



# Pen City Current

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018 | 12 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 248

## Staffing firms seeing more openings

*While area corporations fight with skills-gap issues, local hiring companies have more than two hundred openings*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite unemployment rates dropping across the country, Lee County continues to have one of the highest rates in the state, yet staffing agencies in the area have more than 300 local job openings.

Dennis Fraise from the Lee County Economic Development said the most recent numbers for unemployment are from September where the U.S. rate was 3.7%, and Lee County is right there at 3.7%.

"A year ago that number was 5.6%. Iowa is currently at 2.5% and in the region Des Moines County is 2.8%, Henry County is 2.1% and Louisa County is 2.3%," Fraise said.

"So the question becomes why do we chronically have the highest unemployment rates, if not the highest."

He said there are a couple of reasons for that and some of the issues can be traced to generational poverty and the culture that creates.

"That's why we're working so hard on the Bridges out of Poverty program," he said, "This is not a hand

See **JOBS**, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

It was a not-so-epic 'paleontological' battle in front of Team Staffing Tuesday morning. But a tougher battles exists with city staffing companies filling area job openings.

## FMCS D's Slater earns doctorate from NIU

*Dissertation focused on public teachers' free speech rights*

Submitted article

Dr. Erin Slater successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on Monday, October 29 and earned the degree of Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Slater's dissertation was titled, "K-12 Public School Teacher Free Speech: The Impact of Garcetti v. Ceballos on First Amendment Protections." Her study examined relevant U.S. District Court, U.S. Circuit Court and U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 2006-2017 to determine the impact the Garcetti case has had on public school teachers' free speech protections. Relevant portions of Dr. Slater's 200 page research study have been requested to be submitted to professional journals for publication.



SLATER

"I appreciate the support of my husband, Scott, my children and the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Education. The Fort Madison Board of Education has been especially encouraging of training and professional development for our teachers, administrators and myself."

Dr. Erin Slater has been the Superintendent of the Fort Madison Community School District since 2016. Dr. Slater is a native Iowan, born and raised in Algona. The daughter of the late Judge W.B. and Molly MacDonald. Dr. Slater is a graduate of the University of Iowa and received her Master's Degree (M.S. Ed.) in Educational Administration and Educational Specialist Degree from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Slater started her career as a teacher in the Chicago area where she worked in education for over 25 years before moving to Fort Madison.

Dr. Slater met her husband, Scott, at the University of Iowa and they have been married for over 26 years. They have twin daughters, Hannah and Madeline, currently juniors at the University of Iowa and their son Max, is a junior at Fort Madison High School. The Slater family resides near the downtown area of Fort Madison.

## Main Street's Wine/Beer walk set for Nov. 16

*Early bird glass sale takes place Nov. 9 at SiP*

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Main Street 9th Annual Wine & Beer Walk will take place on Friday Nov. 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The annual event will feature regional flavors to enjoy at a variety of locations in the Main Street district.

Participating producers include: Christian Herschler District Winery, Fireside Winery, Hy-Vee,



WRIGHT

Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery, Fleck Sales, Golden Eagle, Lost Duck Brewing Company, Burlington Makers of Brew, V's Brewing, Fareway, Bent River Brewing Company and Green Frog Distillery.

The "Early Bird Glass Sale Event" will be at SiP, 616 7th St, our 2018 Event Sponsor, from 5 p.m. to 7

Lake Hill Winery, Spirit Knob Winery, Stone Cliff Winery, Tassel Ridge Winery, Wooden Wheel Vineyards, East Grove Farms, Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery,

p.m. on Friday, Nov.9th. This will be the ONLY night to get your commemorative 2018 glass for only \$10.00. After the 9th, the glasses will be available for \$15 at the Partners office, Funky Cowgirl or Under the Sun Next Door during regular business hours. Due to age restrictions, each participant must be present to show proper I.D.

