Relay for Life kickoff event raises over $3,400

BY PEN CITY STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Relay For Life of North Lee County partnered with the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Fort Madison for their 2017 kickoff event. The kickoff event was held on May 2nd at the Eagles Taco Tuesday and raised over $3,400 for the Relay For Life of North Lee County. Volunteers from The Eagles Club and Relay For Life committee and team members prepared and sold tacos, enchiladas and more.

"We would like to thank all of our community members who came out and supported our Kickoff event by enjoying some great food and buying raffle tickets. We would also like to thank the members of the Eagles Club for being such great partners and hosting this fundraising event for us," commented Angie Burnette, Chairperson, Relay For Life of North Lee County.

"I am happy that we were able to receive a corporate sponsor for our event this year. We are grateful for their support and assistance," Burnette said.

Committee members and volunteers pose with a donation check to the North Lee County Relay for Life for close to $3,400 from an Eagles Club Taco Tuesday fundraiser and raffle.

Dawn Helling; Katie Sylvester from Stag and the City of Fort Madison. This event was such a success thanks to so many people working together.

The Relay For Life of North Lee County kickoff event is held to recruit teams, raise awareness and jump start the fundraising for their annual Relay event. The 2017 Relay event will be held on Friday, September 29th at the Fort Madison High School track. All funds raised at both the kickoff event and the annual Relay event go towards the committee's goal of $65,000 for the American Cancer Society. The committee has chosen, "We Are Hope" as their theme for 2017 calling attention to the fact that together we can beat cancer.

LeeComm director resigns

Agenda items include release agreement

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to waive remaining property taxes on abandoned nuisance homes in Keokuk, a move they hope spurs economic activity in the area. Keokuk City Admin-istrator Aaron Burnette asked the board to forgive about $38,000 in property taxes on nuisance properties in Keokuk that are set for demolition. He said Keokuk has budgeted $500,000 to demolish nuisance properties this year. Last year they spent about half that tearing down abandoned homes.

County Attorney Clinton Boddicker said he is currently working to get a tax write off for the community. "If I can tell you how many people have come in to our offices and thanked us for getting some of these cleaned up," he said. Supervisor Ron Fedler said he would support the abatement only if the county extended the offer to all communities so they could take a look at their properties as well. "I'm sure there are other properties in other incorporated cities that have the same problem that Keokuk is facing. If the board does this for Keokuk we should do it for all incorporated communities to be fair for everyone in the county," he said.

Fedler also said he would like to see a list from other communities as to how many properties could be impacted in their areas as well.

Supervisors waive Keokuk nuisance property tax bills

Approved with condition that all communities treated same

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

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LeeComm director resigns

Agenda items include release agreement

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

MONTROSE - LeeComm E-911 director Diana Finchner-Smith has submitted her resignation to the PSAP board of directors. The Public Safety Answering Point Control Board’s Wednesday 2 p.m. meeting agenda has an item to consider the resignation of LeeComm Director Diana Finchner-Smith.

The board met in closed session at Finchner-Smith’s request to discuss her performance on May 4, but she wasn’t in attendance at the meeting, and no action was taken out of the 15-minute closed session. The Wednesday agenda includes consideration of her May 10th resignation and a release agreement. Finchner-Smith was the Administrator of LeeComm E-911 services. Administrative Dispatcher Marla Hemmied in for Finchner-Smith and gave the monthly report to the board on May 4.

Members of the PSAP board include Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren, Keokuk Police Department Chief Steve Meeks, and Clinton County Supervisor Ron Fedler.

See PSAP, page 8
Workforce specialist encourages skills/education mashup

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG

FORT MADISON - A nationally recognized educator and workforce specialist spoke to about 150 business and education representatives on a different approach to preparing our students for careers.

Dr. Kevin Fleming, author of "Redefining the Goal: The True Path to Career Readiness in the 21st Century," championed the group to think differently on how we look to prepare our students for a career. A move that he says could help solve some of the skills gap issues facing Lee County.

Fleming outlined a 20-step process geared to get K-12 and higher education officials to think differently about how they program curriculum and how they work with the business sector to strategize workforce development in Lee County.

As part of redefining the goal for students, Fleming said K-12 and higher educational administrators need to look at an idea of educational completeness at any level with gainful employment.

He recited statistics that showed that in 2018 only 32% of jobs will require a high school education, but 67% will require some sort of technical training or certificate.

