



Pen City Current

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 207

Fraise to wrap up Future Ready summit on 25th

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - A local economic development official will be a speaker at an upcoming Future Ready Iowa summit in Burlington.

The Future Ready program is a statewide workforce initiative created by Gov. Kim Reynolds that aims to close Iowa's skilled workforce gap by encouraging 70 percent of working Iowans to achieve education or



FRAISE

training beyond high school by 2025.

The summit is an effort to gather area educators, business leaders, human resource professionals, economic developers, community organizers, and other interested citizens with a focus on collaborative options to improve the region's workforce, according to a release

Thursday from the Governor's office.

The event is set for Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

at the Comfort Suites in Burlington. Registration is required and can be done at www.eventbrite.com by clicking on the Future Ready Iowa Summit link.

Lee County Economic Development Group COO Dennis Fraise said he was honored and humbled to be asked to speak at the event.

"There's no more important issue for the region than this," Fraise said.

See **SUMMIT**, page 5



Photo courtesy of Holy Trinity Catholic

The Holy Trinity Catholic Junior High Choir, led by Stewart Beyer, prior to lowering the flag to half mast on 9/11, sang "The National Anthem" in honor and remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy.

Area counties get some federal aid for July storms

Submitted article

DES MOINES - Gov. Kim Reynolds received word Wednesday that President Donald Trump has partially approved her request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for counties impacted by severe storms and tornadoes on July 19, 2018.

The declaration will make assistance available to public and nonprofit entities in Lee, Marshall, Marion and Van Buren counties under the federal Public Assistance Program. A Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are partially matched by state programs and designed to help public entities and select nonprofits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools. Damage assessments in the four declared counties showed an estimated \$6 million worth of damage that could be eligible under the Public Assistance Program.

The governor also received notification that this Presidential Disaster Declaration will make available funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future disasters by taking steps to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards.

Still under review is the governor's request for funding under the federal Individual Assistance Program for homeowners, renters and businesses in Marshall

See **STORMS**, page 3

Parent takes abuse claim to state education board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The parent of a former Fort Madison Middle School student has filed a complaint with an Iowa board that could launch an investigation into how school officials handled an alleged abuse incident last year.

Brian Wright, of Fort Madison, has submitted a complaint to the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners after citing several Fort Madison School Board policy violations surrounding the investigation of an alleged assault on he claims his daughter suffered at the hands of Fort Madison Middle School principal Todd Dirth.



WRIGHT

Wright alleges Dirth grabbed his daughter's arm, detaining her after she failed to say

"Good Morning" as part of a daily morning greeting routine at the school in the fall. Wright claims Dirth left a bruise on his daughter's arm.

School board policy 402.3-r-1 regarding alleged abuse, requires a written, signed, and witnessed report to be submitted to the district and Wright said he didn't complete a written report, but said he was never instructed to do so in conversations with the

See **COMPLAINT**, page 7

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/10/18 - 1:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue L
 09/11/18 - 8:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue G.
 09/10/18 - 10:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Edward Matthew Smutney, 45, of Fort Madison in the 200 block of Avenue E on a charge of driving under suspension.
 09/11/18 - 7:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3300 block of Avenue L.
 09/11/18 - 7:59 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue C.
 09/12/18 - 12:36 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M.
 09/12/18 - 2:57 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 14th Street and Avenue I.

09/11/18 - 9:48 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Earl Rondnell Simmons, 44, of Fort Madison, in the 3200 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released upon citation.
 09/12/18 - 2:34 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jennie Marie Kristina Svejda, 32, of Keokuk, in the 3200 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/07/18 - 10:02 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 1000 block of 240th Avenue. A vehicle driven by Nathan Paul Dunham, 51, of West Burlington, struck the rear-end of a vehicle driven by Ryan Alan Frank, 38, of Oakville. Dunham was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries or other citations were issued at the scene.
 09/08/18 - 12:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a hit and run at the Jet Stop in Denmark. A maroon Ford Expedition was seen leaving the scene