The purchase of a glass will include a vendor listing map and a "Golden Ticket", which is valid at participating downtown businesses for \$5.00 off a purchase of \$25.00

See **WINE**, page 9

### Advertiser Index

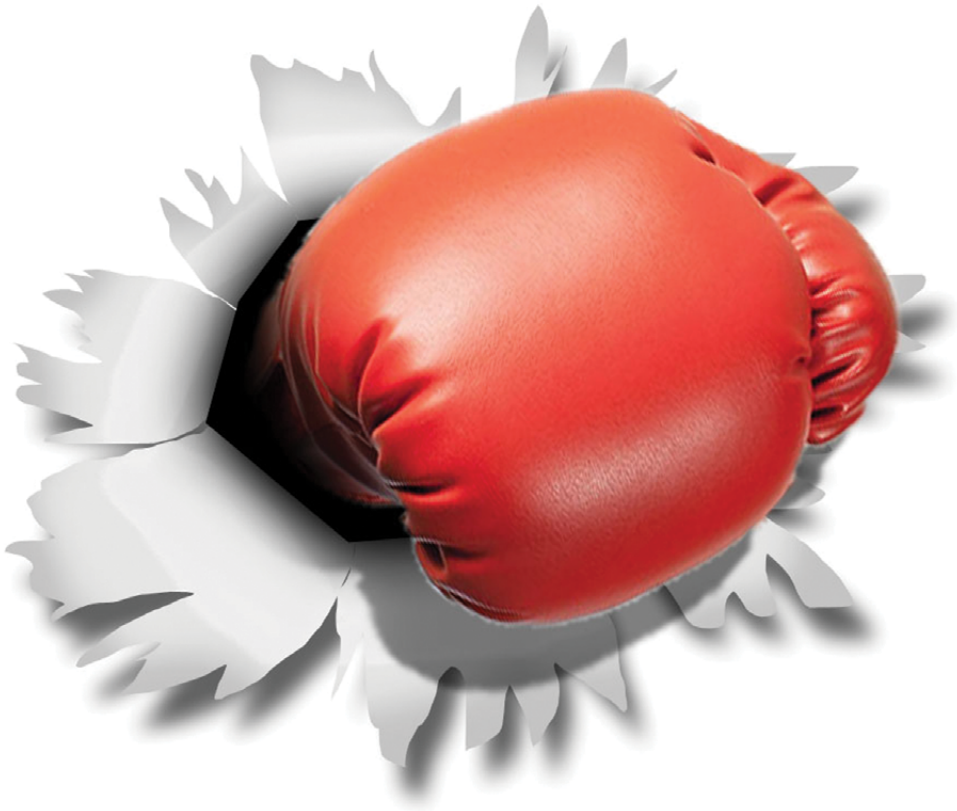
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# Scene Around Town/For the Record

## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police report**  
 10/30/18 - 1:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of 36th Street.  
 10/30/18 - 3:16 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue D.  
 10/30/18 - 3:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 3300 block of Avenue L.  
 10/30/18 - 5:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1100 block of Avenue H.  
 10/30/18 - 9:04 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of Avenue E.  
 10/30/18 - 9:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue E.

10/30/18 - 10:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Brooke Sue Peterman, 38, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of Avenue G, on a charge of trespassing. She was released upon citation.  
 10/30/18 - 10:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jason Matthew Hill, 39, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block Avenue G, on a charge of trespassing. He was released upon citation.  
 10/30/18 - 11:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 400 block of Avenue D.  
 10/31/18 - 3:41 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 500 block of Avenue F.

sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 10/30/18 - 10:52 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Setawndra Leigh Quayle, 27, of LaGrange, Mo., on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 10/30/18 - 8:47 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Douglas Anthony Schreiber, 26, of Revere, Mo., on charges of OWI-4th and driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**Lee County Sheriff's report**  
 10/30/18 - 8:16 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tanya Anne Jones, 55, of Fort Madison, at the

**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report**  
 10/30/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to six medical calls.



Photo by Lee Vandenberg/PCC

Tuesday was the site of many tricks and treats, but the annual Old Settlers Park Halloween gathering was complete with a hot dog and chips dinner and some other sweet treats.



