Empty Nest - Coop becoming an Adopt-A-Hen

By Curt Swarm

My book is now available on Kindle. It’s called “Protected.” To find the book on Kindle, put in my name first, “Curt Swarm,” as there are numerous book titles using the word “protected.” This is my first book.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, our 11 hens were so curious about the new calf, Blossom, they laid 12 eggs the day of her arrival. That’s the first time we have gotten more eggs than we have hens. One of them outdid herself! But there’s even more excitement in the hen house. Four new layers have been added to our flock. One of my readers from Keokuk passed my chicken stories along to her son who has 30 hens and six roosters. Her son and I exchanged a couple of emails and compared notes: “How many eggs do you get it? Do you have trouble with predators? Where’s the best place to get feed?” That sort of thing.

Then her son decided to move out of state and needed to find a home or homes for his flock. Would I be interested? Well, sure. But not thirty. Maybe a couple of hens to add to our flock. We have adopted chickens before, and it worked out fine (except when a mink got into the hen house). Swarms’ Adopt-A-Hen.

Ginnie and I made a trip to his acreage outside of Denmark, Iowa. His chickens are Light Brahmas, an exotic breed from China. They are a beautiful bird, mostly white, with black markings, and feathers on their feet. They are larger than our ISA Browns and quite docile and friendly. Even though the Brahmas are mostly white, they lay a brown egg.

When we walked into their pen, they came running up to us, curious as to who we were and what we wanted to be introduced. We simply reached down and selected four pretty hens and brought them home, jiggity jog. We now have a clash of color: red and white hens. And they don’t necessarily get along. The Brahmas spend a good deal of the day up on roosts, waiting for the red hens (normally a docile bird, also) to go outside. When it’s safe, the white hens hop down to eat, drink, and lay eggs. They haven’t yet figured out that they are larger than the red hens and don’t have to

See SWARM, page 8.
Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 16

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend.

OBITUARIES

DEENA JO SCHULTE

A kind, loving, gentle daughter, sister and aunt, Deena Jo Schulte, age 69, passed away quietly at 3:38 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018 surrounded by family and friends. Deena was born on June 13, 1948 in Fort Madison, IA to Theodore Henry & Mary Helen Colby Schulte, with severe Cerebral Palsy. While her physical problems were many, she overcame them through her indomitable spirit. She met her daily challenges with unbelievable grace and patience. She maintained a positive sunny disposition despite her many disabilities. She laughed easily and expressed true delight in life’s simplest things. She loved to have her nails painted and hair permed. She favored dresses over pants and bright flashy jewelry. She was a member of Holy Family Parish and enjoyed dancing, laughing, a good party and spending time with her friends and family. She had a special bond with her mother, Helen, who took loving care of her throughout her life. Special thanks to her caregivers from OptimaCare, Great River Hospice and the Kensington. Also her sister, Lynn, was her fierce and loving advocate until the end of her life. Deena is survived by: her mother: Helen Colby Schulte of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sisters: Shelly Franks of Salt Lake City, UT & Lynn (Gary) Hoyer of Fort Madison, IA; 2-brothers: Joe (Jaye) Schulte of Waconia, MN & Craig Schulte of Montrose, IA; several nieces & nephews and her loving roommates: Linda & Renee. She was preceded in death by her father.

A funeral mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at St. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A private family burial will be held in Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Great River Hospice and online condolences to Deena’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.

W. BURLINGTON–Great River Health System-Hospice and Zaiser’s Florist and Greenhouse have teamed up for a spring flower sale to benefit patients at end of life and their families. The sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, at Zaiser’s Florist & Greenhouse, 2400 Sunny Ave., Burlington. A portion of the proceeds from annuals and perennials sold May 2 will be donated to Great River Health System-Hospice to help provide physical, emotional and spiritual care to patients in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties, and their families. “This is our ninth annual flower sale,” said Missy Allen, Hospice fundraising specialist. “This fundraiser helps us provide services for our patients and grief-support programs that are open to the community.” Gift certificates for any denomination can be purchased at Great River Health System-Hospice House or Zaiser’s through May 2. Only cash or checks will be accepted. For more information, please call Hospice at 319-768-3350.
After supervisors wit- nessed the video of the fight in the jail last year, they approved hiring two more C.O.s, with an eye to the next budget to hire two more. The Southeast Iowa Area Crime Com- mission had recommend- ed at that time, the county boost the C.O. staff by six, not two six.