after allegedly striking a vehicle that was parked in a stall on the property. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene.
 09/10/18 - 9:32 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justin Hay, 28, of Washington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of interference with corrections-assault. He was held in custody.
 09/10/18 - 12:37 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jesse James Mazzoccoli, 44, of Warsaw, Ill., on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 09/10/18 - 3:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicolas Ryan Mullins, 33, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 09/10/18 - 4:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Allen Anderson, 28, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 09/10/18 - 6:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Christine Michelle Pennington, 38, of Hamilton, Ill., at the Siemens Factory in Montrose, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 09/11/18 - 7:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Betty Jo Mendoza, 41, of Wilton, Iowa, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released upon paying a fine.
 09/11/18 - 2:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michelle Lynne Ringstrom, 43, of Keokuk, at the Des Moines County Jail in Burlington on a charge of violation of probation. She was held in custody. *Those individuals listed above are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

09/10/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.
 09/11/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one burn complaint and one false alarm.

Gov. Reynolds still has FEMA appeal pending


STORMS - Continued from Page 1

and Polk counties for the July 19, 2018, severe weather and tornadoes. Federal Individual Assistance Program funding provides disaster survivors with programs and services to maximize recovery, including assistance with housing, personal property replacement, medical expenses and legal services.
 The governor requested the declaration on Aug. 17, 2018.
 This is the second Presidential Disaster Declaration granted to Iowa this year. On Aug. 20, 2018, President Trump granted the governor's request for Public Assistance Program funding for 30 counties impacted by flooding and severe weather from June 6-July 2, 2018. Gov. Reynolds had also requested Individual Assistance Program funding for four counties impacted by flooding and severe weather during that same time period. Her request was denied on Aug. 22, 2018.
 The governor submitted a letter of appeal to FEMA on Sept. 11, 2018, asking that they reconsider their denial. FEMA's response to the governor's appeal is pending.

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Obituaries/Sports

DEATH NOTICE

GENE GERHARDT

Gene Gerhardt, 82, of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the West Point Care Center in West Point, Iowa. Services are pending with Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, Illinois.

Hounds face 4A's top rusher

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It's gonna be a game of here's what we do, see if you can stop us.

The Fort Madison Bloodhounds will travel to Bracewell Stadium Friday to take on the Burlington Grayhounds for the first time since 2015 when the Bloodhounds walked out with a baseball-ish 5-3 win. Burlington had just 142 yards of offense in the game.

But the Grayhounds of 2018 have the state's leading rusher in Class 4A in senior Taven Harris who's racked up 709 yards on 78 carries for a blistering 9.1 yards per attempt. However the Grayhounds are 1-2 on the season with losses to Ottumwa and Clinton. They recorded a 31-6 win over Keokuk in week 2.

Fort Madison Head Coach Tony Shiffman said it's no secret what Burlington will do offensively and the Bloodhounds will have to be stout on defense to contain Harris and force Burlington into passing situations. The Grayhounds have completed eight passes in three games for just over 100 yards.

"He's a load. He's third overall rushing in the state," Shiffman said of Harris. "They know he's their guy and he's going to get the ball. They put a lot of faith in their offensive line and they won't try to hide it or sugar coat it. They're going to give him the ball 25 to 30 times and it's up to you to stop it."

Shiffman said he issued a challenge to the Bloodhound defense to stop Harris and make BHS play a different game, but he said he won't put any special defenses in place to slow Harris.

"I told the kids, he's gonna get his yards, but we're not going to make any wholesale changes defensively, we just have to get better," Shiffman said. "We just have to get better at tackling and getting angles and not getting blown off the ball."

The Bloodhounds were able to contain Tyler Hopp

at Central Lee and contained a young West Burlington run-oriented offense, but gave up two 100-yard rushes last week at Clear Creek Amana outside Iowa City.

"We've seen good running backs, the Hopp kid from Central Lee and we did a good job against him. West Burlington, granted they're very young, is a run-heavy team and we responded well against them. But we just have to get better at stopping the run."