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	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



**10/30**  
 20 31 39 46 49  
 Mega Ball: 23  
 Megaplier: 2



**10/30 MID-DAY**  
 7 7 8  
**10/30 EVENING**  
 2 3 6



**10/30 MID-DAY**  
 6 5 8 8  
**10/30 EVENING**  
 0 7 4 5

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# Overton named Employee of the month at FMCH

*29-year employee gets nod for high level of customer service skills*

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Mary Overton as their September Employee of the Month. Overton is part of the Courtesy Services team. She has been with FMCH for twenty-nine years. Overton was chosen with this nomination:

This employee lives the Standards of Behavior at FMCH excelling at Guest Relations, Personal Accountability, and Positive Attitude. Today it was absolutely raining cats and dogs and I came across this employee standing in the clinic circle drive with an elderly woman who uses a walker. They were talking the woman into giving them the keys to her car so they could pull her car up to

the doors! And the lady accepted, gave this employee her umbrella and the employee trudged out into the pouring down rain, drove the car up to the circle drive and helped the lady into her car. For that woman, this employee is most certainly a hero and deserving of Employee of the Month.

Overton recognized all of her past and present co-workers as having made a difference in who she is today. "My favorite part of working at FMCH, is working with and seeing my co-workers on a daily basis, and realizing that I am helping patients and their families every day."

When not taking care of guests at FMCH, Overton enjoys outdoor activities, helping her husband on the farm and spending time with her two sons, their families and her friends.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jeremy Alexander, President/CEO, stands with Mary Overton; and Vicki Kokjohn, VP of Employee Operations. Overton was selected as the Fort Madison Community Hospital Employee of the Month for September.

# EASY SHARPS DISPOSAL for greater community health & safety

## Auxiliary to hold jewelry sale Tuesday

Fort Madison Community Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a Masquerade Jewelry Sale on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Everything is \$5.00! The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Foggy and the Canel-la Conference Rooms located in the Business Center at FMCH.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping and purchase some new accessories for the holidays for yourself.

FMCH Auxiliary uses the proceeds from their fundraisers to provide scholarships to area students enrolled in a health care program and to support projects at FMCH.

For more information contact Carrie Green at 319-376-2747.



Great River Regional Waste Authority now has a new sharps disposal bin at the Fort Madison facility. Making disposal easy for our customers and allowing safer handling for our employees. A similar sharps disposal bin will soon be available at our Keokuk Transfer Station.

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.



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## Griffin's Diaper Drive



Did you know that November is National Diaper Drive Month and 1,200 infants to toddlers 3 years of age in Lee County are in need of diapers. 1 in 3 American families don't have enough diapers to keep their babies (and toddlers) clean, dry, and healthy? That is a staggering number of struggling families. With your help and the help of our community, we can make a difference for our Lee County families today!

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## Local News/Classifieds

# the classifieds

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#### Dental Assistant or Hygienist

Lee County Health Department is seeking a part time contracted dental assistant or dental hygienist to work within our school-based sealant program. Applicant must be a licensed assistant or hygienist with at least one year of clinical experience. Please send resume to Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Oral Health Program Coordinator at [rpahn@leecountyhd.org](mailto:rpahn@leecountyhd.org). LCHD is an equal opportunity employer.



Lee County Health Department

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# Area has more than 200 job openings

## JOBS - Continued from Page 1

out, but a hand up. If we can work with them and break that cycle, it's a win for Lee County. Everything else is just a numbers game.

He said another issues is rural Iowa's declining population.

Janet Smith, the regional manager for Full-Team Staffing in Fort Madison, looks at the problem from the other side and said unemployment is too low and there aren't enough people to fill the jobs.

She said her numbers show Lee County at 2.75% unemployment rate and she said with the number of people who would be considered "unemployable", that really represents very little unemployment.

Smith said Full-Team has filled close to 60 positions this year and currently has 38 openings in the Fort Madison office.

"It's not a high unemployment rate...it's low," Smith said. "This is the lowest they've been in 18 years. There's just not enough people to fill the positions. We have more jobs and more demand. And that's just not here, it's in a lot of places that are experiencing the same thing."

