Animal containment getting creative at Empty Nest

BY CURT SWARM

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State Rep. Dave Heaton (R-Mt. Pleasant) and State Sen. Rich Taylor (D-Mt. Pleasant) spent close to two hours walking through the halls of Richardson Elementary School and Fort Madison Middle School in Fort Madison on Friday morning. The two then joined Rep. Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) for a legislative luncheon at the Palms Supper Club.

From left, FMCSD Board member Dianne Hope, Board President Dr. Tim Wondra, Middle School Principal Todd Dirth, State Sen. Rich Taylor, State Rep. Dave Heaton, and Erin Slater look out over the middle school gym as part of a tour Friday morning.

Area lawmakers see benefits of SAVE up close

Taylor and Heaton tour FM schools to contrast old, new

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG
PCC EDITOR

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They have the option of staying indoors where it’s dry, or going out in the rain. They always go out. ‘Mad as a wet hen’ is a misnomer, like ‘quantum leap.’ We usually think of a quantum leap as something large, but in physics, it’s the smallest possible change.

Are these hens friendly or what? Our hens let us pick them up. I’ve made the mistake of picking up a hen on a rainy day. They can be quite soggy, which is not a pleasant feeling. But they don’t seem to mind wet feathers. Their feathers are so dense, I believe, that their body stays warm and dry, like corn in shocks.

We let our hens have the run of our two-and-a-half-acre Empty Nest Farm, and the boogers are so dense, I believe, that their body stays warm and dry, like corn in shocks.
PAULA LOZANO

Paula Lozano, 86, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 3:47 PM at her home.

She was born on April 22, 1931 in Ft. Madison to Guadalupe and Socorro Becerra Porrez. On June 1, 1946 she married Rito Lozano in Ft. Madison and he passed away on November 1, 2017. Paula retired from Sacred Heart and Ft. Madison Community Hospitals dietary departments. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church. Paula enjoyed attending her grandchildren’s events and was an avid Chicago Cubs and Bulls fan.

Survivors include three sons, Sam (Laura) Lozano, G.J. (Lisa) Lozano and Travis Lozano all of Ft. Madison; six daughters, Rita (Joe) Cangas of Des Moines, Eulalia “Lali” (Rick) Leach of Tablequah, Oklahoma, Sheri Lozano- Dobbs of Ft. Madison, Pam Lozano of Ft. Madison, Renay (Meno) Dominguez of Guerrero Chihuahua, Mexico and Betsi Lozano of Ft. Madison; twenty five grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren and three on the way and one great great grandchild; three sisters, Hondo Lozano of Ft. Madison, Thomaune Porrez of San Jose, CA and Irene Mendez of Livermore, CA; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, her son Tyrone, an infant granddaughter, two sisters, one brother, and two infant brothers.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4:30 – 6:30 PM. A rosary will be recited at 6:30 PM. The funeral mass will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 10:30 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.
Tour shows impact of state sales tax funding

TOUR - Continued from Page 1

‘School infrastructure’ means those activities for which a school district is authorized to contract indebtedness and issue general obligation bonds under Iowa Code section 296.1, except those activities related to a teacher’s or superintendent’s home or homes. These activities include the construction, reconstruction, repair, demolition work, purchasing, or remodeling of schoolhouses, stadiums, gyms, field houses, and bus garages, and the procurement of schoolhouse construction sites and making schoolhouse construction. It also includes the purchasing, or remodelling, of property tax reduction. The current SAVE authorization law is set to expire in 2029 and proponents of the funding stream are hoping to extend it to 2049. Current bills would limit funding use to educational improvements and would place limits on how the funds could be used for athletic facilities and program spending. It would also incrementally increase the portion used for property tax reduction.

Slater wanted to show what SAVE dollars have done for Fort Madison schools, in a stark contrast to what kind of buildings the district is currently dealing with. She told Taylor and Heaton there is community committee in the process of trying, for the third time, to get a referendum passed to get a new school built on the campus with the middle school. The middle school was constructed totally with moneys from the sales tax option and had zero impact on property tax dollars.

“We just wanted to show you what that tax did for this district and how important it is,” Slater told the two prior to going into the middle school.