"Stop telling them to follow their passions," Fleming told the group. "Most high school students don't have a passion. They are still trying to figure it out. On the flip side, some students have many, many passions and just don't know what they are focused on. Statistically only 1% of high school students have identified their real passion in life."

Fleming also suggested the education at all levels turn toward skills mastery rather than what he called "seat time" and find a mix of critical educating and vital skills mastery.

He cited some European countries that require an identification of career path by the eighth grade so students can decide if they will go into a vocational career or a career that requires additional education and the paths split. Students can change their minds as they go, but the initial choice has been made and students can then see if their career choice is for them or not.

He also challenged schools and workforce development centers to align their budgets with labor market needs; create human capital plans where groups like industry committees that meet with colleges and then schools and chambers and workforce development centers are aligned.

"You need to have the same groups of people meet together and at one or two meetings instead of six or seven different gatherings. Then your messages are aligned and your focuses are more inline across the groups," Fleming said.

Every other step included choosing the right career exploration programs for your population; creating parallel paths to graduation; changing from a mean identification of career path by the eighth grade so students can decide if they will go into a vocational career or a career that requires additional education and the paths split. Students can change their minds as they go, but the initial choice has been made and students can then see if their career choice is for them or not.

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"You need to have the same groups of people meet together and at one or two meetings instead of six or seven different gatherings. Then your messages are aligned and your focuses are more inline across the groups," Fleming said.

A few of the other steps included choosing the right career exploration programs for your population; creating parallel paths to graduation; change from a mean look at prospective career salaries to a range to give students more information.

See EXPERT, page 5

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
<th>High Temperature</th>
<th>Low Temperature</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Light Rain</td>
<td>Low – 55.8°F</td>
<td>High – 61.5°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU 25 May</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>Low – 58.8°F</td>
<td>High – 70.0°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 26 May</td>
<td>Light Rain</td>
<td>Low – 71.1°F</td>
<td>High – 74.1°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 27 May</td>
<td>Light Rain</td>
<td>Low – 71.9°F</td>
<td>High – 86.5°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 28 May</td>
<td>Light Rain</td>
<td>Low – 60.5°F</td>
<td>High – 74.2°F</td>
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</tbody>
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Jerome Walter Bray, Jr., 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Monday, May 22, 2017 at his home. He was born on October 16, 1946 in St. Louis, MO to Jerome W. & Hettie O. Spittler Bray, Sr. He married Judith A. Lause on June 28, 1969 in Berkeley, MO. He was a self-employed truck driver and owned and operated Bray Delivery with his father and grandfather in St. Louis, MO for many years. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

He was a member of Holy Family Parish and the American Legion. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and going to his weekend place in Williamsburg, MO.

Jerry is survived by: his wife: Judy Bray of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: James (Jennifer) Bray of St. Louis, MO & Charles (Jenann) Bray of Oxford, IA; 1-step daughter: Becky (Bruce) Schrama of Imperial, MO; 4-grandchildren: Kyle, Alyssa, Gabrielle & Bo Bray; 4-sisters: Linda (Dan) Davis of San Antonio, TX, Susan Castle of Jackson, MS, Nancy (Phil) McCord of St. Louis, MO & Pat (Tom) Mezcowski of Wentzville, MO. He was preceded in death by his parents and 1-brother in law, Rick Castle.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Friends may call after 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at Sts. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO. A memorial has been established for Iowa Veterans Freedom Rock. Online condolences and a video tribute of Jerry’s life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Click for more information

OBITUARIES
FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Jeremy Abraham Atwater, 27, of 1628 Avenue A, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on May 23rd, 2017 in the 1100 block of Avenue I on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Atwater is charged with Possession of Methamphetamine Less than Five Grams with the Intent to Deliver, a class C felony, four counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Oxycodeone, Methamphetamine, Alprazolam, and Marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Atwater faces up to 14 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Atwater stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is 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.
Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R’s!

**REDUCE**

- Reduce the amount of waste produced in society
  - The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines:
    - Buy durable goods & products in bulk
    - Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
    - Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
    - Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
    - Maintain central files for multiple individuals
    - Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

**REUSE**

- Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose
  - It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.
    - Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
    - Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
    - Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

**RECYCLE**

- Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material
  - Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.
    - Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers (see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
    - Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
    - Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
    - Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

**Household Hazardous Waste**

We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedures are in place for disposal. Please call 319-572-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.