The county, in the last two budget sessions, has dipped into general fund reserves to balance the budget.

The sheriff’s depart- ment, secondary roads, and the county health department make up the sheriff’s department’s budget under Weber’s leadership. It has at that time, the county boost the C.O. staff by six, not two six.

The sheriff’s depart- ment put up a proposal to have a new vendor come in to provide meals every other day to the jail employees at just over half the cost of the Iowa State Peniten- tiary’s meal service. The prison had yet to negotiate the price of their meals to keep the contract with the sheriff’s department, and has actually suggested the current price of $3.25 might go to $5.30. The price of the meals at the Juvenile Detention Center behind the prison, is already $3.50. ISP provides two meals every other day.

The meal program would require upgrades to the kitchen to room for $80,000 including equipment. The county is close to creating a bid for the maintenance work that would be required to hand- le the new equipment. The state, too) and possible revenues start flowing off the recently constructed pipeline, Fedler is bringing up the right conver- sation, but even veteran supervisor Rick Larkin got after Fedler a bit for indicating the county was not appropriating mon- ey in the taxpayer’s best interest.

We agree. Cuts may be coming as the state con- tinues to “deappropri- ate” at every turn, but Fedler just started at the wrong end of things.

Stay tuned next week, as I’m writing a piece on how writing, even per- sonal writing, can have a healthy impact on stress levels at all ages. But that’s Beside the Point.
Sports

Fort Madison wrestlers win title at Pickford tourney

Fort Madison’s Teague Smith tries to get a takedown over Aoci Bernard of Rock Island, during the Mick Pickford Freestyle Tournament Sunday at Fort Madison High School.

Fort Madison’s Beau Waner tries to escape from Alexys Peterson of Bettendorf during his round-robin match Sunday morning at the Mick Pickford Freestyle wrestling tournament.

Pickford Greco Tournament
Schoolboy - S1
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Logan Pennock of Fort Madison
2nd Place - Always Peterson of Bettendorf
3rd Place - Beau Wagner of Fort Madison
Round Robin Matches
Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Beau Wagner (Fort Madison) TF 15-4
Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Owen Kruse (Mississippi Mud Rippers) TF 11-0

Cadet - C1
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Adan Pennock of Fort Madison
2nd Place - Teague Smith (Fort Madison Wrestling Club) over Owen Knue (Mississippi Mud Rippers) TF 21-11
Adan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Teague Smith (Fort Madison Wrestling Club) TF 10-0
Cadet - C2
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Damien Petersen of Bettendorf
2nd Place - Nathan Steffensmeier of Fort Madison
3rd Place - Max Mashek of Monster-USA Wrestling Club

Pickford Freestyle Tournament
Schoolboy - S1
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Logan Pennock of Fort Madison
2nd Place - Always Peterson of Bettendorf
3rd Place - Beau Wagner of Fort Madison
Round Robin Matches
Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Beau Wagner (Fort Madison) TF 15-4
Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Owen Kruse (Mississippi Mud Rippers) TF 11-0

Cadet - C3
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Damien Petersen of Bettendorf
2nd Place - Nathan Steffensmeier of Fort Madison
3rd Place - Beau Wagner of Fort Madison

Junior - J1
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Kendal Pugh of Monster-USA WC
2nd Place - Aime Iranyib of Rock Island Wrestling Club
3rd Place - Max Mashek of Monster-USA WC

Junior - J2
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Kendal Pugh of Monster-USA WC
2nd Place - Aime Iranyib of Rock Island Wrestling Club
3rd Place - Max Mashek of Monster-USA WC

Junior - J3
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Duncan Delzell of Mississippi Mud Rippers
2nd Place - Vincent Vass of Ottumwa
3rd Place - Max Mashek of Monster-USA Wrestling Club

Junior - J4
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Andrew Rohret of CCA
2nd Place - Colin Lewis of North Scott
3rd Place - Max Mashek of Monster-USA WC

