pearl Krieger-Coble

Biology Award by Bernie McCau-

ley (\$20): Shannon Garrels

Physical Science Award by Bernie

McCaulley (\$20): Summer Smith

Top Pollinator Award by Tull

Farms (\$50): Brooklyn Pardall

Most Energetic Middle School

Presenter: Grant Anderson

Most Energetic High School

Project: Lauren Starnes

Best Showboard Award by Chuong Gar-

den (Gift Certificate \$50): Claire Wills

Best Ag Related Project Sponsored by

Beck Seeds (\$100): Kayla Livesay

Inspiring Excellence Awards:

Teacher Award (\$50) : Marci Denny

Top Student Award (\$50): Alex Dix

Student Award (\$20): Vanessa Hupp

Student Award (\$20): Carter Fesler

Student Award (\$20): Jordan Vorwaldt

Student Award (\$20): Brianna Wright



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 02 Mar
 Partly Cloudy
High - 41.9° F | Low - 34.8° F

SAT 03 Mar
 Clear Skies
High - 47.3° F | Low - 39.6° F

SUN 04 Mar
 Clear Skies
High - 47.1 F | Low - 40.0° F

MON 05 Mar
 Heavy Rain
High - 42.4° F | Low - 43.1° F

TUE 06 Mar
 Snow
High - 35.7° F | Low - 34.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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