Climbing out of Poverty

Close to 80 from Lee County attend orientation meeting in Fort Madison for anti-poverty effort

FORT MADISON - About 80 Lee County economic and business representatives were introduced to a program aimed at knocking down hurdles that prop up generational poverty.

Vern Reed, an at-risk counselor at West Burlington High School and trained specialist in the Bridges Out of Poverty international program, spoke to the group about how to move forward with getting a program going that would work in concert with Building Bridges - a southeast Iowa initiative that is already functional in Des Moines County.

The program aims at identifying the members of the county living in poverty and trying to knock down some barriers that make that poverty cross generations in families. After the indentification, then the program aims at classes that help open lines of communication.

Reed said one of the key components of the class is incorporating all socioeconomic groups; poverty, middle class, and wealth into the program and bringing all minds to the table to start solving problems and building resources.

“The real experts on poverty are the people who've been in poverty. We have to hold onto expectations. The expectation to be on time, to obey the rules, but we have to look at what's going on in their lives and why what they are doing is making sense to them.”

-Vern Reed Bridges Out of Poverty trainer

Lee County Compensation Board to meet

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - A meeting of the Lee County Compensation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 5:30 P.M., at the Lee County Correctional Center, 2530 255th Street, Montrose.

All elected officials are invited to make a presentation relating to any changes in duties during this past year.

The duty of the Compensation Board is to recommend Lee County elected official's salaries for fiscal year 2018/2019.
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis is now seeing patients on Wednesdays in the downtown Fort Madison office.

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Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Wednesday: 8:00am - 5:00pm

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Doug Krogmeier, far left, gets a quick phone picture of daughter Bailey on Santa’s lap, while his other daughter Morgan waits her turn Thursday at Kempker’s True Value Rental, as the line wraps around in the aisles of the hardware store. For more Santa pix from Thursday, see page 5.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report
12/05/17 - 1:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue L. 12/05/17 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H. 12/05/17 - 3:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of 2000 block of Avenue M. 12/05/17 - 9:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Dillion Kaylee Rudd of Fort Madison at the Fort Madison Police department on charges of Extortion - Class D felony, trespass, criminal mischief. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/05/17 - 9:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Nolan Aeneas Leveling of Fort Madison, at the Fort Madison Police Department, on charges of trespass and criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/06/17 - 12:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O. 12/06/17 - 1:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 12/06/17 - 6:57 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s report cited Carl Robert Mahoney, 62, of Montrose, in the 1600 block of Green Bay Road on charge of trespass. He was released upon citation. 12/06/17 - 11:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Elizabeth Diane Mortimer, 25, of Keokuk, no location given, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/07/17 - 2:11 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Kimberly Rae Cannon, 39, no location given, on a charge of possession of a drug paraphernalia. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report 12/05/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls. 12/06/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

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Lee County Health Department is committed to partnering with our community to help you care for yourself and your family.

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Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
<td>9:36 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>9:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto America</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<td>12:20 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

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Mohrfeld takes 2nd at BHS swim meet

By PCC STAFF

East Moline, Ill.- High school swimming sophomore Jacob Mohrfeld took 2nd place in the 200-yard individual medley for the Burlington Grayhounds in 1:10.98.

Central Lee senior Blake Wyrick took 1st place in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle races. He also anchored the 200-yard freestyle relay that took first place.

Rainbow Trout - Good: Work the shallow brush piles. Might be out of warm days, but the trout are still out.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is going up and down with the air temperature, mostly staying in the upper 30’s to low 40’s. The docks have been removed for the winter.

Lake Geode

The lake is drained. Find your way to go and hunt around looking at the lake bottom. Be careful, some of the mud is still very soft and deep. Use extreme caution and don’t try to walk across the lake bottom.

Lake of the Hills

Rainbow Trout - Good: Work the shallow water from shore; trout won’t be out very deep. Fish in 3 to 4 feet of water and some of the brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water.

Wilson Lake

Rainbow Trout - Good: Work the shallow brush piles and culvert piles.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 3.20 feet at Lock and Dam 18 and has been fairly steady. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week.

Lakes Mohrfield and Wilson Lake are still low.

For more information on lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

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Iowa Lakes Financial Services

DES MOINES - The following is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources southeastern Iowa fishing report for the week of Dec. 7, 2017.

Environmental Discovery Park North Pond

Might be out of warm days, but the trout are still out. Rainbow Trout - Good: Try power bait under a rig with minnows or stick baits.

Morrholf’s time of 2:27.25 was 3.44 seconds off the pace. He also took 2nd place in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:10.98.

Central Lee senior Blake Wyrick took 1st place in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle races. He also anchored the 200-yard freestyle relay team that took first place.

Rainbow Trout - Good: Try power bait under a rig with minnows or stick baits.

Report: Vertical jig with minnows or pull three-way rigs with minnows or stick baits.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is going up and down with the air temperature, mostly staying in the upper 30’s to low 40’s. The docks have been removed for the winter.