Junior - J5
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Dylan Jeffers of Keokuk
2nd Place - Vincent Vass of Ottumwa
3rd Place - Andy Brokaw of Solon

Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Logan Pennock of Fort Madison
2nd Place - Always Peterson of Bettendorf
3rd Place - Beau Wagner of Fort Madison

Round Robin Matches
Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Beau Wagner (Fort Madison) TF 15-4
Logan Pennock (Fort Madison) over Owen Kruse (Mississippi Mud Rippers) TF 11-0

Cadet - C2
Guaranteed Places
1st Place - Damien Petersen of Bettendorf
2nd Place - Nathan Steffensmeier of Fort Madison
3rd Place - Max Mashek of Monster-USA Wrestling Club

Fort Madison’s Beau Waner tries to escape from Alexys Peterson of Bettendorf during his round-robin match Sunday morning at the Mick Pickford Freestyle wrestling tournament.
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SALESMAN WANTED

Pen City Current has an exciting opportunity in media sales available for a customer service maniac who is goal-oriented and creative, with a strong drive to succeed. Prior sales and media experience is a plus, but not necessary. Must be Internet and social media savvy, as well as highly computer literate. If you love working with people and thinking outside the box, this opportunity could be perfect for you! Pen City Current offers a fun, rewarding, and family-like working environment with lots of flexibility. Our mission is to help our customers succeed while providing #HyperLocalSuperFresh content for our readers 24/7. If you’re interested in learning more, shoot us an email, message us on Facebook, or DM us on Twitter.

HELP WANTED

Volunteer Services Program Director

United Way of the Great River Region which serves Lee, Hancock, and Clark counties is seeking a full-time Volunteer Services Program Director to manage all aspects of a newly formed Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long-standing Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Ideal candidate will have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer, and bookkeeping skills; and ability to work with and manage volunteers and the organizations and businesses who utilize volunteers. The ability to multi-task is a must. Some travel required. To be considered, please send cover letter and resume with three references to: director@unitedwaygrr.org or mail to: United Way of the Great River Region, P.O. Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 on or before April 23, 2018.

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Pen City Current - Monday, April 16, 2018 - 5

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Attn: Human Resources Director
Resumé to:
EOE
God painting a pretty picture at Empty Nest

put up with bullying. Hopefully, they’ll work all this out and get around to getting along. I imagine they will. I think there’s a life lesson for humans in this somewhere. So, that brings us up to 15 hens. (No, we don’t have a rooster. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to have a rooster for good egg production.) We are collecting 12 and 13 eggs a day now and harassin family and friends to come get’m.

Between bucket feeding Blossom twice a day, and tending to the hens, there’s plenty of activity on the Empty Nest Farm. And we love it! There’s nothing quite as pleasant as venturing outside in the fresh air, with dew on the grass, and the sun just rising or setting, to feed Blossom and gather eggs. God paints a pretty picture of hope, life, and well being.

Ginnie is turning into quite the farm girl. I even got her a pair of muck boots and “sloggers” (with cows on them) from the farm supply store so that she doesn’t have to mess up her “go’n-to-town shoes.” There have been quite a few trips to the farm-supply store lately (of Keokuk that pays for gas) — she has quite as pleasant as venturing outside in the fresh air, with dew on the grass, and the sun just rising or setting, to feed Blossom and gather eggs. God paints a pretty picture of hope, life, and well being.

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Gov. Reynolds tours Pinnacle on Friday

FORT MADISON - Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg visited Lee County Friday to see what Lee County industries are doing to connect business and education. They toured Pinnacle Foods during their visit and were able to talk with the company about their involvement in building a pipeline of skilled workers for future careers. They’ve also been involved with Southeastern Community College, helping with programming and hiring graduates from SCC’s Industrial Technology program.

“Partnerships like this is how we move the state forward,” commented Reynolds, “Without a skilled workforce, our businesses can’t grow and it’s great to see this happening.”

Reynolds and Gregg also visited Burlington as part of their “Unleashing Opportunity” tour on their visit to SE Iowa.

Keokuk Clean up day this Saturday

KEOKUK - On Saturday, April 21, 2018 the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce and City of Keokuk will host the 1st annual Earth Day Community Clean up Event! The Pride committee has been hard at work to guarantee another successful event. In years past, hundreds of residents have joined us in fostering a sense of K-Pride throughout Keokuk. All are invited to participate again this year!