**Electronic Waste**

Please place all electronic waste in their appropriate bins, some electronic items are free to dispose. Please call for fees on TV’s, Monitors, Laptops & Tablets.

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HTC falls in first game of the season

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

WEST POINT - The Holy Trinity boys baseball team dropped a 10-2 decision at South Park on Tuesday night to Louisa-Muscatine.

Cameron Bahl took the loss for the Crusaders going six innings giving up 10 runs, four of which were earned on seven hits. Bahl struck out nine, but gave eight passes. Jason Thurman came in relief and faced five hitters giving up two runs on one strike out.

Freshman Reed Fehseke led the Crusaders at the plate going 2-for-4 with a double, one run scored and a stolen base. Reed got the first hit of the game for HTC, a double into the left-center gap and came around to score on a fielder’s choice in the first inning.

Bahl scored the other run for HTC. Collin Thornton also went 2-for-4 at the plate with a double. Jason Thurman, Quentin Schneider and Vasin Thurman also had hits for HTC in the loss.

Zander Schweiss had a stolen base for Holy Trinity.

“We started with three eighth graders and three ninth graders and we hung with them,” said head coach Albert Shinstock. “The team showed a lot of promise and just needs to work out some of the nerves.”

The Crusaders (0-1) travel to New London Thursday for their first road test of the new season.
**Regional Ed. Center should be priority**

**EXPERT** - Continued from Page 2

Fleming also encourage a change in the way businesses advertise for help. “Add ‘Community College degree or certificate preferred’ to your job postings. One fifth of all residents have nothing additional out of high school. This encourages that mindset to get a community college degree or some kind of workforce certificate,” he said.

The concept of a regional education center that would be geared toward technical and vocational training and adult education came up as part of the informal discussions and Fleming said those types of centers are becoming very productive and viable in today’s labor market. He also said that Southeastern Community College’s new $1.8 million tech center on the college’s south campus in Keokuk could be a facility that could be combined with that effort.

After an informal question and answer session and a working lunch discussion, attendees were asked to come up with a specific 8-10 month goal that would be forwarded to workforce development and education officials.

**Keokuk ends HTC regular season on sour note**

**BY PCC STAFF**

WEST POINT - A physical game ended in a 1-0 loss for the Holy Trinity girls soccer team Tuesday night at South Park.

Keokuk came into West Point to avenge an earlier 5-2 loss at home at the hands of the Crusaders back on April 24.

The Crusaders got their chance on offense taking nine shots in the game including five shots on goal. But the Chiefs Aryn Kindig was up to the task recording seven saves.

Maya Rashid led the way for the Crusaders with five shots. Elyse Pothitakis shot twice including one shot on Kindig. Taylor Boeding and Ali Randolph each had two shots on the net.

HTC is off now until Tuesday when they host Mediapolis in the first round of districts. If they win, they will play again on Thursday with dates and times to be announced.
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ALWAYS REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE.

The Pen City Current e-Edition will not be published Sunday, May 28 or Monday, May 29 in recognition of this Memorial Day.

All news will continue to be posted to our website as it develops. The Pen City Current e-Edition will resume publication on Tuesday, May 30.

Enjoy Your Holiday Weekend and Please Celebrate Safely!
Chief Dave Hinton, Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, Jason Dinwid- die of the West Point Vol- unteer Fire Department, Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, and Gabe Rose, Keokuk Fire Chief.

Board Chairman Hinton declined to comment on the situation at the May 4 meeting citing personnel matters and didn’t return a phone call Tuesday to define the release agreement or the situation surrounding the resignation.

The May 4 closed session was called to “Discuss the perfor- mance of the director in closed session as allowed in Iowa Code 21.5 (1) - To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation, and that individual requests a closed session”.

Distinguished Alumnus

Above, Hall of Honor committee mem- ber Duane Sherwood accepts the Distin- guished Alumnus award on behalf of Dr. Harvey Rothenberg, a 1955 graduate of FMHS. Rothenberg has been active in education since his graduation. At left, Shirley Wyrick, wife, Anne Wyrick, daughter, and Vera Hellweg, sister, pose with the Distinguished Alum- nus plaque for 1951 graduate Darrell D. Wyrick. Wyrick died in May 2015 but was known throughout the University of Iowa for his fundraising efforts.

FROM THE FRONT/EDUCATION

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