Local law enforcement including Fort Madison Police, Lee County Sheriff’s Department, Des Moines County Sheriff’s Department, and Iowa State Patrol were still searching for the driver of this Chevrolet Sunday. The driver was wanted by Des Moines County before getting into Fort Madison where he collided with a Lee County Sheriff’s vehicle disabling it near the corner of Avenue F and 10th Street. Below, Fort Madison police officer Jamie Carle stays with the vehicle, which couldn’t be shut off, Saturday night at about 11:15 p.m., while officers scoured the neighborhood after the driver took off on foot.

**Bucket calf arrives at Empty Nest**

Ginnie is becoming a farm girl! It was Easter Sunday (also April Fools Day). We walked into church and the first thing Ginnie and I heard from the door greeter was, “We have a calf for you!” (No, this was not an April Fools joke.)

Oh, boy! My day could not have been made any happier, and it was already happy because of Easter.

**EMPTY NEST**

By Curt Swarm

The church was packed to overflowing. I had a hard time paying attention to the sermon because my mind was making preparations for the baby calf. What a gift of life on a special day!

At coffee hour, we met with the people who had the calf, farmer friends of ours. The calf was born the day before under a blue moon (the last blue moon until 2020). The mama cow had a bad leg and would have to be put down. A home was needed for the little black Angus heifer. We were glad to oblige.

We had a shelter and pen all ready. All we had to do was buy a nipple bucket and milk replacer from the farm supply store on a blue moon.

See SWARM, page 4

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**FM teacher picked as Iowa NEA director**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**PCC EDITOR**

**FORT MADISON** - A lifelong Fort Madison student, teacher, and advocate has been elected to directorship with the National Education Association.

At a delegate assembly this weekend at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Rachella Dravis, a 28-year veteran of the Fort Madison Community School District, was elected to one of two Iowa directors’ posts on the national board that advocates for public education in the United States.

Dravis is the first teacher from Fort Madison to be elected to the post.

Dravis has been active in advocacy for area students in several different elected positions with the Fort Madison Education Association and the Iowa State Education Association as an executive director representative. She said she has been thinking of seeking the national post for many years.

“I started this process about five years ago. I was nominated a couple of years ago but the circumstances in my life didn’t allow it. My husband died and then my brother died and that was more important,” she said.

“This past year I had friends talk to me and asked if I was ready to do this yet. I’ll call them all my sisters, and we talked about activism, advocacy, and the passion I have for our students and this profession, and I told them I think I’m ready to go out there and see if I can get elected to this position.”

Campaigning for the position is done within the educational community with delegates to the assembly based on membership. With Fort Madison being in a rural district, association members don’t tally as high as the urban and larger communities in the state, which puts rural nominees at a disadvantage, but one that Dravis hit head on.

She made her presentation to the assembly on Saturday as part of the second election process. There were two directors’ positions being filled by election this weekend and Dravis was elected on Saturday after about an hour of voting. Cedar Rapids kindergarten teacher and 20-year teacher Kelly McMahon was elected to the other director’s post.

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The two will be filling positions currently held by Mike Beranek of West Des Moines and Joshua Brown of Des Moines.

See DRAVIS, page 8
OBITUARIES

DEANA WORRELL PERLBERG

Deana “Dee” Worrell Perlberg, 40, died April 5, 2018 at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, IA.

Deana was born on November 14, 1977 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of William and Deborah (Roberts) Worrell. She attended Wells Carey School in Keokuk until the fifth grade. She moved in 1989 to Glenwood, IA where she continued her education and graduated from Glenwood Senior High School. After high school she attended Iowa Western in Council Bluffs and graduated with an Associates of Arts Degree in sociology.

On October 7, 1999 Deana married Jason Perlberg. Deana’s passion was music. She could tell you almost every artist or song that was playing. She also enjoyed making cross stitch projects, going camping, candle selling, and motorcycle riding with her dad. Her favorite thing was spending time with her boys, family, and friends.

She is survived by her three sons, Michael, Devon and Derrick, her parents, William and Deborah Worrell of Glenwood, IA, her grandmother, Wanda Roberts of Keokuk and a slew of family and friends.