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Scene Around Town: Santa Stops at Kempker’s True Value Rental

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Santa with Harper Gray, parents - Brad and Elaine Gray

Santa with Keelynd Ross, parents - Jimmy Ross and Chasta Zumdome

Santa with Audrey Lemek, parents - Chris and Maddie Lemek

Santa with Torey, Arriston, and Arriyon Potter, parents - Josh and Allee Potter
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Dear Editor,

I would like to share my recent experience with a local business in downtown Fort Madison. I was out Christmas shopping on my day off and stopped to have my wedding ring inspected and cleaned at the store where it came from. I do this twice a year, as required, to keep the warranty up to date. It was a little over ten years ago that my husband surprised me with my beautiful ring and proposed to me on Christmas Eve.

While the salesperson at the jewelry store was checking my ring, I was surprised to hear that I had a loose diamond in my band. The salesperson said they'd have to send it in to get it fixed and it would be out for about 20 days. "Really?" I said, "Where do you have to send it to?" They replied, "To our repair center in Florida." I explained that I really didn't want to send my ring out at this time. (I've heard the awful stories about how these rings get sent out and don't come back with their originals stones or they come back only to have more issues later.) They warned me that they couldn't update my warranty until my ring was repaired and if the diamond did fall out before then it wouldn't be covered by the warranty.

I took my chances and left that chainstore in the mall. When I got back into Fort Madison I stopped at Dana Bushong's. My dad and my sister had good things to say about Skip so I thought I'd see what he could do about my ring. When I explained to them what the other store had said about my ring Skip just sort of shook his head as he held my ring and said he'd be right back. He came back in about 10 seconds and said it was fixed. I was so relieved! And then irritated by what the other store had said.

Skip took the time to show me my ring under the microscope and explained why my diamond was loose. He also showed me how it wasn't going to fall out.

So if you're reading this and if you or someone you know is considering a jewelry purchase, go see Skip and Michele and the honest people downtown at Dana Bushong Jewelers. You'll thank me later.

Cheryl Yaley
Fort Madison, IA
Next step for Lee County is building the team

POVERTY - Continued from Page 1

been living in poverty. They're the experts and they need to be in the discussion. But it takes all the groups to be invested in the discussion to start real change," Reed said. He said one of the biggest hurdles he's come across is changing the lens through which those not living in poverty, view those who do. He said poverty needs a three-lens view through the individual, the institution, and the community.

Reed has helped build a program in Des Moines County that has graduated more than 40 adults from an initial Getting Ahead class and built an "Investigations" night class for students living in poverty. In one of the most hard-hitting moments of the presentation, Reed showed, as part of one of the Investigations class, a standup survey where he asked students to stand up if they could answer yes to a number of questions. One of the questions was if the students were aware of anyone in the school that had thought or talked about committing suicide and almost every student stood up in the video. Reed said the way poverty is viewed has to change for real results to take hold.

"We have to hold on to expectations. The expectations to be on time, to obey the rules, but we have to look at what's going on in their lives and why what they are doing is making sense to them," Reed said.

Dennis Fraise, Director of Operations for the Lee County Economic Development Group, said he was happy with the attendance. "We had hoped for 70 to 75 people and we have to bring in more chairs to stand up if they could answer yes to a number of questions. One of the questions was if the students were aware of anyone in the school that had thought or talked about committing suicide and almost every student stood up in the video. Reed said the way poverty is viewed has to change for real results to take hold.

He said the next step is to establish a steering committee that would start investigating what a program would look like in Lee County and how to collaborate with the current southeast Iowa plan. "We're gonna start putting our steering committee together and try to get a look at Vern's schedule after the holidays and then start building a team," Fraise said.

Reed said the programs aren't cookie cutter and Lee County's program may not look like a program in other counties or communities across the state and country. Sylvia Mills-Echols, a former teacher from Keokuk, who's now a part of Keokuk Association for Race and Equality (K.A.R.E.) said she was impressed with Reed's presentation and said it's time to do something to get Lee County kids off the streets. The group brought five people to the presentation. "I was so glad to see that Lee County was involved," Mills-Echols said. "We're part of K.A.R.E., it's a caring organization so we're definitely supportive. I think most of the people were in there." She said she wanted to personally be involved in the program to help the youth and families that are struggling. "I definitely want to be involved. I hope we can get some of these kids off the streets that aren't motivated and don't have a vision. We have to do something for our youth. We can't take care of them for the rest of our lives. I'd love to, but we got a short wire here." Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Erin Slater said Reed's presentation is an important conversation to continue in the county. "I think this is an important conversation, not only for education, but for the communities so we can wrap ourselves around families that want to better. They just need help and support to do that," she said. But she said movement has to come as a group and not individually.

"I think we need to take this conversation and make sure we continue it in a broad fashion so we're not just episodically as individual groups trying to wrap ourselves around the issues," she said. "Put multiple groups around the same table - then I think we can be more effective."