Inside, Dirth showed the group the advantages of the contemporary learning facility including athletic facilities, a new state-of-the-art HVAC system that new board member Tim Wondra said is cheaper to run with all the district’s 4th through 8th grade students, than either the Denmark or former middle schools.

“I used to teach at Van Buren in Keosauqua 55 years ago and the school I was in there was in better shape that the one I was in at Richardson,” Heaton said.

“So it was pretty icky and I just hope that we can respond and help create a much better environment. Because then we went to the middle school and it’s a fabulous facility. It’s so important to reinforce that process and give every kid the opportunity to learn as best they can. It’s a world of compete, compete, compete and those with the skills sets necessary to compete will have that advantage.”

Slater said extending the funding stream is critical to the needed improvements in the district.

“Extending the SAVE dollars is hugely important for us because it would allow us to focus on the middle school and some of the upgrades and challenges, because the SAVE dollar extension would not generate enough money to build the elementary,” she said.

“You’ll see some of the challenges we have in the Richardson building have been completely taken care of in this building.”

Fort Madison Middle School teacher Luke Rickelman talks with State Sen. Rich Taylor about the programs going on in Rickelman’s classroom. It was Taylor’s first visit to the middle school, which opened in Aug. 2012.

Spring Cleaning

Keep it green!

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

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Pen City Current - Monday, March 19, 2018 - 3
Empty Nest may adopt bucket cow

I opted for an electrified mesh fence, which would keep the hens in and predators out (hopefully).

Electric fences have come a long way from the single-strand electric wire and white porcelain insulators of days gone by. Now, the entire mesh is electrified, except for the bottom strand, and is solar powered. Sexy! The wire mesh comes through the wire mesh, then pull it back real fast. That ended that. We feel better knowing that we're doing all we can to keep the chickens in and predators out (hopefully).

For the naysayers, what do we do when we want to go away? We have Brody and Boden, our neighbor boys, take care of things. Life is good on the Empty Nest Farm. We’re happy as pigs in mud! And that, my dear friends, is an old saying you can take to the bank.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt’s stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.

From the Front/Classifieds

CURRENT-LEE

HTC TAPS 8th Annual Bunny Hop Event – March 31st, 2018

WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is $20 & includes t-shirt. Registration on or after March 23rd is $25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or www.holytrinitytaps.org. Click here to download & print your registration form.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.penicitccurrent.com/glo-crazy/

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371-4125.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd Ave in Fort Madison and 111 Caribbe lane in Keokuk. Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m. It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2992 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board Meeting Agenda
Great Prairie Area Education Agency
March 20, 2018
5:00 PM Board Dinner - Conference Room A
5:30 PM Budget Hearing & Regular Business Meeting - Conference Room A
GPAEA Fairfield Office, 2000 6th Street, Fairfield, Iowa
GPAEA Board Zoom Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: https://zoom.us/j/426666315
Or join by phone: +1 646 568 7708 (US Toll) or +1 415 762 9988 (US Toll)
Meeting ID: 420 666 315
A - G - E - N - D - A
I MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT
II. OPEN FORUM
III. BOARD APPROVAL OF AGENDA
IV. BOARD APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
V. BOARD APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVOICES PAYABLE
VI. EDUCATION REPORT: PERSONALIZED LEARNING, JANE TROTTER
VII. BOARD ACTION ON EMPLOYEE RESIGNATIONS a. Rhonda Dusenberry, Special Education Consultant b. Lynn Hodgemann, Special Education Consultant (Early Sep)
IV. BOARD ACTION ON FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES 212 & 707
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS: I recommend approval of the new employee contracts as presented.
V. BOARD ACTION ON CONTRACTUAL ADJUSTMENT a. Brita Oyen, 1.0 FTE Literacy Consultant to 1.0 FTE School Improvement Consultant b. Ella Hamilton, 1.0 FTE Assistive Technology Specialist to .5 FTE c. Morgan Dickey, 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist to .5 FTE d. Laura Wood, 5.0 FTE 21C Learning Specialist and .5 FTE Science & Technology Consultant to .5 FTE 21st Century Learning Specialist e. Amanda Larkin, 1.0 FTE Early Access Service Coordinator to 1.0 FTE School Social Worker f. Jessica Vance, 1.0 FTE School Psychologist to .5 FTE School Improvement Consultant g. June Morgan, 0.5 FTE Special Education Consultant-Elementary Childhood to .5 FTE Special Education Consultant-Elementary Childhood and .5 FTE Early Access Service Coordinator
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS: I recommend approval of the employee contractual adjustment as presented.
X. BOARD ACTION ON THE 2018-2019 CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENTS
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS: I recommend approval of the 2018-2019 certified staff appointments.
XI. BOARD ACTION ON THE AGENCY’S OFFICE CLOSING REGULATION 405.7 & 405.7R
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS: I recommend approval of the Board Policies as presented.
XII. BOARD APPROVAL OF THE 2018-19 AGENCY CALENDAR
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS: I recommend approval of the Agency Calendar as presented.
XIV. REPORTS TO THE BOARD XV. ADJOURNMENT

