



Pen City Current

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Voters send Kurtz, Harlow to general election

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Voters in Lee County sent Democrats Jeff Kurtz and Rich Harlow to the general election with overwhelming victories in Tuesday's primary election.

Kurtz, a retired Burlington Northern Santa Fe employee from Fort Madison, knocked off Fort Madison City Councilman Bob Morawitz handily 904-546. Kurtz came in with 292 absentees to Morawitz's 207. The only precinct Morawitz won was his home 2nd district in Fort Madison 38-31. Kurtz will now square off

against Jeff Riechman, a Republican from Keokuk, in the general election.

Michael Hardy, who withdrew from the election, but not until the deadline had passed, picked up 146 votes.

In the District 3 Lee County Supervisor race Rich Harlow of Fort Madison knocked off Larry Haynes of rural Donnellson 304-114. Harlow will now face Keokuk's James Steffen, a republican, in the general election.

Kurtz was unable to be reached for comment late Tuesday night, but Haynes said he congratulates Kurtz on the win and the positive campaign.

"He did well on absentees and when I saw that I said I'm going to have trouble making up 60 votes," Haynes



KURTZ

“
I'm very encouraged by the results I got. I'm very thankful and appreciative of the voters in my district. Now we have to do this all over again in the general election.”

-Rich Harlow,
Count Supervisor candidate

said Tuesday night. "I wish them all well. I wish him well against Jim. He ran a good race and I hope the race between him and Jim is run the same way."

Haynes said he isn't through with politics and still has some campaigning left in him.

"I'll probably try it again. I won't say I won't but I'm arrogant that way," he said. "I don't feel bad - the system did what it's supposed to do. In four years will I be ready... yeah."

Harlow said he worked hard and new voter turnout would be low considering it was a primary election. He said it's hard to get people to come out to primary elections, but he's hoping for a better turnout in the regular election.

"I was very encouraged by the results I got," Harlow said. "I'm very thankful and appreciative of the voters in my district. Now we have to do this all over again in the general election."

Harlow said he was happy it was a positive campaign and it did not get ugly.

"I did learn, however, that people like to steal yard signs for various reasons including you can wrap them with white paper or use them for yard sales," Harlow quipped.

In the state race, Morawitz said he was disappointed with the loss, but still has a lot to do in Fort Madison as a city councilman.

"I congratulated Jeff on his victory. He had a well-run campaign and even though I worked hard, I didn't get the crowd he did," Morawitz said.

"I'm disappointed, but then I'm not because I've got things here I need to get done and I will concentrate on that."

Morawitz said he felt some people might have been disappointed that he wanted to leave the council and go to the state and that may have cost him votes.

In the other races of note, Fred Hubbell won in Lee County for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Hubbell tallied 770 votes far outpacing the next closest candidate, which just happened to be Nate Boulton

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Photo courtesy of Jolene Dilks

Tuesday tipover

Lee County Sheriff's monitor a semi trailer that overturned on Hwy 61 at about 1 p.m. Tuesday near the entrance to Pinnacle Foods and the Lee County Conservation District. According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, diesel from the tractor leaked onto the highway, but no hazardous materials were involved in the accident.

County employees offered discount on insurance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County employees could face a significant bump in their health insurance premiums when the new fiscal year rolls around July 1 if they don't participate in the county's wellness program.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Michelle Reed, the benefits coordinator for the county, outlined the program that's been in place for the past two years. She said enrollment has been declining in the program and wanted to incentivize the program. However, one supervisor views the program as penalizing employees.

"We had a little less participation last year than the previous year when we rolled it out so we thought we

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Education News/Lottery Numbers

FMCH Foundation, Auxiliary announce scholarships

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation and the FMCH Auxiliary award annual scholarships to area students who are pursuing healthcare careers. Congratulations to the following 2018 recipients:

Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship

The Kathleen Canella Family, in conjunction with the Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation, provides scholarships to high school seniors or recent high school graduates of Fort Madison High School and Holy Trinity Catholic High School pursuing a career in a medi-

cal field. It is also available to non-traditional college students. Scholarship recipients were chosen based on grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need. This scholarship was established in memory of Kathleen Canella, a longtime volunteer and member of the FMCH

Auxiliary.

