First downtown summer market a big hit

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The summer’s first Downtown Summer Market went off with few hitches, a beautiful day, and a lot of people Thursday night.

Darla Farrell, owner of The Funky Cowgirl in downtown Fort Madison, said she started working on the project in March and organized it herself. She got the idea from a recent trip to Costa Rica and organized it herself.

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The Funky Cowgirl owner Darla Farrell talks with visitors at the Downtown Summer Market as shoppers browse her trailer and other vendors Thursday evening in downtown Fort Madison.

Shared baseball program draws Slater’s ire

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A Fort Madison school official has expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the district’s shared baseball program with Holy Trinity Catholic High School.

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater sent an email to the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors on Thursday, June 6 indicating Fort Madison players are losing opportunities due to the ‘heavy presence’ of Holy Trinity players on the squad.

The current roster of the Bloodhound baseball team has 25 Fort Madison High School players and five players from Holy Trinity.

In the email, Slater said she sees some problems with this latest sharing agreement on the FM/SSC side of things. She wrote that she is in disagreement with the philosophy that it doesn’t matter which school the student-athletes attend regarding playing time.

The entirety of the June 6 email to the board reads as follows:

‘Good Morning. As you know the district engages in sharing agreements on an annual basis that are approved by you as a board. The latest sharing agreement (baseball) has caused problems with the heavy presence of HTC players and coaches to the loss of opportunities for Fort Madison athletes.

I wanted you to know that I have shared these concerns as the FM/CSD superintendent who is responsible for Fort Madison students’/not Holy Trinity students’ athletic programs with Dr. Tim Winder as board president. I am making you aware of my concerns and a meeting planned to address these philosophical concerns with HS administration, AD, and coach.

To date, the first large team sharing agreement for the district, which happens to be with baseball, has been implemented with the philosophy that it doesn’t matter where kids go to school…HTC or FM. I disagree. Due to this philosophy and implementation coupled with the numbers from HTC has damaged opportunities for FM students.

Our students don’t have the choice to attend a private school…a private school this district continues to programmatically support over and over without return. Our students entrust us to provide opportunities for them."

The hires for athletics has been to rebuild our FMHS programs through recruiting for FM coaches and FM players to build FMHS programs…not community programs.

Tim will be in attendance at this meeting to discuss philosophy since, as I stated, the board approves sharing agreements. You have hired me to advocate for FM staff and students. This is what I do each and every day. What is best for kids? In this case what is best for FMHS kids? I welcome any questions but please do not question my advocacy for FM kids.

See SLATER, page 8

Council to talk cruise lines again

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – As city officials court two Mississippi River Cruise lines to the riverfront, discussions at Tuesday’s City Council meeting will focus on a lease agreement and funding options.

The city is currently in talks with American Cruise Lines and Viking Cruise Lines to have ports of call at Fort Madison. American would require an investment of about $15,000 just to upgrade current docking facilities already in place. Viking would be a more substantial investment in the area of $1.2 million.

Fort Madison City Manager David Varley sent a more polished version of the docking and lease agreement with American to council members on Friday. Under the agreement, the city would focus on a lease agreement and funding options. Estimates for the work are between $30,000 and $40,000 with American willing to contribute $15,000 to the work.

Hall Towing has submitted a bid for slightly more than $20,000 for the work and city workers will be used for some of the work.

American would pay the city $1 per passenger as rent of the pier for the first year and then $1 per passenger or $5,000 per year, whichever is higher.

See COUNCIL, page 3

Pen City Current

Sunday, June 16, 2019 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 137

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News Index

For the Record………P.3
From the front………Ps.3,8
Local News………Ps.2,5,8
Lottery Numbers………P.3
Obituaries………P.2
-Randolph Joseph Eid
Opinion………Ps.2
Sports………Ps.4-5
Weather………P.8

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RANDALL JOSEPH EID

Randall Joseph Eid, 63, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 10:06 p.m. on Thurs-
day, June 13, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. He was born
on July 18, 1955 in Fort Madison, IA to Ervin L. & Elsie M. Reed Eid. He married
Rhonda Rae Morrison on June 25, 1982 at Bridal Cave in Camdenton,
MO. He was a line mechanic at Silgan Containers and was a die hard
St. Louis Cardinal & Minnesota Vikings fan. He enjoyed riding his
Harley Davidson and most of all, spending time with his grandchil-
dren.