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• Health insurance
• Retirement plan with company match

Please call or stop by our office for additional information.
410 Avenue E, PO Box 8
West Liberty, IA 52779-0008
319-837-6411
paulsphc@gmail.com
HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME DAILY CARE ASSOCIATE

Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center has a full-time daily care associate position available immediately. This a year round, benefits eligible position. Candidates must be able to complete DHS required trainings and pass a background check.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holytrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.

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See our website for additional details.

Call or E-Mail us today!

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Sports/Weather

4x800 girls relay takes 3rd at Galesburg

Barnes takes 5th in shot, Howardson 6th in 800 and Quentin Schneider 7th in 400

BY PCC STAFF

MONMOUTH - The Fort Madison girls 4x800 relay team of Lauren King, Sierra Howardson, Brett Schneider and Kamryn Bailey had the highest finish of the day Saturday at the Galesburg Last Chance Indoor meet at Monmouth College.

Both FMHS boys and girls track and field teams traveled to the meet. The 10:35.29 time of the relay team was good enough for third place.

Elijah Barnes took fifth place in the boys’ shot put with a heave of 47.11’. Heath Hoenig threw 36.11’. Howardson took a 6th place finish in the 800-meter run with 2:34.05 while Lauren King ran it in 2:56.71. Garrett Hannum took 10th place in the boys 800-meter run at 2:11.00. Dayne Cordray crossed the line at 2:19.78.

Quentin Schneider earned a 7th place finish in the 400-meter run at 54.98, Garrett Hannum finished at 58.23, and Olivia Williams led the FMHS girls at 1:14.41.

In the 60-meter run, Trey Kuntz and Calem Ma
clearn recorded times of 8.09 and 8.25 respectively. For the girls, Reyna Lampre crossed the line at 9.13 and Kylie Cashman finished at 9.19.

Maclearn also ran the 200-meter dash at 26.72, while Dominic Franz was behind at 27.52. Kamryn Bailey had the highest time for the Bloodhound girls at 30.35 and Anna Kester finished at 30.95.

Matt Hellige took a 10th and 11th place in the 3200- and 1600-meter runs. He finished the 3200 meter in 10:46.22 and the 1600 at 4:57.19. Elizabeth Miller ran the 1600 for the FMHS girls finishing at 6.23.96.

Lampre led all FMHS runners in the 60-meter hurdles at 11.01. Miller finished at 11.38 and the boys’ Joseph Hummell finished at 11.51.

In the other relays, Nadia Boeding, Howardson, Schneider, and Taylor Barnes took 8th place overall in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 4:31.35. Quentin Schneider, Zander Schweiss, Hannum, and Cordray finished at 3:55.13.

In the 4x200 meter relay Schweiss, Harley Penamon, Kuntz, and Shay Smith finished at 1:50.54, while in the girls’ relay Schneider, Bailey, Cashman, and Boeding finished at 1:59.93.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 19 Mar
Light Rain
High – 46.2º F | Low – 37.2º F

TUE 20 Mar
Light Snow
High– 34.9º F | Low – 29.1º F

WED 21 Mar
Clear Skies (HAPPY SPRING!)
High– 36.1º F | Low – 21.9º F

THU 22 Mar
Clear Skies
High – 43.5º F | Low – 26.3º F

FRI 23 Mar
Light Rain
High– 47.5º F | Low – 38.8º F

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