The 2018 recipients are: Galyn Stotler, FMHS, attending Southeastern Community College majoring in Nursing.

Claire Mendez, FMHS, attending Loras College pursuing a career in Physical Therapy.

Abby Boeding, HTC, attending the University of Iowa majoring in Health & Human Physiology and Pre-Occupational Therapy.

Robert Chase Cullen, attending Iowa State University majoring in Biology/Pre-Physician Assistant.

Samantha Zeleny, attending Newman University majoring in Nursing.

Kyley Blint, will be attending the University of Iowa, pursuing a Pre-Medicine degree.

FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship

The FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship is awarded to students graduating

from any area high school within the market area of FMCH. Non-traditional students were also considered. Scholarships were given to students pursuing a degree in a medical profession. Points for consideration included grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need.

The 2018 recipients are: Claire Mendez, FMHS, attending Loras College pursuing a career in Physical Therapy.

Katherine Larson, FMHS, attending Central College majoring Biology/Pre-Medicine.

Jasmine Benson, CLHS, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Pre-Medicine.

Brody McGhghy, MPHS, attending Grand View University, majoring in Physical Therapy/Physician Assistant.

Karlee Hugg, CLHS, attending Kirkwood Community College, pursuing

a nursing degree.

Tracey Howe Scholarship:

The Tracey Howe Scholarship is awarded to nursing students attending Southeastern Community College in Keokuk or West Burlington. The FMCH Foundation provides two \$1,000 awards for scholarship assistance to new or continuing nursing students. This scholarship was established in memory of Tracy Howe, a longtime nurse at FMCH.

The 2018 recipients are:

Galyn Stotler, FMHS, attending Southeastern Community College majoring in Nursing.

Renee Tippey, KHS, attending Southeastern Community College majoring in Nursing.

FMCH Foundation and Auxiliary offers these scholarships annually. Information and applications can be found at www.fmchosp.com.

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Third outs stymie HTC in loss to Falcons

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

double to HTC's Kyle Bredemeyer that scored freshman Kadin Medland, and then methodically fanned 12 of the next 18 HTC batters. He gave up just one walk and another lone single to Bredemeyer in the seventh before wrapping it up with a Garrett Hannum strike out to end the game.

Both teams had hot bats out of the gate with Holy Trinity, who's been scoring a lot of their runs in the latter portion of the games, jumping out to a 2-0 lead after the first. Sophomore Quentin Schneider laced a single to short right to start things off of WB starter Jacob Fritz. Jason Thurman drew a walk and then after a Reed Fehseke pop to second, senior



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Freshman Cole Thornton delivers home with a man on first in Tuesday's 16-8 loss to West Burlington on the road.

WEST BURLINGTON - The Holy Trinity Crusaders need to find a way to get a third out.

The boys had upset on their minds again Tuesday night in West Burlington but ended up giving the Falcons 11 runs after two outs throughout the night in a 16-8 loss to highlight boys area baseball action.

The Crusaders also faced some sick laser-point pitching from Falcons' senior lefty Daniel Crooks in the latter half of the game.

Crooks came in at the top of the third inning with the Falcons up 10-7 and quickly gave up a

Collin Thornton pounded a double to deep left center to drive in Schneider. Vasin Thurman

then followed with an RBI ground out to short to plate Jason Thurman. Fritz got Medland to whiff to end the threat.

In the bottom half the Falcons plated four after HTC starter Cole Thornton had retired the first two hitters without a blemish. But two walks to the next two hitters and a double from Brice Mennan scored two. Then senior Colton Hohenthanner drilled one over the green wall in left center for two more runs before Thornton could record the last out of the inning.

