Rotarians, Hy-Vee raise funds in fight against polio

FORT MADISON - Members of the Fort Madison Rotary club were at Hy-Vee Friday selling lunches and root beer floats to help raise funds for polio vaccines. Rotarian Tim Gobble said funds raised through the effort will go to the local Rotary club and then forwarded along to help snuff out the disease. Hy-Vee will be asked all customers to round up their purchases over the weekend and will donate those funds to the campaign as well.

In 1985 Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through a massive campaign to vaccinate children. Since that time Rotary has contributed more than $1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries.

In addition Rotary's efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than $7.2 billion to the effort. Today there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the polio virus: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Just 37 cases of polio were reported in 2016.

Running for public office is more than joining a club

I cover a lot of meetings, and I don't get to a lot of meetings, the Lee County Republican's dinner Saturday night, just a case in point. I don't have a lot of free time, but since I work from home, I feel like all this time is free. Guess that means I enjoy my work a little bit.

But one of the downsides of what I do is that my job prohibits me from running for office. It doesn't make sense to do that and would put any board in an unenviable position. But when I sit in a lot of these meetings, I can't help but see who does what—your form beliefs, see commitments—and the lack thereof.

We elect people to represent us in official capacities and that process shouldn't be taken lightly. In covering the Fort Madison City Council, the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors, and the Lee County Board of Supervisors it's clear that a couple people aren't living up to the faith the voters have placed in them.

In my eight months covering these boards the Lee County Board of Supervisors is one of the most impressive. It is clear that all new supervisors are committed to the best for their constituents.

When I look at the local school board there is one school board member, Jared Ho...

Hens are old-fashioned therapy

I love my hens. They're ISA Browns. The literature on them said they are, "A docile bird, extremely easy to work with." They are all of that and then some. It's about a half-a-block from our house to the hen house. All I have to do is open the door of our house and step out and they come running—half running, half flying, skittering across the gravel drive. It's so cute. They love me and I love them.

In addition to laying mash, I feed them—table scraps, peelings, popcorn, stale cereal, bread crumbs, what have you. They know it and come running—like prairie chickens or hen pheasants running across the prairie. They are so tame I can pick them up and pet them. They talk to me, I talk to them.

There's such a calming effect to just watching the hens, who are so much happier now that we butchered the bully roosters. I don't know why chicken therapy isn't recommended more as a cure for modern-day stress, except that a lot of people don't have room for chickens, or city ordinances prohibit raising them. Many cities are beginning to allow a few chickens (no roosters), with the renewed interest in self-sufficiency and growing your own food. It's so relaxing, stepping outside in the evening, watching the sun set and the hens looking for just the right roosting spot.

I guess our hens are what you would call "free-range." I let them out during the day, to wander, eat grass and bugs, and do chicken stuff. If it's hot, they like to chill under...
NEVA L. PEAK

Neva L. Peak, 87, of Ft. Madison and formerly of Table Grove, IL passed away on Friday, July 28, 2017 at 8:45 PM at her home.

She was born on October 28, 1929 in Doddsville, IL to Henry and Faire Prather Warrington. On December 31, 1950 she married Keith Peak in Doddsville and he passed away on September 28, 2006. Neva was a member of Ft. Madison Christian Church.

She was an avid volunteer for many organizations and committees in Table Grove and Ft. Madison and won Volunteer of the Year in both towns. Neva loved to travel, especially overseas where she visited several different countries. She did everything on her bucket list except going to the Westminster Dog Show. Neva gave countless hours over the years to numerous organizations, clubs, class reunions, so many in fact they are too numerous to name. She will always be remembered for her giving heart to her family and her communities.

Survivors include two daughters, Julie (Mitch) Doherty of Wever and Suzy (Dave) Ross of Wever; five grandchildren, Derek (Amy) Doherty, Kyle (Brittany) Doherty and Kelsie Doherty all of Ft. Madison, Luke Ross of Danville and Libby (Matt) Ross of Ft. Madison; three great grandchildren, Rayvn, Mehki and Rowan; a sister-in-law, Jan Warrington of Lansing, MI; three nephews and one niece.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; her twin brother at birth; a brother, Dr. Willard Warrington and one nephew.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet friends from 5-7 PM. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 10 AM at Ft. Madison Christian Church with Rev. Mike McHugh officiating. Friends and family are invited to attend a graveside service at 2 PM at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Macomb, IL on Wednesday, August 2, 2017. A memorial has been established for Christmas for Kids and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Light Rain
Low – 69.9º F | High – 82.7º F

WED 02 Aug
Light Rain
Low – 69.6º F | High – 83.4º F

THU 03 Aug
Light Rain
Low – 61.5º F | High – 71.7º F

FRI 04 Aug
Heavy Intensity Rain
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Those elected to serve, need to be there to serve

POINT - Continued from Page 1

top, who's only made 32% of scheduled meetings, workshops, and sessions. Hotop has made 5 of 12 school board meetings, 3 of 8 special meetings, 0 of 5 work sessions for a total of 8 of 25 called meetings or sessions from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Attending 32% of gatherings of the board you were elected to serve is not giving the voters the value of their vote. It was my intention to call Hotop and some others listed below to ask them why their attendance is suffering in such important community roles, but I decided against it. This is my opinion and my opinion is that you need to show up or get off the board. When you run for a public office such as these, you assume a bit of public scrutiny. Here’s some public scrutiny.

I know that’s tough, but it’s a simple concept. There are procedures to replace people that resign, it’s not rocket science. Looking at the rest of the board, the other six are all above 88% attendance with Tim Wondra, Carol Ross, and Diane Hope all making 100% of the meetings and sessions in the same time period. Timm Lamb and Gayla Young are both at 92% and Lois DiPrima is at 88%. Major decisions are being considered including employees — both union and administrative salaries, building new schools, and other things. You can’t be absent from those votes. On the Fort Madison City Council, looking at the same 12-month period, Councilmen Chris Greenwald and Mark Lair have the best attendance missing just one meeting each of 24; Brian Wright has missed two of 24; Rusty Andrews has missed four of 24; Kevin Rink and Chad Cangas each have missed five of 24 meetings; Travis Seidel has missed 10 of 24 meetings; and mayor Brad Randolph has missed five of those 24 meetings. Seidel is missing 42 percent of the scheduled meetings and Hotop is missing 68% of the meetings. I’m not writing about resignations or anything, but the people of Fort Madison had faith in you to represent them on these boards and, at this point, that isn’t being done. If it’s a health related issue, that’s only minimally our concern, but I’ve heard nothing indicating that these absences are health related. Even if they were, consideration would have to be given to those whom you represent and marked a box with your name.

Decisions are made by those who show up. You’ve been elected to show up. It’s our job to mind the public’s business and the attendance of our elected officials is a matter of public interest. Also, a shout out to a respected peer, who put in 32 years at the Burlington Hawk-Eye before the sale of the product eliminated his position. Dale Allison has always had an ear for those writing news about southeast Iowa, as well of those who just want to talk about the news of southeast Iowa. He helped create the formula for the dissemination of news in the area as well as helped mold the talents of those who did the disseminating. Mr. Allison has always had an ear for me, and although I’ve never been on his staff, despite a couple conversations on that topic, he will always be a mentor as I grew up on the Hawk-Eye. Thanks Dale...from all of us. But that’s Beside the Point.
Opinion

Hens better without roosters

Continued from Page 1

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