Reid, Chesnut take to sky to help Special Olympic athletes

*Jump to be held Oct. 12 beginning at 4 p.m.*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**PCC EDITOR**

FORT MADISON – Bobby Reid is taking a leap for local Special Olympics kids.

Reid, and local pilot Bob Chesnut, both have ties to Special Olympics and have partnered with the Fort Madison Eagles Club in an exciting, somewhat outside-the-box fundraiser for athletes.

Reid will be jumping out of an airplane on Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. in a “Dive for Dollars” and will land in the field just west of the Cobblestone Inn & Suites at 4901 Avenue O.

The field will be littered with large, numbered, carpet squares, and the person with the number Reid lands on will win $500 if in attendance, and $250 if not present.

Local skydiving expert Bobby Reid comes in for a landing at the Tri-State Rodeo earlier this month. Reid and pilot Bob Chesnut will be donating a jump on Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. to a fundraiser for area Special Olympics athletes. Ticket are being sold throughout the county and are $10. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC.

The jump will be followed by a dinner at the Eagles featuring a dinner beginning at 5 p.m. featuring a buffet choice of country fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans, or a big hand-breaded tenderloin and potato salad, each $8.

All proceeds from the jump will go toward local Special Olympics athletes. The Eagles will also split the proceeds from the dinner.

Tickets are available at the Eagles’ Club, Tina’s Tap, Turbo Wash West end, Palm Bowl in West Point and J.J. Nichting in Pilot Grove and at all Fort Madison home football games prior to the jump. Tickets are $10 each and there are 750 available for the jump. There will also be a raffle at the Eagles’ club.

Brad Benge, the coordinator for area Special Olympics efforts said the idea is so cool that the state CEO of Special Olympics is trying to get to the drop.

See FUNDS, page 2.

Bobby Reid, a regular in the skies over Fort Madison, will be skydiving in a “Dive for Dollars” fundraiser for area Special Olympic athletes on Oct. 12, 2019 at 4 p.m.

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Auditor sends out voter polling update

LEE COUNTY – Some Lee County Voters will be receiving a letter with updated polling location information ahead of the first combined City/School Election scheduled for November 2, 2019. Included with the informational letter will be an absentee request if you wish to receive a ballot by mail. Letters will be mailed sometime next week.

All Lee County voters will be voting at their General Election polling location and will continue to vote at the same location for City/School and Primary Elections also.

Please note the following polling locations have been changed since the last School Election:

- Fort Madison Ward 1 polling location has changed to City Hall
- Fort Madison Ward 2 polling location has changed to McAleer Hall
- Fort Madison Ward 4 A & B has changed to Roling Hall
- Fort Madison Ward 5 has changed to Hillview Village

Keokuk Ward 1 has changed to the South Lee Court-house

Keokuk Ward 4 has changed to the Evangelical Free Church

Keokuk Ward 6 has changed to the First Christian Church

Des Moines Township Keokuk School District has changed to Central Lee High School

Van Buren Township Van Buren School District has changed to Central Lee High School

Jackson Township has changed to the Jackson Town-ship Fire Station

Jefferson Township Central Lee School District and Fort Madison School District has changed to the Lee County Conservation Center

The City of Montrose, Montrose Township Central Lee School District and Montrose Township Keokuk School District will all vote at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose.

West Point Township Central Lee School District has changed to the West Point Library

Cedar Township Central Lee School District, Fort Madison School District, Van Buren County School District and Mt Pleasant School District will vote at the Donnellson Community Room

The Cities of Donnellson, Franklin, Houghton and St Paul will all vote at the Donnellson Community Room

Franklin Township Central Lee School District and Fort Madison School District will vote at the Donnellson Community Room

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**Sports: Hellige, Barnes lead local boys at Timm Lamb X-Country meet.**

See page 5.
No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

Great River Regional Waste Authority

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

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“He thinks this is probably one of the coolest things and don’t be surprised if this isn’t pirated in the Des Moines area,” Benge said.

“That’s fine. That’s just fine,” Reid said. He donates the jump and Chesnut donates the airplane ride.

The numbers and who has each number will be posted on a spreadsheet on the wall at Eagles prior to the jump.

Reid said he his mother Gladys Reid was involved with the Partridge Workshop in Montrose in the 60s and she had a place in her heart for people with special needs.

“Not only would she kick my butt if I didn’t get involved with it, she just bred into me it’s the right thing to do,” Reid said.

Chesnut said his son Robbie is a special needs son at Hope Haven and his family likes to contribute to those efforts.

“We do some things for PAWs and other deals, but that’s my connection to Special Olympics and handicap efforts in general,” Chesnut said.