The meeting point for the event will be Tolmie Park. Participants are asked to arrive between 8:00 and 8:25 to receive maps of locations to be cleaned and to return the litter they collect to the park at 10:30. A group photo will be taken to commemorate the event. All Earth Day Community Clean-up participants will receive a reusable water bottle sponsored by Roquette. We also appreciate the support of sponsors that make this even possible: Hy-Vee, First Community Bank, Meyers Driveway, Advanced Home Health-care.

Participants can register online www.volunteer-signup.com/CKAMD, by emailing officemanager@keokukchamber.com or calling the Chamber Office at 319-524-5055. Registration is encouraged but not required to participate.

Don’t forget, City Wide Cleanup Vouchers are valid from Saturday, April 21 through Saturday, May 5. Vouchers can be picked up become available on April 16. Any household within corporate city limits of Keokuk that pays for garbage pickup through their water bill can pick up two free vouchers at: Keokuk City Hall, Second Floor.

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Keokuk Municipal Waterworks, Krichel Animal Hospital, Poepping, Stone, Bach & Associates, and Advanced Home Health-care.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 16 Apr

High – 36.9º F | Low –27.6º F

TUE 17 Apr

High– 45.6º F | Low – 43.7º F

WED 18 Apr

High– 36.9º F | Low –27.6º F

THU 19 Apr

Clear Skies

High – 45.2º F | Low – 31.3º F

FRI 20 Apr

Clear Skies

High– 54.1º F | Low – 44.6º F

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12 oz. Spray Enamel

AVAILABLE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF POPULAR COLORS

YOUR CHOICE
3.99
Gorilla Tape®
12 yd. x 1.88 in. Gorilla Tape®
Sticks to rough and uneven surfaces. Choose black or silver.

YOUR CHOICE
14.99
Plastic Sheeting
4 mil. Choose clear or black.

YOUR CHOICE
7.99
GE®
2 pk. Relax™ or Refresh™ LED Bulbs
60W equivalent. Choose Soft White or Daylight. Dimmable.

YOUR CHOICE
2.49
Liquid Nails® 10 oz. Heavy-Duty Liquid Nails
Heavy-duty construction and remodeling adhesive for interior and exterior use. VOC compliant formula available in restricted areas.

SALE
8.99
3M®
Patch Plus Primer Kit
Medium-duty. 15 amp. Red.

FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON THE PLANET EARTH®

For the store nearest you, call 1.800.HARDWARE or 1.800.642.7382

Limit two, 1-gallon cans (maximum coupon value $20) or one, 5-gallon bucket (maximum coupon value $50) per household. Consumer is responsible for all taxes and fees. Certain restrictions apply. See store for details. Not valid on any form of sale. No substitution. All offers valid at participating True Value stores.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weber® Spirit® II E210™ Black 2-Burner LP Gas Grill</td>
<td>$399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber® Spirit® II E210™ Natural Gas Grill</td>
<td>$399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber® Spirit® II E310™ Black 3-Burner LP Gas Grill</td>
<td>$749</td>
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<td>Weber® Spirit® II E310™ Natural Gas Grill</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber® Genesis® II SE-310™ 3-Burner LP Gas Grill</td>
<td>$774</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weber® Genesis® II E-310™ Natural Gas Grill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weber® IQ-Gas™ 2 Blue Tooth Thermometer</td>
<td>$1,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber® IQ-Mini Thermometer</td>
<td>$1,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.99 Weather-Proof Solar Spot Light</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 lumen output.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traeger® Lil' Tex Pro Pellet Grill</td>
<td>$799.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traeger® Texas Pro® Pellet Grill</td>
<td>$999.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ortho® 32 oz. Weed B Gon® Concentrate</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Limit 1 per household. Consumer responsible for taxes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miracle-Gro® 2 cu. ft. Potting Mix</td>
<td>$13.99</td>
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<td>TruGuard® 2500 Lumen Flashlight</td>
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<td>Weather-Proof Solar Spot Light</td>
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<td>TrueThumb® 2 cu. ft. Premium Colored Mulch</td>
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