The Hounds are mirroring that philosophy on offense by just doing what's been successful.

Lennon Barker has thrown for more than 700 yards in three games with 58 completions on 105 attempts, two scores, and two picks. The senior has moved the ball around to eight different receivers led by Dom Frantz, who has 235 yards and two TDs on 14 catches. Shaymour Redd-Donald has 15 catches and 214 yards and newcomer Michael Mosenha has 138 yards on 14 catches. Senior Trey Kuntz is also in double digits for catches with 11.

"Lennon is a perfectionist and, when things don't go perfect, he gets flustered. We've improved week-to-week and he needs to let stuff go and move on to the next play. You can see he wants to do right, but it doesn't happen overnight."

On the ground, Fort Madison has relied heavily on junior Kali Maestro with 129 yards on 28 carries, Junior Diego Lozano has 111 yards on 14 carries and two touchdowns. Brock Califf and Keaton Poe also have carries on the season.

Shiffman said his Hounds need to continue to develop confidence and have fun.

"We can't play with arrogance, we need to get the train rolling again," he said. "We're not going to Iowa City - not going to Cedar Rapids - not going to Solon or Des Moines. This is Burlington. They know these kids and played against these kids and we should be confident about being able to win."

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From the Front/Classifieds

Gov. Reynolds expected to attend local summit

SUMMIT - Continued from Page 1

Fraise said the invitation to speak came through, Iowa Works and Lee County was asked in part due to the success of the Grow Lee initiatives.

“Grow Lee has a great reputation around the state and nationally,” he said “We’ve brought education and manufacturing stakeholders together and that resonates with people. Workforce is a difficult topic but we’ve had success bringing divergent groups together.”

He said he will be the wrap up speaker and there will be a lot of experts presenting data on workforce and how important those numbers are to the area.

“My job is to tie it all together from a practical standpoint and try to show what that future can look like for our region.”

The Future Ready Iowa initiative is aimed at having 70% of Iowans have some kind of post secondary certificate or degree by 2025. Fraise said Lee County, according to that barometer, ranks 88th out of 99 counties.

“We are in a deficit in Lee County, but 70%... we can get there from

here.”

He said one in four Lee County jobs are associated with manufacturing. He pointed to the recent expansion at Scotts, where the company closed a line in Mississippi and expanded in Fort Madison.

“We’d like to think it shows they believe in our workforce and they were confident that this is a place to maintain and grow their business. If manufacturers can’t hire the quality workers they need, we’re going to have problems.”

Reynolds attended several of the last Grow Lee presentations and LCEDG programs as Lieutenant Governor under former Governor Terry Branstad. Fraise said those visits showed that the state was watching what was happening in Lee County.

Fraise also said the collaboration of education and manufacturing officials in the county is producing some innovative programs. Several area high schools have reached an agreement with Silgan Containers facility in Fort Madison on an industrial maintenance program that

could result in students being offered jobs after completion of structured coursework and internships, in coordination with Southeastern Community College’s Industrial Tech Training facility in Keokuk.

“The exciting thing is everyone wants the same thing. Educators want to turn out students that meet criteria to succeed. And there’s a lot of ways for that success to happen.”

Reynolds is set to attend the summit.

“One of the biggest barriers to economic growth right now is lack of a skilled workforce,” she said. “Future Ready Iowa connects Iowans to the great jobs and opportunities that exist in our state through education and training. I’m optimistic about the capacity that exists in Iowa and the opportunity to get Iowans trained for these high-demand jobs.”

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FRI 14 Sep



Clear Skies

High– 84.2° F | Low – 65.5° F

SAT 15 Sep



Light Rain

High– 83.3° F | Low – 65.2° F

SUN 16 Sep



Clear Skies

High – 87.9° F | Low – 72.3° F

MON 17 Sep



Clear Skies

High– 76.5° F | Low – 60.5° F

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers



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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



9/11
15 30 51 62 67
Mega Ball: 19
Megaplier: 2



9/11 MID-DAY
3 5 0
9/11 EVENING
0 0 6



9/11 MID-DAY
7 8 2 2
9/11 EVENING
5 5 9 3

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IBEE staff to determine if case has merit with board

COMPLAINT - Continued from Page 1

district. Several emails between school officials and Wright indicate correspondence between Wright's family, including his former wife, and school officials that included Dirth following up with the student and Wright's disappointment in how the incident was investigated.

