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 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.

Area counties get some federal aid for July storms

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, Madison 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 $36 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 and Van Buren counties under the federal Public Assistance Program. A Presidential Disaster Declaration for counties impacted by severe storms on July 19, 2018.

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Bloodhounds take on Class 4A’s top rusher in Taven Harris Friday.

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For the Record

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 a.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 - 12:38 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.

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. 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. 09/08/18 - 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.

Fire 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.

The Kensington

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Hounds face 4A’s top rusher

By Chuck Vandenber

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 Brackwell 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 hound defense to stop Harris and make BHS play a different game, but he said he won’t put any special defense 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 Mosena 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 frustrated. 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.”
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 on workforce and how the state was watching said those visits showed 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 and expanded a line in Missouri.

“Iowa initiative is aimed at having 70% of Iowans having 70% of Iowans, but 70% to the opportunity to get the quality workers they need, we’re going to have problems.” Reynolds attended several of the last Grow Lee presentations and LEEDD 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 said that the capacity exists in Iowa and optimistic about the capacity that exists in Iowa and the opportunity to get Iowans trained for these high-demand jobs.”

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THU 13 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 79.3º F | Low – 61.5º F

FRI 14 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 84.2º F | Low – 65.5º F

SAT 15 Sep
Light Rain
High – 83.3º F | Low – 65.2º F

SUN 16 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 87.9º F | Low – 72.3º F

MON 17 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 76.5º F | Low – 60.5º F

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IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

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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.
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