She was preceded in death by a special uncle, Danny Worrell and other grandparents.

A procession to the cemetery will form at 9:45 a.m., Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. A time of food and fellowship will follow at the Labor Hall in Keokuk.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. A Full List of Ball Games & Tours!

Joyce E. Erickson, 84, of Keokuk, IA, died Friday, April 6, 2018 at her home.

She was born on March 20, 1934 at St. Joseph Hospital in Mitchell, SD, the second daughter of Herbert H. and Lydia Schroeder Stahnke. She lived in rural Gilmore, SD until 1936, and then moved to Ricketts, IA where her father was a pastor. In 1941, her family joined her father at Ft. Leavenworth, KS where he was stationed as a chaplain during WW II. She attended seven different grade schools until 1946, when they moved to Villisca, IA where she attended and graduated from Villisca High School with the Class of 1951.

After High School she attended Lutheran Hospital of Nursing and graduated in 1954. She began her nursing career at a Veterans Hospital in Greeley, CO. She returned to school in 1956 and attended Arizona State University for one semester. She then transferred to the University of Iowa and graduated in 1958 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

On August 24, 1958, Joyce was united in marriage to Wilbur P.N. Erickson in Villisca, IA. He preceded her in death on January 21, 1987.

Joyce had been a resident of Keokuk for fifty years. In 1972, she began working for the Visiting Nurse Association, which became Keokuk Area Hospital Health Care. She retired in 1997.

Joyce was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Keokuk and WELCA. Joyce loved to read about history, play bingo at Hy-Vee and quilt with the Quilting Circle at the church. She also enjoyed traveling and one of her favorite trips was to Italy.

She is survived by one son, Paul Erickson (Mary) of Garland, TX, two daughters, Denise Davis (John Washburn) of Keokuk, and Linda Pohorsky (Brent) of Fate, TX, four grandchildren, Joseph Davis, McKenzey Pohorsky, Steven Pohorsky and Hunter Christy, two great-grandchildren, Killian Davis and Kalani Whalen and one great-grandchild on the way, one sister, Candus Zambone (Al) of Bridgeton, NJ and her best friend, Linda Saltzgaver of Keokuk.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Ruth Detert.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday at the First Lutheran Church in Keokuk with Pastor Rodney Underwood officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Tuesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

Memorials may be made to the family c/o Deb Worrell, 109 W. Florence Ave. Glenwood, IA 51534. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current

Founded in 2016

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**OBITUARIES**

**JUNIOR HAROLD MCKINNEY**

Junior Harold McKinney, 95, the patriarch of the McKinney Dynasty, peacefully entered his eternal home at 5:55 P.M. Saturday April 7, 2018 at the Keosauqua Health Care Center.

Left behind to honor and cherish his memory are his loving wife of 75 years Evonne. Three sons: Dwight McKinney, Jerry (Teresa) McKinney and David (Martha) McKinney. Six daughters: Judy (Bill) Dulin, Barbara (Ed) Howard, Kathy Sedlacek, Kathy Jim Murphy, Peggy Mike) Simpkins, and Pamela (Chuck) Warner. Twenty- one grandchildren, thirty-six great grandchildren and ten great- great grandchildren.

Junior was born June 2, 1922 near Downing, Missouri in Scotland County the son of Oscar and Amanda (Paris) McKinney. Junior proudly served his country in World War II as a Ball Turret Gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 27 missions over Europe. Received 5 Bronze Stars, the Air Medal with 4 Oak Clusters and the Good Conduct Medal. He was a member of the Farmington American Legion.

He farmed in Clark County Missouri, and Johnson County Iowa. He worked construction building homes and apartments in Iowa City. Junior worked maintenance in his later years at the University of Iowa. He retired from Southeastern Community College in 1984. He and his wife enjoyed 20 years traveling, wintering in Texas and fishing in the summers.

Junior was met at the Pearly Gates by his parents, three brothers, daughter-in-law Linda, son-in-law Mike and precious angel granddaughter Jessica.

Friends may call after noon on Tuesday at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington. The family will meet with friends from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. Wednesday April 11, 2018 at the Farmington United Methodist Church with Pastor Michael Elrod officiating. Burial with full military rites will be held at the Campground Cemetery near Downing, Missouri.