Randy is survived by: his wife: Rhonda Eid of Fort Madison, IA;
1-son: Shawn (Dawn) Eid of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Bre-
anne (Chris) Carlsson of Burlington, IA & Kaitlyn (Cody) Stinson of
Nauvoo, IL; 7-granddaughters: Maria (Heather) Eid, Selena Eid, Sierra Eid, Shayna
Eid, Bella Eid, Addyson Fowler & Finley Carlsson; 3-grandsons: Dante Eid, Kaden
Eid-Stinson & Mason Stinson; 2-great grandchildren; his first wife & mother of his
son: Carla Booze-Howell of Fort Madison, IA; 2-brothers: Scott (Lisa) Eid & Rick
(Natalie) Eid both of Fort Madison, IA; 3-sisters: Robyn McWhortor, Rona Eid &
Shelly (Ronald) Stegall all of Fort Madison, IA; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts &
uncles and his beloved dog, Trixie. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Chris Pidgeon, 46, of Houghton, passed away at 8:47 P.M. Friday June 14,
2019 at his home. Arrangements are pending at the Schmitz Funeral Home in
West Point.

Pen City Current obituary policy
The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes
and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

Chris Pidgeon

The band Cinderella said
it best, ‘You don’t know what
you got, til it’s gone.’ Had to
slip that reference in work-
ning at a rock station, you
understand.

That being said, I have
recently, at the ripe age of
27, just come to realize how
important bridges truly are. The bridge that joins Hamilton and Keokuk is some-
thing I have always taken for granted. It’s too convenient for me to load up in the
car and head to Walmart, go to Aids, go to Sonic, Taco Bell… the list goes on. Not
to mention part of my job is in Keokuk.

But when the bridge closed due to the recent flooding last week, my only way to
Keokuk was a 45-minute detour through Fort Madison. Not that I don’t like Fort
Madison, but a trip that gets extended by 30-40 minutes due to flood waters is just
downright frustrating. Especially when the trip typically takes 10 minutes to begin
with. Luckily for me I had Dollar General to help get my family by in Hamilton, but
I desperately missed those quick trips across the bridge to go grab some food, grab
something from the office, or whatever it may be.

Living along the Mississippi River clearly has its pros and cons. We get the beauty
of the river, but still deal with its wrath at the same time. If you even attempt to walk
across the bridge in the afternoon, good luck not choking down at least a dozen
bugs. Not to mention the barges when dealing with the Fort Madison bridge.

But still, I would much rather have the majestic view of the Mighty Mississippi, the
bridge to get across it, and the opportunity to make quick trips to Keokuk on a whim
– maybe even walk across to get there. The point is, the bridge is now open and my
life is back to normal. It’s just crazy to me that it literally took a natural disaster for
me to realize just how important bridges are.

And a special thanks to all of the IDOT workers working around the clock to make
sure the flood waters were regulated so nobody tried to drive through and get swept
away. While living in the area we do have accustomed to the seasonal floods, it
still doesn’t make them any less dangerous. Not being able to cross the bridge threw
a wrench in thousands of people’s schedules, but at the end of the day, it was much
better having an option to go through Fort Madison instead of being completely
stuck or trying to drive through the flood and not making it out.

Ethan Lillard is the Pen City Current’s sports reporter covering Fort Madison High
School sports.
City would have to put Viking improvements up for a vote

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

starting in the second year. The rent will increase by a 25 cents per passenger every two years.

The agreement would make the dock non-exclusive, but American would have first priority rights to docking. The boat would tie to the existing caissons and pier and then lower a ramp on the front of the ship for passengers to disembark.

Other ships would be allowed to use the dock, but would have to schedule around the American stops. American plans to include at least 10 stops in this year's cruising season and then up to 30 stops in following years.

Varley also informed the council Friday that he would recommend telling Viking the city does not have the $1.2 million for the needed improvements and see if they have some alternative plans that might work.

"The city's budget does not have anywhere close to this much money for such an endeavor, so the city would probably have to issue a (General Obligation) bond, which would require a vote," Varley wrote in a memo sent Friday.

"There is no guarantee that this bond issue would pass, and then we would be in quite a predicament."

He wrote the council should decide if and how the city wants to spend $1.2 million to prepare for Viking before signing a lease with the company.

