

dubuque & tri-state

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Grants to aid local apprenticeship opportunities

Senior and Hempstead high schools in Dubuque will receive \$10,000 each from Iowa Workforce Development.

BY ALLIE HINGA
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The Dubuque Community School District has received \$20,000 as part of an effort to grow registered apprenticeship programs across Iowa.

Dubuque Senior and Hempstead high schools each will receive \$10,000 grants from Iowa Workforce Development to support pre-apprenticeship opportunities in the district.

"I think it's exciting to be able to partner the work world with our students," said Mark Burns,

the district's director of secondary education. The grants will support programs in construction and in metals and welding, according to a press release from the district.

"Ultimately, the goal is that we will get students to participate in an apprenticeship out of high school for those students who are interested in that sort of work," said David Moeller, the district's career technical education curriculum coordinator.

District officials are working with the Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council to develop programming using grant funds.

Through the new programming, the council will bring in trainers from apprenticeship training centers to work side-by-side with students during the school year, said Kelly Cooper, executive director of the organization.



Mark Burns

Cooper said the organization hopes those opportunities will help students feel more comfortable applying for apprenticeship programs and entering relevant career fields.

"We're trying to get some of those experts in to work with the teachers and the students during the day," she said.

The district also will receive curriculum development support through the training centers so school employees can better serve students interested in those career areas, Moeller said.

Grant funds also will be used to improve equipment and purchase materials so school offerings better align with workforce needs, Moeller said.

"We believe that real-world learning, having the application of why this is important, going out and doing an internship, going out

and getting an apprenticeship ... it really brings meaning to why school is important," Moeller said.

The West Delaware County Community School District also received \$15,000 for a high school registered apprenticeship program, according to a press release from Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' office. She visited that high school last week to announce the launch of the program.

State officials see apprenticeships as a key way to meet their goal of having 70 percent of the workforce have post-high school education or training by 2025.

The Dubuque district also hopes that by 2023, 100 percent of graduates will have had a college or career experience while in school.

"Helping them experience the work world a little bit within the academic world is going to help them determine their future a little bit more easily," Burns said.

Soldier's surprise return provides touching moment at Ed-Co game

Staff Sgt. Johnny Walz says 'everything worked out perfectly' prior to the reunion, which his children did not know would occur.

BY MIKE PUTZ
 Manchester Press

EDGEWOOD, Iowa — When Zoe Walz was getting ready to go to Friday night's Edgewood-Colesburg football game, she watched a few YouTube videos of soldiers returning home and surprising their families.

"It was weird, but I guess I wanted to see people coming home to their families," explained the Ed-Co sixth-grader.

Little did she know that she and her family would be in a video themselves later that night when Staff Sgt. Johnny Walz returned to surprise his family at the end of the football game between Ed-Co and North Linn. Walz, a member of the Iowa National Guard, had been deployed at various locations in the Middle East for the past year.

The surprise reunion took place at the end of a check presentation that Zoe made to Retrieving Freedom, a non-profit organization in Waverly, dedicated to training service dogs to help people. Among those helped by the service dogs are military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

During her father's deployment, Zoe joined the R.E.D. Friday Project, a national campaign that stands for Remember Every Deployment. She chose the R.E.D. project for her 4-H project and as a way to support her father as well as other families affected by military deployments.

At the end of the game Friday, she presented representatives of Retrieving Freedom with a check for \$10,000 from proceeds of her shirt cam-



DOUG HUMMEL • Manchester Press

Staff Sgt. Johnny Walz's family hugs him after he surprised his children when he showed up at the Edgewood-Colesburg High School football game Friday night in Edgewood, Iowa.

paign. The campaign raised more than \$12,000, with the additional money going to her father and his unit stationed overseas.

With her on the field for the presentation was her mother, Alicia, her sisters, Miley and Hallie, and her brother, Wyatt. While Alicia knew her husband was nearby, the children did not.

Johnny Walz, stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, telephoned his wife the day before the game to alert her that he would be coming home.

He left Texas on Friday af-

ternoon and landed in Cedar Rapids at 7:30 p.m., where his father-in-law, JD Degenford, picked him up.

"We stopped at the fire station in Edgewood so I could change into my uniform," Johnny said. "Then, I hid behind the visitors' bleachers until the check presentation."

"You always see on YouTube when a soldier surprises his loved ones, but you never think you will have the opportunity to do it. Everything worked out perfectly."

Videos show his children turning around to see him,

and his family quickly envelops him in hugs.

Alicia said the R.E.D. project helped the family during her husband's year overseas.