Seated, Bobby Reid, left, and Bob Chesnut, right have agreed to do a Dive for Dollars for local Special Olympics athletes on Oct. 12 at the Fort Madison Eagles Club at 4 p.m.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Farmers get extra time to enroll in Dairy Margin Coverage

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today extended the deadline to September 27 for dairy producers to enroll in the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program for 2019. The deadline had been September 20.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and available through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), the program offers reasonably priced protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

“More than 21,200 dairy operations have already signed up for DMC, but we’re providing an additional week to help ensure interested producers have time to come into the office,” said Bill Northey, USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

With smaller margins and increased feed costs, DMC has resulted in almost $230 million in payments disbursed. I know that some farmers may still be cautious given their experiences with former dairy support programs, but producers who have not signed up yet should come into a local office to learn how much money the program can put into their pockets.”

Almost half of the producers who have signed up so far are taking advantage of the 25 percent premium discount by locking in for five years of margin protection coverage. FSA has launched a new web visualization of the DMC data, which is available here. Margin payments have triggered for each month from January through July. Dairy producers who elect higher coverage levels could be eligible for payments for all seven months. Under certain levels, the amount paid to dairy farmers will exceed the cost of the premium.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll for 2019 with an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) and elects the $9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production will pay $4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive $15,437.50 in DMC payments for all margin payments announced to date. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the $9.50/cwt. level for any remaining months of 2019.

“My message to those dairy producers who are hurting out there: Don’t leave this kind of financial assistance on the table,” said Northey, who announced the deadline extension today as part of a hearing in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture. "Producers across the country have told us that DMC is a great risk management tool that works well, and it can work for you, too.”

More Information
On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation’s farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation.

For more information, visit farmers.gov/DMC webpage or contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Burlington Grayhounds fired off a lot of canons in 2018 and shut out the Bloodhounds 31-0 at Bracewell Stadium But this year, the Grayhounds (1-2) won't have the services of Taven Harris, who torched FMHS for 245 yards and a couple scores in 2018.

The Grayhounds have found winning difficult with their first win coming last week against Clinton (0-3) 33-26 on the road. Their first two losses came by almost identical scores with a 21-47 loss to Ottumwa (1-2), and a 20-47 loss to Keokuk (3-0).

Burlington has a young quarterback in sophomore Brock Dengler. Dengler has a 46% completion rate with a couple of picks, but has thrown for six touchdowns in the three games. Senior KT Thompson is Dengler's favorite target with three touchdown catches and a 29.5 yard per catch average.

The other touchdowns have gone to three different receivers, all sophomores. Out of the backfield, Thompson and Bryant Williams, another sophomore, are splitting hand-offs. Williams has three scores and is averaging 3.2 yards per carry, while Thompson has another score on the ground and is running at 5.3 yards per attempt.

The Grayhounds defense is bit more experienced. Of the 17 that have tackles 16 are either a juniors or seniors led by senior Gage Webster who has 12 tackles on the year, but 66% of his grabs are for a loss including two sacks.

Fort Madison is 2-1 on the year with early season wins over Central Lee and West Burlington/Notre Dame, but Clear Creek-Amana pulled away in the second half to send the Bloodhounds to their first loss of the year 35-13.

In 2018, the Clippers hung a 38-0 loss on Fort Madison, but Friday was a bit different with the Bloodhounds staying with CC-A for all of the first half and closing to one point 13-14 on a Will Larson keeper to the left.

Larson is Fort Madison's second leading rusher with 69 yards on the year and a couple of touchdowns. Senior Diego Lozano, who's been dinged up the last couple games has four touchdowns and 265 yards on the ground, but averages over seven yards a touch.

Larson has one touchdown toss on the year and is completing right at 50% of his passes with a pick.

Seniors Romeo Maestro and Quentin Schneider lead the Hounds on defense with a combined 40 tackles from their rush-end spots, nine tackles for losses and three sacks. Lozano also has three sacks for Fort Madison.

Doherty said the Hounds just ran out of gas midway through the 3rd period.

“The offense is set up to work – you just have to execute. Catch the ball, not fumble the football, staying disciplined, no penalties. That’s what we’re looking forward to week to week,” Doherty said.

He said last week the offense was clicking and the previous two weeks that was a struggle.

“The offense is set up to work – you just have to execute. Catch the ball, not fumble the football, staying disciplined, no penalties. That’s what we’re looking forward to week to week,” Doherty said.

He said the Hound defense was up to the task in the first two weeks, but Doherty said last week was a test.

“They faced some adversity last week and got rattled a bit, but they fought the entire time which was awesome to see. We’re excited to see how these boys respond to that.”