He also wrote the city has been working with Viking for more than a year and the parties are close to having an acceptable agreement in place. In other action, the council is scheduled to:

• vote on a second reading regarding the changes in sewer rates which will bump all sewer users bills about 13% over the next two years. City officials said the increase is to help offset costs associated with the new waste water treatment plant renovations and projected costs of separating the city's sanitary and storm sewer lines, per EPA mandates. That work has to be completed by 2027 or the city could face fines of up to $10,000 per day.

• vote on filing an application with the Iowa Department of Transportation's State Recreational Trails Program for construction of Connecting Fort Madison Phase 4, of the Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails (P.O.R.T) trail project.

• vote to purchase $8,662 worth of computer equipment for the Police Department.

• have possible discussion on the rehab of two city parking lots with State Revolving Loan funds that are a reimbursement of interest paid on money borrowed for the waste water treatment plant renovations.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales CutOff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:55 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:55 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>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
6/13/19 – 1:25 p.m. – Wilma Lee Reil, 79, of West Point was cited on failure to maintain control in the 1000 block of Ave. G. She was released upon citation.

6/14/19 – 1:41 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at the intersection of 10th St. and Ave. G.

6/14/19 – 4:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1700 block of Ave. H.

6/14/19 – 9:48 p.m. – Andrew Thomas Bowers, 28, of Fort Madison was cited on driving while suspended in the 1700 block of Ave. H. He was released upon citation.

6/14/19 – 1:31 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Ave. H.

First. Fresh. Local.
Hounds get to Nike’s Brent in fifth for win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Notre Dame’s Mitchell Brent came into Saturday’s game with Fort Madison sporting a perfect 3-0 record and a 0.00 earned run average, but the Bloodhounds smeared his perfection with a 5-4 win to highlight boys baseball action.

A four-run 5th inning rally was the key to come-from-behind Bloodhound win as Fort Madison worked Brent’s pitch count in the early innings and then chased him from the game in the 5th.

“We knew we had to work the counts and have a plan at the plate and get his pitch count up. We did a good job of that the first few innings,” head coach Ron Walker said.

The Bloodhounds were trailing 4-0 in the bottom of the third and it looked like Brent had things under control, but Jordyn Gerdes took a ball off the uniform with two outs and nobody on. He swiped second and then advanced to third on a throwing error. He would score a couple pitches later on wild pitch from Brent.

“Gerdes worked that count again and then wore the pitch and that seemed to rattle Brent a little,” Walker said. “Then he scored on the wild pitch and I think that may have unsettled him.”

Brent fanned Brandon Reichelt on four pitches in the next at bat to prevent any further damage. Gerdes, who was the Hound on the mound to start the game, settled in after giving up a run in the first sparked by a lead-off triple, and three more runs in the top of the fourth. He would hit a batter and walk a batter in the fifth, but picked them both off on the bases for a potential inning for Notre Dame.

Jason Thurman came in on relief and shut down the Nikes causing three straight ground outs in the sixth inning and three straight fly outs in the seventh to end the game. The Hounds big inning came with back-to-back walks to start the fifth inning from Tate Johnson and Jace Burgher. Johnson would advance to second and third off a couple wild pitches by Brent.

Brent would fan Lane- des Williams for the first out. Burgher would then advance to second on a passed ball and Jason Thurman would draw a full-count walk to load the bases for senior Jordyn Gerdes who laced a single to center scoring Johnson and Burgher and moving Thurman to second, cutting the lead to 4-3.

Brandon Reichelt then touched Brent’s first pitch for another single to left center to load the bases as Thurman was held up at third. Vasin Thurman would then ground out to deep short allowing Jason Thurman to tie the game at 4 and moving Gerdes to third with two outs.

Brent would then skip another pitch passed the catcher for a wild pitch that amounted to allowing the game winning run in Gerdes. Reed Fehseke would walk and steal second to keep the inning going, but Dayne Cordray would go down swinging on a 10-pitch at bat to end the fifth.

Walker said Johnson’s at bat to lead off the fifth was the catalyst for the inning. “Tate Johnson had a stellar at-bat opening the fifth taking nine pitches and that got contagious and the guys started working hard at the plate,” Walker said. “And then Dayne had a 10 pitch at bat before going down swinging and that was impressive watching him battle there.”

Notre Dame head coach Chris Chiprez had seen his ace throw enough and brought in Jerron Conner for the sixth inning. “It’s a huge win. Coach Chiprez does a great job in his first year with the team,” Walker said. “I heard the kids talking and saying he’d never beat Notre Dame. And here we are again, they were down 4-0 and found a way to come back and win. “I couldn’t be happier with this group of kids and they believe in themselves. When we first started practicing this year, after about an hour they would lose focus and you could see it was too much. Then the next thing I knew they wanted to practice at 5:30 in the morning.”