The Crusaders responded with four in the top of the second. Hannum hit a one-out single to left and Zander

Schweiss followed with a single to right just past a diving Tyler Dameron. Schneider then followed suit with a single, scoring Hannum from second and Jason Thurman made it four straight singles and a speedy Schneider who had swiped second prior to the hit.

Thurman advanced to second on a throw home and would come around to score on a throwing error by the Falcons, but that would be it for HTC in the top of the second taking a 6-4 lead into the bottom half.

The wheels came off for HTC in the bottom half of the second. Gabe

Zurita started with a single. Thornton got Taylor Martin to ground out back to the mound, but Dameron drove a double to deep right center that scored Zurita. Crooks then popped out for the second out with HTC ahead 6-5. Cole Thornton then gave up an RBI single to Fritz and walked Dreyton LaVeine. HTC head coach Albert Schinstock had seen enough and, with Thornton pushing 45 pitches, pulled the freshman for Jason Thurman, another freshman hurler.

Hohenthanner took Thurman's second offering and smashed it into

See **LOSS** page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Quentin Schneider (3) races home on a single by Zander Schweiss in the second inning of Tuesday's game at West Burlington.

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SAT 09 Jun	Heavy Intensity Rain High- 66.8° F Low - 64.6° F
SUN 10 Jun	Light Rain High- 82.7° F Low - 68.1° F

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Sports/From the Front

Pitch counts hurting Crusaders

LOSS - Continued from Page 4

the bleachers over the center field wall for a three-run homer to put West Burlington up 10-6. Cordell Scarborough fanned to end the inning in the next at bat.

HTC quickly got things going again in the third when Medland drew a lead-off walk. West Burlington head coach Pat McKasson made the trip to the mound to pull Fritz and brought in Crooks. Bredemeyer drove Medland home with a double over the head of the Hohenthauer in centerfield and then Crooks slammed the door on HTC the rest of the night.

"I don't know, it's happened all year I'm trying to figure it out myself," Schinstock said of all the runs after two outs. "We're getting two quick outs every inning and then we just can't finish the inning. We need to play better defense - too many errors."

The Falcons would put up three more in the bottom

of the third, two in the fifth, and a final run in the bottom of the sixth to put some distance between the two.

Zander Schwiess went two for three with two RBIs for the Crusaders. Bredemeyer and Schneider each went 2-for-4 on the night.

Thornton went 1 2/3 innings and gave up eight runs on five hits taking the loss. Thurman threw three innings giving up seven runs on eight hits and fanning three. Bredemeyer threw 1 1/3 and gave up one run on two hits.

The Crusaders are averaging four games a week and Schinstock said that makes it tough on his young pitchers.

"We got about seven pitchers playing four or five games a week and we're trying to keep them below 40 so they can come back in two days and pitch."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jason Thurman slides into third base in Tuesday night's game at West Burlington.

Hubbell wins Dems nod for Governor

PRIMARY - Continued from Page 1

who had 381 votes, however 237 of those votes were cast absentee, and Boulton pulled out of the contest late after allegations broke of sexual misconduct.

Hubbell was declared the winner of the statewide primary with more than 95,000 votes or 55% of the votes cast with 83% of precincts reporting at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday night.

The next closest Democrat was Cathy Glasson, who had 301 total votes in Lee County, had more than 35,000 or 20% statewide.

The Secretary of State contest was closer in Lee County between Democrats Diedre DeJear and Jim Mowner. DeJear won with 859 votes to Mowner's 786. The contest had not been called at 11:53 p.m. by state officials with DeJear holding a 51.2% to 48.8% advantage.

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From the Front

Premiums increase for employees not in county program

WELLNESS - Continued from Page 1

should offer some kind of incentive to participate,' Reed said.

Currently the county pays \$730 per month to Health Solutions, Inc. to provide wellness services to 175 county employees. That rate will increase to \$745 in the next fiscal year that begins July 1.