Memorials may be made to the Campground Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington are assisting the family with arrangements.

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**CURRENT-LEE**

**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 Blondeo Street. The Public is invited to attend 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.

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**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

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**Great River Regional Waste Authority**

Ft Madison Main Office
2052 303rd Ave
Ft Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station
111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA
1-319-524-4175

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa
We're Located Only 10 Minutes From Wal-Mart or Shopko.
On motion, Council adjourned until April 17, 2018, at 5:30 P.M. Concerning PIP 2018-03, Water Storage Facilities Regulations) for Virginia Walker for property located at 3096 – 180th Street, within two miles of City Limits.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's reappointment of Corey Faeth's, L.L.C., 832 Avenue L, effective 5/21/2018; Outdoor Service Privilege for Main Street BBQ, POEPPING STONE & MATERIALS, 3620 1/2 Avenue L, effective 5/21/2018; and approving contract and form of contract for the project. On motion, Council closed the public hearing. On motion, Council approved Resolution No. 2018-25, adopting plans, specifications and form of contract for the project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-26, awarding construction contract for the project to Utility Service Co., Inc., of Perry, Georgia, in the amount of $1,428,056.12, and approving contract and bonds of Utility Service Co., Inc., pending receipt of the documents.


Mayor Randolph opened the public hearing at 5:36 P.M. Concerning PIP 2018-03, Water Storage Facilities Regulations) for Virginia Walker for property located at 3096 – 180th Street, within two miles of City Limits.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Board Meeting Agenda
Great Prairie Area Education Agency
April 10, 2018

I. MEETING CALLED

II. OPEN FORUM

III. BOARD APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. BOARD APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

V. BOARD APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVOICES

VI. EDUCATION REPORT: IOWA ALN, LAURA WILLIAMS

VII. BOARD ACTION ON EMPLOYEE RESIGNATIONS

a. Kendra Roquet, Literacy Consultant
b. Debbie Reiter, Audiometrist

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the employee resignations as presented.

VIII. BOARD ACTION ON NEW EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS

a. Kristen Flores, Occupational Therapist, 192 days, MA-30, Step 8, $57,003
b. Jennie Adkins, COTA, 192 days, Step 12, $42,983
c. Kathy Liles, COTA, 192 days, Step 2, $32,935
d. Elizabeth Burdette, Speech and Language Pathologist, 192 days, MA-15, Step 1, $46,367
e. Sarah Chaney, Speech and Language Pathologist, 192 days, MA-30, Step 1, $48,085
f. Hannah Delbruin, Speech and Language Pathologist, 192 days, MA-15, Step 1, $46,367

g. Katie Hoffender, Speech and Language Pathologist, 192 days, MA-15, Step 4, $46,367
h. Alysia Hopp, Speech and Language Pathologist, 192 days, MA-15, Step 4, $50,189

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the new employee contracts as presented.

IX. BOARD ACTION ON CONTRACTUAL ADJUSTMENT

Justment

a. Norma Whitaker, Special Education Consultant to Early Access Service Coordinator

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the employee contractual adjustment as presented.

X. BOARD ACTION ON SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT

a. PC Quote 30 @ $199.00 per computer for a total of $35,970. These have a 4-year warranty and accidental damage coverage, and will be purchased through Erbt Technology Solutions, an AEA Purchasing Vendor.
b. MAC Quote 25 @ $1,232.00 per computer for a total of $30,800 - These include AppleCare extended warranty and similar damage coverage and will be purchased through Apple with Educational and Bundled (5-pack) discounted pricing for: MacBook Air 13.3” 1.8GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 8GB/256GB Flash with AppleCare Administrator's COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the Board Policies as presented.

XI. BOARD ACTION ON SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES 212 & 707

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the Board Policies as presented.

XII. BOARD ACTION ON SECOND READING OF THE AGENCY’S OFFICE CLOSING POLICY & REGULATION 405.7 & 405.7R

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the Board Policies as presented.

XIII. BOARD ACTION ON FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES SERIES 800

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the Board Policies as presented.