He said the winning is starting to show in the stands too.

“The crowd was amazing tonight. I couldn’t be anymore thrilled for the support were getting from the fans,” he said.

The Hounds move back over .500 and stand at 8-7 on the year. They travel to Mt. Pleasant on Monday for a double header. Reichelt is leading Fort Madison at the plate hitting .406 on the year despite missing some games last week due to illness. Fehseke is hitting .349 and Gerdes is at .341 on the year.

Reichelt also leads the team with 17 RBI. Fehseke and Cordray each have a dozen.

From the mound, Cordray and Jason Thurman are both are 2-1 on the year. Cordray has a stingy 0.98 ERA to lead Fort Madison hurlers, Jason Thurman is right behind at 1.08 and freshman Landes Williams who’s 1-1 on the year has a 1.31 ERA.
**Sports/Local news**

**HTC jayvee stacking up wins**

FORT MADISON – The Holy Trinity girls junior varsity squad downed Columbus Junction 5-3 Thursday to improve to 10-1 on the year.

Mary Hellige got the win going seven innings striking out eight batters. Hellige also had a single, double, RBI, and run scored. Anna Sobczak had three hits with a double, RBI and run scored. Halie Cain had two hits, a steal and a run scored. Kelli Meierotto had a single with 2 RBI and a run scored. Hannah Torgler had a double, and Brooke Mueller had a single and run scored.

In the junior high contest, the Crusader downed Columbus Junction 11-7 and they now stand at 9-4 on the year.

Cain got the win going two innings allowing four runs. Rachel Menke came in for the save going three innings allowing three runs with three strikeouts. Mueller had a hit.

**Pothitakis girls get state soccer awards**

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic’s Claire Pothitakis put a nice cap on her 2019 soccer season with a couple of post season honors.

Pothitakis, just a sophomore for the Crusaders, was selected first team all district in the Class 1A Southeast district by the Iowa Girls Coaches Association. She was also named 2nd team all state in Class 1A.

Pothitakis was fifth in the state in Class 1A scoring with 70 points on the year, coming from 31 goals (2 points each) and eight assists (1 point each).

According to the Iowa high school sports database QuikStats, Pothitakis had a 72% shot efficiency with 43 shots on goal and converting 31. Unity Christians’ Jori Bronner converted a state-best 42 goals and had 121 shots on goal.

Elyse Pothitakis, a senior on this year’s squad was named to the state’s All-Academic team for the soccer season.

The Crusaders finished the season 12-6 and were eliminated in the district semifinals by Pella Christian 1-0.

**Police remind residents of fireworks laws**

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – As everyone knows the laws regarding the sale and use of fireworks in Iowa changed last year. As we are in the middle of the July 4th sales and use period and we have retailers actively selling fireworks in Fort Madison, here are a few reminders about the sale and use of fireworks.

Licensed retailers and community groups are allowed to sell fireworks out of permanent structures to adults between June 1st and July 8th of each year. Sales can be made from temporary structures, such as tents, from June 13th through July 8th of each year.

Sales can be made from temporary structures, such as tents, from June 13th through July 8th of each year. Fireworks can also be set off for public events throughout the year by special permission granted by the Fire Chief. Examples of the events would be Rodeo and Riverfest or other such events. However, no other fireworks are permitted within city limits.

Fireworks that are classified as Novelties, such as handheld sparklers, snakes, smoke bombs and party poppers are allowed.

Complaints of fireworks will be investigated and may lead to a summons to court and confiscation of fireworks.

The Chief of Police or designee is charged with the duty of enforcing these provisions. The penalty of violation of this chapter shall include confiscation or destruction of any prohibited fireworks and in addition fines up to and including $500 per violation or in amounts not to exceed those allowed for a municipal infraction. The City, Police Department or Fire Department is authorized to enforce said violation as a municipal infraction as set forth in this code of ordinance.

**Clean Home. Clean Planet.**

Do your part during this year’s Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you’re choosing products safe for our planet.