Kick off is at 7 p.m. at Richmond Stadium/Youel Field.
Hellige PR helps carry Crusaders

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity’s Matt Hellige keeps building his resume for a return trip to the state Cross Country meet in Fort Dodge this fall. Hellige took second in the Class B run with a time of 16:49.5, and had the fastest time of Iowa schools at the Tim Lamb Cross Country Invitational Thursday night at the Fort Madison Middle School. The race was moved to the middle school in 2018 after heavy rains caused the race, normally held at Rodeo Park just north of town, to be moved out to the junior high property.

The Crusaders finished 6th overall as a team. Hellige’s time was third fastest among both classes. He said he liked running at the school and said it reminded him a little of Kenney Park in Fort Dodge where the state meet is held.

“I kind of like this one for spectators. You can pretty much see all of the course at one time. But it’s similar to Fort Dodge so it’s good practice for state,” Hellige’s 16:49.5 was a personal best for him.

“That’s really great to break 17 minutes. That’s a goal of mine so I’m happy to get that in the middle of the season. This is where I want to be, but I want to keep improving,” Hellige said.

Fort Madison High School captured third place in the Class A, large school run. Fort Madison had four of the top 20 runners with Anthony Barnes leading the way with a 12th place finish at 18:17.4. Barnes had one of the strongest sprints to the finish of any of the runners, but said staying closer to the front during the run might hurt his late run speed.

“I normally hold almost enough at the end to get by some of the runners,” Barnes said.

“I think I did pretty good. I did sprint past some people at the end. I try to stay with them at the beginning, but I slipped at the start today. If I can stay with that group, I do, but if not I grab the next group because you really don’t want to run by yourself.”

Will Gager was right behind in 14th place with a time of 18:20.2, and the final three scoring runners were at 17th, 19th, and 21st with Hayden Wolf, Austin Miller, and Tate Settles rounding out the scoring finishes for Fort Madison.

For the Crusaders, Jacob Mohrfield took 30th in Class B with a time of 20:39.2 and then Mitchell and Jacob Pothitakis ran together finishing 43rd and 44th overall with times of 21:31.1 and 21:33.7, respectively. Chandler Rung rounded out the scoring for the Crusaders with a 47th place 21:45.5.

In the girls run, Anna Kester took 8th place overall with a time of 22:21.5. Abby Ryon won the meet in 18:51.5. Kester said she runs faster times at the middle school and had her best time ever.

“I don’t know….I took a nap before I ran,” she laughed.

“I run faster times here. I think it’s the hills. I just want to run up the hills very fast.”

Maddy McVey said she knocked two minutes off her time last year at the middle school with her 22:28.2.

“I’ve been battling an injury,” McVey said.

For the girls, Fort Madison’s Will Gager (223) tried to catch up to Washington’s Elijah Morris (502) at Thursday’s boys run in the Tim Lamb Invite. Below Maddy McVey (211) runs toward the front of the pack in the girls 5K.

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Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC
PEN CITY CURRENT
Business Directory

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- Transmission Repair
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iron deficiency, but I think I’m past that now and I had a good run,” McVey said.

She said being able to see most of the course running, helps motivate her to stay and ahead and try to catch up to front runners.

“Anna was a head of me, but we both had our best time of the year today.”

Fort Madison got a 19th overall finish from Mylah Blanchard. Mar-quel Warner and Lauren Otte wrapped up the Fort Madison scoring with a 26th and a 28th place finish.

The race was changed to the Timm Lamb Invitational about a dozen years ago.

“The kids hate the course. They think it’s too tough and I’m fine with that,” Lamb said.

“From a runner’s perspective, Rodeo would be fun to run because of the kind of course it is. But you get people yelling and encouraging you out here.”

He said at rodeo, the invite involved more runs because of the smaller take off areas and the groups had to be broken up. But he said spectators can see the race better at the middle school because it isn’t a trail run in the trees.

In the junior high runs, Fort Madison’s Carson Rashid ran the two-mile race in 11:43.3, which was best on the day. John Cantrill, Aiden Mitchell, and Leif Boeding all had top 10 finishes for the Little Hounds.

In the girls junior high run, FMMS took 1st overall behind the finish of Paetyn Wiegand who took sixth overall with a time of 13:53.8. Delaney Seay took 11th with a time of 14:12.9 followed by Hailey Kemper with a time of 15:25.5.

Holy Trinity’s Matt Hellige (252) comes out of the first turn at Thursday’s cross country meet at FMMS just ahead of eventual winner Nathan Frazee (62) of Clark County. Frazee went on to win the overall meet.

Retired Fort Madison Track Coach Timm Lamb works the race at the Timm Lamb Invitational Thursday night in Fort Madison. Below, from left to right, Austin Miller, Will Gager, and Ben Thielee run in a pack in the last 1/2 mile of the race.