XIV. BOARD ACTION ON IASB MEMBERSHIP FOR FY 2018-2019

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:

XV. BOARD ACTION ON SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH HEARTLAND AEA AND GREEN HILLS AEA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES FOR GREAT PRAIRIE AEA.

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the sharing agreements with Heartland AEA and Green Hills as presented.

XVI. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

XVII. BOARD WILL GO INTO EXEMPT SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES FOR GREAT PRAIRIE AEA, IOWA CODE 20.17(3)

XVIII. BOARD WILL RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

XIX. BOARD ACTION ON SHARING AGREEMENTS FOR FY 2018-2019 CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENTS XX. ADJOURNMENT

Now Hiring Line Mechanics in Ft. Madison

Silgan Containers is currently seeking Line Mechanics at our Fort Madison plant. This is a full time position with a very competitive benefits package.

As the largest provider of metal packaging in the United States, Silgan Containers is trusted by America’s most respected brands. If you have mechanical experience and a willingness to learn, Silgan might be the perfect fit for your new career. Must be able to work rotating 12 hour shifts and mechanical experience in a manufacturing environment is a plus.

• Starting pay over $21/hr with the possibility of over $25/hr within the first two years plus quarterly bonus opportunities
• Competitive benefits package includes 401(k) match, multiple healthcare plan options, dental, vision, educational assistance and much more
• Rotating 12-hour shift schedule allows for flexible days off
• High school diploma or equivalency required, trade school preferred
• Quality training provided for those willing to learn but must pass a written and practical mechanical aptitude test

If you are interested in more information about this exciting opportunity visit silgancontainers.com/careers or contact:

Tim Ewing, Plant Human Resources Manager 319-372-8491 x4760 or tewing@silgancontainers.com

Silgan Containers is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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HELP WANTED
HOSPICE MASSAGE THERAPIST

Lee County Health Department is seeking a Licensed Massage Therapist. This is a contracted position. Massage Therapist will provide the client and caregivers with massage therapy for pain relief and relaxation. Some documentation is required. Licensure is required for Iowa and Illinois, or be willing to obtain the license.

Submit resume to Margaret Cook via mail to LCHD P.O. Box 1426 Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email doddprinting.com. Resume deadline is April 30th, 2018. Lee County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Nico, friendly atmosphere, all utilities included. Three offices to pick from. Rent ranges from $300 to $500, depending on the size. New paint and carpet. Located at the corner of 15th street and Ave E (large white building – the old St Clair Chiropractic office). Call 319-470-8711.
Dravis taking rural school advocacy to Washington D.C.

Dravis’ position is actually a one-year position as one of the current directors will be leaving the position with a year left on her term, so she will be filling in that role, but she said she’s already been nominated to be elected to the directorship again at next year’s assembly. Full terms are three-year terms.

She said she has the full support of the FMCSD administration.

“Obviously, this is a pretty big commitment, so I will have to prioritize the other commitments to the local school, the state, and the district, but this will allow me to advocate on a much bigger, national platform.”

She said the position would require her to be in Washington D.C. four times a year and attend different meetings throughout the year.

“It’d be the first time I’d be out of the classroom 16-20 days per year, but before I even put my name out there, I spoke with the Superintendent (Erin Slater) and shared with her this what this is about and what it would entail. I have her support and the support of the principal (Todd Durth) and we’ve all talked about different things we can do to get somebody consistent in the classroom so the students don’t see a lag at any level.”

Dravis said she has several issues she’d like to go to work on as a director, but she said one of the first focuses is going to be developing a strategy to get with some of the Iowa federal Republican legislators like Sens. Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst, and Reps. Steve King and Rod Blum. The other Iowa U.S. Rep., Dave Loebsack (D-2nd District), is a different story.

“When I go to D.C. I’m going to lobbying for education,” she said. “I already know I’ve got a huge challenge as it’s very hard to get appointments with them. They just don’t want to talk to us. Loebsack is always very willing to work with us, but how can we get our voices to all five of those Congressional representatives. That’s going to be a huge challenge.”

She said she’s happy that the assembly elected someone from a rural area and she wants to use that influence to help redirect some attention to rural Iowa districts.