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

**This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!**

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Holy Trinity Catholic is seeking applicants for a Business Manager position. Accounting or Business degree is required.
Applicant will be responsible for budgeting duties, payroll, accounts payable/ receivable, tuition assistance, and employee benefit administration.
Interested applicants, please send a cover letter and resume to: Judi Dinwiddie at judi.dinwiddie@holycatholic-schools.org.

FULL-TIME DENTAL ASSISTANT
Mark C. Potthiakas Family Dentistry currently has a position available for a Full-Time Dental Assistant. Complete an application or mail your resume to 1223 S. Gear Avenue, Eastman Plaza, Suite 312, West Burlington, IA 52655. EOE.

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Pen City Current - Sunday, June 16, 2019 - 7
Next downtown markets
are July 11, Aug. 15

MARKET - Continued from Page 1

went from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Some businesses from the downtown area including The Artisans, the Fort Madison Area Arts Association, and Swed Coffee Co. had spots in the market, while the smells of Amish baked goods, burgers, brats, and funnel cake filled the air.

Whiskey Friends 2 played music on the sidewalk starting at 5 and there were three food trucks on the premises serving American and Mexican fares.

“I’m loving it. I’m missing six vendors because things happen, but it’s really good and people are loving it. I’m really happy how it turned out. We weren’t able to have the beer down here this month,” she said.

There will be two more markets – one each on the second Thursday in July and August. The next event will be on July 11th and the Aug. 15th Market will be the final one for the summer. Farell said the vendors will change from month to month as people get their weekend schedules in line.

RSVP needs volunteers for Sports Complex

By PCC Staff

Fort Madison – RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is looking for volunteers to fill several volunteer positions at Baxter Sports Complex. The open positions are the following: 

- Hawker (runs golf cart and sells beverages),
- Gate Taker (takes money at gate), and Grounds crew (helps to maintain grounds of complex)
- If you are interested in learning more about these volunteer positions, please call 319-372-8043 and ask for Tammy.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

School board president says programs are working

SLATER - Continued from Page 1

not reply all as we have discussed how that can be construed as having a meeting. This is simply an update as to status of this board action item.

When contacted this week for clarification on the concerns, Slater didn’t return phone requests, but responded with several text messages on Thursday and Friday.

On Friday, via text Slater wrote there are no guidelines in the sharing agreement and the meeting was a “mid-season check since agreement was brand new is all.”

“Ended up not needing meeting,” she wrote.

Wondra said Wednesday the meeting was canceled because Slater was not feeling well and the meeting has not been rescheduled.

“There was going to be a meeting. Erin wanted to get clear on the philosophy of the program and how it’s working,” Wondra said. “That would have been me, her, Greg Smith, and Jeremy Swink. We were gonna sit down and see how it’s progressing. Is it working out? Is it kids being hurt by the program or helping the program,” Wondra said.

He said Smith, as the high school principal, is Swink’s immediate supervisor and the meeting with Swink, the school’s activities director, along with Wondra, Slater, and Smith would have constituted more of a roundtable discussion of the program.

Wondra said he believes the program, and the other shared programs, are functioning well. The schools currently share football, track, girls’ cross country, wrestling, tennis, and baseball. Fort Madison also had a shared swimming program with Keokuk, but that could be on hold due to cost increases from the Keokuk School District for the program.

Central Lee and Holy Trinity have a sharing agreement with Burlington for swimming.

“I think the programs are all working well and the kids are doing well. Most likely neither school would have had a tennis team this year. They got great experience that they might not have had otherwise,” he said.

The tennis team had three athletes compete in the state tennis tournament in May and all three attend Holy Trinity Catholic.

Wondra said the recent success of the baseball program under the shared agreement will open opportunities for some players. “The baseball team is having a chance for kids to be seen by college coaches because of a program that’s now at .500,”

Wondra said it was also important the athletes be referred to as Fort Madison athletes.

Several board members contacted about the meeting declined to comment on the meeting or the status of the shared programs.

“The first thing I want to to get clear is they are Fort Madison kids. We are one team and we need to come together. We need to stop identifying some as Holy Trinity kids, they are all Bloodhounds,” he said.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 16 June
Light Rain
High– 80.4º F | Low – 63.5º F

MON 17 June
Overcast
High– 72.3º F | Low – 62.1º F

TUE 18 June
Overcast
High– 73.0º F | Low – 61.7º F

WED 19 June
• Rain
High– 70.3º F | Low – 66.0º F

THU 20 June
Light Rain
High– 69.0º F | Low – 62.9º F

From the Front/Weather

OpenWeatherMap