"It helped us focus on the greater good of what Johnny was doing and what our role was at home as a family to support him and the people he was with," she said. "It also helped keep awareness in the community that there are families right here that are affected by deployment. Not just ours, but several other kids that are also going through the same thing."

news in brief

Fire official: Electrical fire on passing train forces closure of Manchester road

MANCHESTER, Iowa — An electrical fire on a passing train shut down a Manchester roadway for multiple hours Wednesday afternoon, according to authorities.

Mike Ryan, Manchester's fire chief, said the department was called to the 205th Avenue railroad crossing at 12:45 p.m. to investigate an electrical fire on a Canadian National train engine.

Ryan said an electrical fire started in a switch box on the No. 2 engine, which is the second engine from the front. A railroad official attempted to douse the fire himself, but ultimately had to dial 911.

Fire crews were able to extinguish the fire. No one was injured.

Bailey Drive in Manchester was closed down for more than two hours while emergency personnel worked on the scene, Ryan said.

The train, which included more than 140 railcars, eventually was able to move east out of town, though the extent of the damage to the engine wasn't clear, he said.

Authorities identify drivers in crash that temporarily closed U.S. 20 near Galena

GALENA, Ill. — Authorities on Wednesday identified the drivers of two semi-tractor trailers that collided on U.S. 20 east of Galena on Tuesday, shutting down the highway for several hours.

Rory A. Bardell, 59, of Pearl City, and Jeremy L. Harweck, 37, of Roscoe, suffered minor injuries in the crash, according to the Illinois State Police.

The crash occurred at about 11:05 a.m. Tuesday on U.S. 20 by West Mount Hope Road. Bardell was driving west when he lost control of his vehicle, which jack-knifed. Harweck was driving eastbound and was unable to avoid hitting Bardell's semi.

The press release issued Wednesday only includes information on the two drivers and their injuries. A release from the agency on Tuesday night had said three people were injured in the wreck.

An official with the Illinois State Police Pecatonica office did not respond to a request for clarification Wednesday afternoon.

Police said the crash remains under investigation and no citations have been issued.

Police: Dubuque teenager hit by vehicle suffered injuries that are not life-threatening

Police said that a Dubuque teenager suffered non-life-threatening injuries when she was hit by a vehicle on Tuesday.

Dubuqueshay Collins, 16, was taken to Mercy Medical Center-Dubuque for treatment, according to a Dubuque police report.

The collision occurred at about 8:10 p.m. Tuesday at the intersection of 20th Street and Central Avenue. Police said Carrie A. Keuter, 39, of Dubuque, was driving west on 20th Street, then turned left onto Central Avenue. She struck Collins, who was walking across Central Avenue.

Keuter was cited with failure to yield to a pedestrian in an intersection.

police

The Dubuque Police and Dubuque County Sheriff's departments reported:

- Jermaine D. Greer, 42, of Madison, Wis., was arrested at 2:08 p.m. Tuesday at the Dubuque County Jail on warrants charging first-degree theft and three counts of forgery.

- Erma M. Schneider, 86, of 1975 Hale St., reported burglary resulting in the theft of jewelry worth \$600 sometime between 7 p.m. Tuesday and 7:10 a.m. Wednesday from her residence.

- Joseph A. Cupps, 56, of 839 Goethe St., reported the theft of a firearm, ammunition and other items worth \$600 sometime between 9 p.m. Monday and 6:54 a.m. Tuesday from a vehicle parked at his residence.

- Robert M. Kaesbauer, 68, of Asbury, Iowa, reported \$500 worth of damage from criminal mischief to a vehicle sometime between 6:13 and 6:30 p.m. while it was parked in the 200 block of East 24th Street.

- Neil R. Spoden, 61, of Dyersville, Iowa, reported the theft of a vehicle worth \$5,000 at 9:16 a.m. Monday from a farm east of Worthington, Iowa.

Dubuque health center awarded \$175,000 to expand treatment for addiction, mental health

Telegraph Herald

A Dubuque health center has been awarded \$175,000 to expand treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health issues.

Crescent Community Health Center received the funding through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, according to a press release.

The money is slated to help combat addiction and improve mental health offerings.

The release notes that "opioid addiction has been at the forefront of the news, but in our community, alcohol addiction, methamphetamine use and various brain health disorders are common as well."

"We need to ensure that we are able

to provide a continuum of services for those in need and relieve some of the burden that law enforcement and hospital emergency departments have been bearing because of the lack of resources to provide the right care at the right time," Crescent CEO Julie Woodyard said in the release.

The health center opened in 2006 and is located at 1789 Elm St.

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