Justin Pieper, from Group Benefit Partners, who markets the Health Solutions program to the county said the program will be in its third year, but participation has been light.

He said with more people involved in the program, the county can see a savings because risk pools can be identified and employees can get help staying healthy and being more involved with their own health. The program

is offered to all full-time county employees who are on the county's insurance program.

"We offered it the first year and had modest participation 90 of the 170 or so of the health insurance participants enrolled and that's OK because we had enough data to start to take a look at the overall population and get some good information, but not great," Pieper said. "We offered it the second year and the participation went from 90 to 65. The information we can get with these gives a real meaningful return on investment. Generally speaking, these programs do well for the overall health and culture that you're promoting when it comes to healthy lifestyles."

But Supervisors also

approved a \$50 per month increase in the employee part of the insurance premium, taking a single policy from \$20 per month to \$70 per month and a family plan from \$95 per month to \$145 per month.

Reed said the county was going to have to move on increasing premiums at some point so they wanted to take a gradual approach. But she called \$145 a month for a family with a \$1,500 family deductible "insane" in today's health care market.

"Even at a rate of \$145 for a family... that's just insane," she told the board.

But employees that participate in the wellness plan will have the increase discounted, resulting in the same rate they are

currently paying.

She said employees would have to take part in a health screening which is a private visit from a representative of Health Solutions to take a blood draw and do measurements such as height and weight; take part in a health risk assessment, which can be done online, and then participate in a 30-minute post screening consultation where a representative goes over the results of the screening and assessment.

"That would take place in the first few months of the fiscal year and then they would be eligible for the discounted premiums," Reed said.

"At this point we decided to not make them do anything extra. A lot of companies have stipulations that require a certain number of gym visits or 5k runs, that kind of

thing, but we didn't want to do that because we do want people to participate in the program."

The only cost to employees would be a voluntary coaching, but Reed said nobody signed up for that last year so it didn't cost the employees anything last year.

The discount won't apply to the sheriff's department or PSAP employees because their rates are set by union contracts.

Gary Folluo said the agreement amounts to a penalty for those who don't want to participate in the wellness program and he voted against the proposal which passed 4-1.

Folluo also voted against increasing the county employees' portion of the premiums, which also passed 4-1.

Pieper said the county is going to save money

either way. They'll save money on the premiums if employees don't sign up for the wellness program, or they'll make up the money on a healthier risk pool because people are getting involved in their own health care.

"But if we continued down the path of volunteer participation, it wasn't trending in the direction to really discern any real meaningful return on that investment," he said. "We needed better participation and the only way to get that is to incentivize participation. When we come to the juncture of having to budget a health insurance premium increase, this is the approach we decided to look at. The folks that don't want to take their health into their own hands and participate actively in the program, they'll shoulder the increase in the premiums. Folks that agree to participate won't have any increase in premiums."

Matt Pflug said the board has talked frequently about increasing health insurance premiums at some point.

"I think this board or any future board is going to have to make a decision that premiums are too low. So now we're talking about increasing the premium and if they don't participate they got additional costs," he said.

Board Chairman Don Hunold said if the county really wanted to change the structure and get people more involved they could raise the deductible.

"If you want to change the structure and make people more accountable to themselves do what everyone else does and move the deductible to \$10,000," he said. "All of a sudden you're pretty intent on staying healthy because you're writing the check. Right now the deductible is \$750 and you won't find that anywhere else."

In other action, the board:

- voted 5-0 to renew a two-year recycling agreement with Great River Regional Waste Authority
- voted 5-0 to approve a lease agreement for property in Croton
- voted 5-0 to reappoint Vic Conlee to the Commission of Veteran Affairs.

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The health and safety of our staff and our community members is of the utmost importance and we urge

our residents to use regulated containers specifically made for sharps. Empty Sharps containers can be obtained in the at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk facilities.

For the safety of everyone involved, please do not place plastic jugs or bottles containing sharps in your recycling tote or in any non-designated bin at our drop off sites.



Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

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