Smith said transportation is a big issue because a lot of people that can do temporary or temp to full-time positions don't have reliable transportation. She said SEIBUS, used to help get workers to job sites, but they don't do that anymore so Full-Team is actually doing some van-pooling to help people get to work.

Smith also heralded the work of Bridges Out of Poverty and its effort to help improve soft skills

that help keep people employed.

"There are those generational hurdles. I go to a lot of our regional meetings and we hear a lot about that. I would like to be part of the poverty trainings because there's some bigger societal issues where people don't know how to live differently," Smith said.

She also said something needs to be done with pulling driver's licenses in rural areas. She said some licenses need to be revoked for failure to pay child support or fines, but without a driver's license employees have a hard time getting to work, or they drive with their license revoked and end up getting caught and fined or jailed.

"How are they supposed to get to work? So, they drive anyway, and then get another fine or jail time, it's just a rough circle."

Fraise said the four-county region of Lee, Des Moines, Louisa, and Henry counties have a combined 1,085 current jobs on the Iowa Works job site.

Angela King, Branch manager at Team Staffing in Fort Madison said the company's Fort Madison branch alone has more than 110 current openings. She said it's been difficult to get the positions filled, even though applications can now be done through social media and the website.

"It's just a struggle. We're trying so hard to place for so many in the area. We have a lot of openings," King said.

She said pulling the Workforce Development office has contributed to

the problems.

"I don't think it helps that we they took Workforce Development out of our county. When we're still dealing with higher unemployment rates than others, I don't understand why they would pull that service out of here," King said,

She said there is also a misconception that all the positions are just temporary.

"A lot of what we hire for is seasonal, but that works for some people. But a lot of the positions are hire-on positions as well, or provide an option to go full-time if the employee has demonstrated good work habits while temporary. Some is seasonal, but that fits another dynamic of people who are looking for that seasonal work."

She said the temp-to-hire firm also provides temporary benefits to employees who sign on, including health, dental, and vision. The company also offers online and social media links to current jobs and application processes. I think one misconception people have, is that a lot of companies we work with do hire on. It's not temp for ever.

She said she has 110 openings in the Fort Madison, but said all three branches including Mt. Pleasant and Burlington have about 250 jobs available. King said applicants can even go to links on their site and through social media sites to apply from their computer or phone or Facebook page.

King said as a staffing agency, Team Staffing does offer insurance plans for health, dental, and vision for tempo-

rary staffing, with a wide range of starting pay and shifts. She said many of the positions hire on after a good temporary work record and others have options or potential to become regular positions.

Jaime Brecount, branch manager at WorkSource Staffing in Fort Madison, said her office has about 25 openings in Fort Madison as of last week.

"We are having a little struggle. and have to work harder in finding people," Brecount said. "There's a disconnect of what we have available and the pool of people we have to place. Either they lack skills or motivation, or whatever. There are a lot of aspects to that, but I just say they are unemployable right now."

She said matching the jobs to what is available right now is difficult. She too said transportation is an issue.

"We have someone we can bring on, but they won't drive 45 minutes for a job that pays \$10/hour. So we're doing a lot of matching the pool to the jobs. There are lot of hiccups to that and we see that more in our industry than most do."

"There are more jobs than there are people. It's been more of a struggle keeping them. We can find them and place them but we can't keep them. They job hop because people are jumping to a job .50 higher. People see that right in front of them and they don't look at long-term. Even though that may be temporary.

Fraise said it's hard to point to one issue that's keeping the positions from being filled.

"It's hard to identify and paint with that broad brush. Employers point to soft skill issues. Showing up on time, things like that that we take for granted. Drug testing their employees also helps pull from the labor pool. He said Bridges, as the program grows, should help resolve some of those issues.

"There's no easy fix here with societal issues. Generational poverty is a tough cycle to break. Sometimes the approach that may seem like common sense, doesn't work for others and brilliance of that program is that it has identified that."

