

Large support

Hawkeye fans turn out in Seattle **SPORTS, B1**



Bathroom bill

QC schools working to keep students safe

IOWA, A3

Monday, March 27, 2023

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

muscatinejournal.com

County prepares for storm season

DAVID HOTLE
david.hotle@muscatinejournal.com

The Muscatine County Joint Communications Center (MUS-COM) will start testing outdoor sirens on Monday, April 3.

According to a news release from the city of Muscatine, Muscatine County will also participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill to be held in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week. The Drill will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The sirens will also be activated in conjunction with this drill. The sirens

are tested at 11 a.m. on the first Monday of every non-freezing month. However, the sirens will not be tested if there is severe weather forecasted for the testing day. Sirens are designed to alert citizens who are outdoors of an imminent hazard and prompt them to go indoors and seek further information.

“The statewide drill gives businesses, schools, day cares and other facilities the chance to practice their severe weather procedures as we move into storm season,” Chris Jasper,

director of Muscatine County Emergency Management/911, said. “I encourage all facilities in the county to participate in the drill.”

According to information from the National Weather Service, most fatalities during tornadoes or severe thunderstorms occur because of falling trees or large branches. 70 mph wind is the typical threshold at which large branches and small trees break. Hail also begins to break windows when it reaches or exceeds golf ball size.

Additionally, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), NWS, and Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) have joined together to promote Severe Weather Awareness Week on March 27-31.

“Iowa is no stranger to severe weather,” HSEMD Director John Benson said. “We frequently see tornadoes, flooding, straight-line winds and even derechos. So take the time now to prepare yourself and your family so you know what to do if severe

weather is headed your way.”

Benson urges Iowans to take three simple steps to be better prepared: Be aware of weather hazards by signing up for emergency notifications through Alert Iowa at alert.iowa.gov or use a NOAA Weather Radio or other type of alerting tool; Make an emergency plan with your family. Think about where to go and what actions are needed to take to stay safe if impacted by severe weather. Build an emergency kit with items needed in the event of an evacuation.



DAVID HOTLE

SNOWMAN

After a falling of snow early Saturday, many people in Muscatine busied themselves with winter activities despite the fact spring officially began the previous week. The National Weather Service reports no new snow is expected for at least the next week. Temperatures for the coming week are going to be in the high 40s until the later half in which they will rise into the 50s.

Tutoring an issue nationwide

Pandemic created need for students to catch up on studies

PATRICK WALL AND AMELIA PAK-HARVEY
Chalkbeat

COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

David Daniel knows his son needs help.

The 8-year-old spent first grade in remote learning and several weeks of second grade in quarantine. The best way to catch him up, research suggests, is to tutor him several times a week during school.

But his Indianapolis school offers Saturday or after-school tutoring — programs that don't work for Daniel, a single father. The upshot is his son, now in third grade, isn't getting the tutoring he needs.

“I want him to have the help,” Daniel said. Without it, “next year is going to be really hard on him.”

As America's schools confront dramatic learning setbacks caused by the pandemic, experts have held up intensive tutoring as the single best antidote. Yet even as schools wield billions of dollars in federal COVID relief, a small fraction of students have received school tutoring, according to a survey of the nation's largest districts by the nonprofit news organization Chalkbeat and The Associated Press.

In eight of 12 school systems that provided data, less than 10% of students received any type of district tutoring this fall. To compare, in a federal survey, school officials said half of all U.S. students started this school year behind grade level in at least one subject.

A new tutoring corps in Chicago has served about 3% of students, officials said. The figure was less than 1% in three districts: Georgia's Gwinnett County, Florida's Miami-Dade County and Philadelphia, where the district reported only about 800 students were tutored. In those three systems alone, there were more than 600,000 students who spent no time in a district tutoring program this fall.

The low tutoring figures point to several problems. Some parents said they didn't know tutoring was available or didn't think their children needed it. Some school systems have struggled to hire tutors. Other school systems said the small tutoring programs were intentional, part of an effort to focus on students with the greatest needs.

Whatever the reason, the impact is clear: At a crucial time for students' recovery, millions of children have not received the academic equivalent of powerful medication.

“It works, it's effective, it gets students to improve in their learning and catch up,” said Amie

Please see **TUTORING**, Page A2

FUTURE INVESTMENT

Sustainability investment in Buffalo

\$30M for storage dome, \$32M to reduce its carbon footprint

GRETCHEN TESKE
gteske@qctimes.com

Continental Cement has been doing business in Buffalo for eight years but now is making investments totaling more than \$60 million.

Company officials last week cut the ribbon on a \$30 million cement storage dome that will hold mate-

rials during the winter. It is the largest of its kind in North America.

The company is investing another \$32 million into improvements on its recycling and sustainability efforts, Continental CEO David Loomes said.

Its goal is two-fold: Reduce its carbon footprint and make a name for itself as a champion of sustainability.

Summit Materials umbrella

Continental Cement started in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1903, then known as Atlas Portland

Cement. Throughout the years, its cement was used in a number of high-profile projects, including the Empire State Building and the Panama Canal, according to its website.

In 1986, the company began using supplemental waste to power its kilns. In 2005, this resulted in Green America Recycling LLC. In 2010, the company was purchased by Summit Materials, a Denver-based building material company.

Please see **BUFFALO**, Page A2



NIKOS FRAZIER

A look at the Continental Cement Davenport Plant on Monday in Buffalo. The company has committed to investing \$62 million in a new storage dome and in Green America Energy LLC, the sustainability arm of the operation.

GET THE
FULL BENEFITS
OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Subscribers: Activate your digital account to get updated stories, photo galleries, videos, the E-edition and hundreds of additional puzzles, games and comics. Visit muscatinejournal.com/activate today.

Weather
Mostly cloudy, chilly
High 49 • Low 29
FORECAST • B6

Inside

COMICS	B5	SPORTS	B1
CROSSWORD	B5	WEATHER	B6
IOWA	A3	TV GRID	B4