“I’ve really been an advocate for kids and I see those kids are struggling,” she said. “I don’t think we have a rural voice. After you saw the results of last week’s election, of the 13 locals that had bond issues, Lee County had the only one that didn’t pass. That’s one more example how rural, not just Iowa, other states, too, but how rural kids aren’t getting the same time opportunity. Other kids across the state get. We tried to get that out at the local level and we didn’t do a good enough job making them understand that. My voice now may carry a little further, may be heard a little louder.”

Dravis said she also wants to talk about national issues such as the Deferred Action for Children’s Arrivals. The purpose of DACA is to protect eligible immigrant youth, who came to the United States when they were children, from deportation. DACA gives young undocumented immigrants: 1) protection from deportation, and 2) a work permit. The program expires after two years, subject to renewal. She said Iowa has 30,000 ‘dreamers’ who are hoping to avoid deportation with the student or work permit.

“I want to talk to them about funding IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) which is what funds our most vulnerable students. This is all (President Donald) Trump and (Secretary of Education Betsy) DeVos, they want to cut the public funding of education.”

Dravis has been in the FMCSD since kindergarten and went to school at Richardson, Jefferson, the old high school, which was the old middle school, and graduated here. After college, she returned to the district as an associate for eight years, before landing a fourth-grade teaching spot at Lincoln Elementary 20 years ago and is now teaching at Fort Madison Middle School.

Aside from all the issues and learning that will go into the new post, Dravis said she will never lose her one teaching spot at Fort Madison Middle School. After you saw the results of last week’s election, the Superintendant (Erin Slater) and shared with her this what this is about and what it would entail. I have her support and the support of the principal (Todd Durth) and we’ve all talked about different things we can do to get somebody consistent in the classroom so the students don’t see a lag at any level.”

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“When I go to D.C. I’m going to lobbying for education,” she said. “I already know I’ve got a huge challenge as it’s very hard to get appointments with them. They just don’t want to talk to us. Loebsack is always very willing to work with us, but how can we get our voices to all five of those Congressional representatives. That’s going to be a huge challenge.”

She said she’s happy that the assembly elected someone from a rural area and she wants to use that influence to help redirect some attention to rural Iowa districts.

“I’ve really been an advocate for kids and I see those kids are struggling,” she said. “I don’t think we have a rural voice. After you saw the results of last week’s election, of the 13 locals that had bond issues, Lee County had the only one that didn’t pass. That’s one more example how rural, not just Iowa, other states, too, but how rural kids aren’t getting the same time opportunity. Other kids across the state get. We tried to get that out at the local level and we didn’t do a good enough job making them understand that. My voice now may carry a little further, may be heard a little louder.”

Dravis said she also wants to talk about national issues such as the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals. The purpose of DACA is to protect eligible immigrant youth, who came to the United States when they were children, from deportation. DACA gives young undocumented immigrants: 1) protection from deportation, and 2) a work permit. The program expires after two years, subject to renewal. She said Iowa has 30,000 ‘dreamers’ who are hoping to avoid deportation with the student or work permit.

“I want to talk to them about funding IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) which is what funds our most vulnerable students. This is all (President Donald) Trump and (Secretary of Education Betsy) DeVos, they want to cut the public funding of education.”

Dravis has been in the FMCSD since kindergarten and went to school at Richardson, Jefferson, the old high school, which was the old middle school, and graduated here. After college, she returned to the district as an associate for eight years, before landing a fourth-grade teaching spot at Lincoln Elementary 20 years ago and is now teaching at Fort Madison Middle School.

Aside from all the issues and learning that will go into the new post, Dravis said she will never lose her one main focus.

“I have a lot of work in front of me, but anything that affects our students will be on my agenda.”

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 09 Apr
Light Snow
High – 40.0º F | Low – 32.7º F

TUE 10 Apr
Clear Skies
High– 44.3º F | Low – 36.9º F

WED 11 Apr
Light Rain
High – 48.7º F | Low – 37.1º F

THU 12 Apr
Light Snow
High – 35.4º F | Low – 23.0º F

FRI 13 Apr
Light Rain
High – 31.6º F | Low – 31.4º F

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