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Host: Todd Morrow  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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Hostess:  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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Hostess:  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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Hostess:  
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Hope Associates Real Estate  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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Hostess: Carla McEntee  
Fraise Auction  
& Real Estate  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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Fort Madison



Host: Dan Roach  
Fraise Auction  
& Real Estate  
Listing #20171887




**5:00-6:00**  
513 10th Street,  
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Hostess: Deb Sylvester  
Fraise Auction  
& Real Estate  
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**5:00-6:00**  
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**5:30-6:30**  
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Host: Carrie Fraise  
Fraise Auction  
& Real Estate  
Listing #20171702




**6:30-7:30**  
3219 Avenue K,  
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Hostess:  
Judy Holterhaus  
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**6:30-7:30**  
4911 River Valley Road,  
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**6:30-7:30**  
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## Area News/From the Front

# Walk provides funding to Main Street efforts

**WINE** - Continued from Page 1

from Nov. 17 through Dec. 7.

Participating Main Street businesses with vendors include: Artisans Next Door, Dana Bushong Jewelers, Dawgs & Divas, Dodd Printing & Stationery, Group Benefit Partners, Dollhouse Dreams, Faeth Cigar Store, Fort Madison Area Arts Association, SiP, The Funky Cowgirl, International Eye Care, Harvestville Farm Mercantile, Junque To Gems, Lost Duck Brewing Company, Old Fort Players, Parthenon Pizza, Rev Fitness, The Cabaret and Under the Sun Next Door, Old Lee County Bank Building, Elliott Test Kitchen. Additional downtown locations, including Stag and Vitality, will be open with their own little concoctions to share with event goers.

Many establishments will be providing “grab-and-go” items for sale to help curb that appetite while on the walk. Twisted River will be onsite and located at Faeth Cigar Store. If you prefer a more relaxed setting to enjoy a nice sit-down menu style meal that is available too. Many restaurants and clubs will be open and are offering specials for the evening.

The Wine & Beer Walk makes for a perfect evening with loved ones or a bubbling night with friends and family. If you have not attended the award-winning Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk before, see for yourself how Main Street puts the spirit back into iconic Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison for the holiday season. All proceeds benefit Fort Madison Main Street, an affiliate of Fort Madison Partners, and will help to further downtown revitalization efforts.

# Next round of area trail meetings set

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - The Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers SET Confluence Region of Lee County, Iowa, Clark County, Missouri and Hancock County, Illinois will host the second round of county trails and routes planning on November 5th and 6th. There will be four 90-minute public planning sessions at the following locations:

- Monday, November 5 at 3 PM at Nauvoo Fire Department
- Monday, November 5 at 5:30 PM at the Keokuk Yacht Club (this meeting will focus water trails)
- Tuesday, November 6 at 10:30 AM at Montrose River Front
- Tuesday, November 6 at 3:00 PM at First Baptist Church in Kahoka

The public is invited to attend any of the sessions to provide input for all 3 counties.

Brian Leaders, a landscape architect with the Nation-

al Park Service (NPS) has extensive experience facilitating community trails and routes planning sessions throughout the Midwest. The local planning sessions are supported through a technical assistance grant and awarded through the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. The RTCA program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The SET Confluence steering committee submitted this grant request in accordance with goals in the regional plan.

The planning sessions will begin with a presentation on the community and economic benefits of trails development and end with an active mapping session identifying possible trails, connections, water access points and additional amenities.

For further information on the planning sessions, please contact Shelley Oltmans at [shelleyo@iastate.edu](mailto:shelleyo@iastate.edu) or 319-524-5055.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 01 Nov



Partly Cloudy  
High – 53.6° F | Low – 43.5° F

FRI 02 Nov



Partly Cloudy  
High – 48.6° F | Low – 39.5° F

SAT 03 Nov



Light Rain  
High – 46.9° F | Low – 41.0° F

SUN 04 Nov



Heavy Rain  
High – 46.7° F | Low – 45.5° F

MON 05 Nov



Light Rain  
High – 51.2° F | Low – 46.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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