The policy indicates the school's Level 1 investigator, which is identified as the Superintendent, is required to conduct an investigation including interviews with all parties involved. The Superintendent can also assist the complainant in creating the report upon request. School policy also indicates a report of the investigation is to be prepared and given to the parties involved within 15 days. Wright claims that report was not generated.

School Superintendent Erin Slater declined to comment on any specifics of the case Wednesday morning citing confidentiality of staff and a minor student.

The district did issue a statement Tuesday indicating it has not been made aware by the Iowa Association of School Boards of any complaint submitted to them regarding the district.

"The district takes any parent complaints it receives very seriously. When a parent submits a complaint, the District investigates and appropriately addresses the matter. While there may be times the parent submitting the complaint does not agree with what the District has done, this does not mean that the District took no action or did not appropriately address the situation."

According to IBEE procedures, once the complaint is received, the executive director will determine if the board has jurisdiction to hear the case and then either accept or deny it. If it's accepted, the board will conduct an investigation, a board review, and offer a proposed decision, which has review and appeals options. Iowa code requires complaints be resolved in 180 days unless due cause can be shown for an extension.

Wright said he's looking for the district to be held accountable for Dirth's alleged actions and the district's investigation of the incident.

FMCH Welcomes Dr. Ruth Barosy

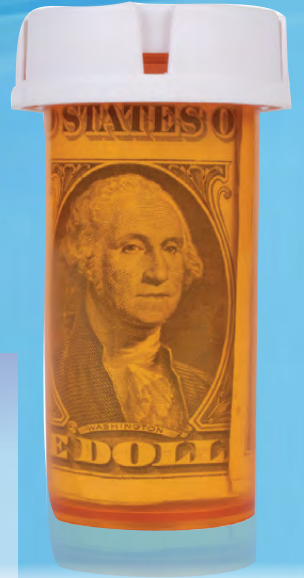


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Clean, comfortable waiting room with FREE WIFI	Industry Accredited, Dependable & Friendly Staff	Online Scheduling & Digital Inspection Reports	Earn credit with Griffin's Gratitude Rewards Card*
Free Pick Up & Delivery in Ft. Madison	ASE Certified Technicians	Text reminders & updates	6 Mos. Same As Cash



INTRODUCING:
36 months/36,000 miles
PARTS & LABOR
Nationwide Warranty



SPIN TO WIN

Save a little extra, earn a little more when you spin the wheel at Griffins with every visit you make now through September 30th, 2018.

Custom Exhaust Work with Over 35 Years Experience!

From 1927 Fords to 2019 Dodges & Everything in between!

Mention this coupon at time of service!

\$25 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance
Order \$250 or More

\$50 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance
Order \$500 or More

\$75 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance
Order \$750 or More

Excludes tires and batteries. Cannot combine with any other offers. One time use. Valid for a limited time only!

Mention this coupon at time of service!

\$10 OFF

OIL CHANGE

Includes FREE
Seasonal Check Up:

- √Battery √Suspension
- √All Fluid Levels
- √Radiator & Coolant
- √Tires Lights
- √PLUS Road Test

*For faster service, please call ahead for an appointment. Cannot combine with any other offers. Valid for a limited time only!

GET UP TO \$15*

BY MAIL WITH PURCHASE & INSTALLATION OF QUALIFYING FILTERS WITH OIL CHANGE SERVICE.

Rebate ends October 31st, 2018
See store for more details.



319-372-2478

**535 Avenue G
Fort Madison, IA**

Monday thru Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm



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www.griffinmuffler.com