WP residents could see sewer rates jump

City wants one rate increase to cover project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – West Point municipal sewer system users could see a sharp increase in their sewer rates in the near future as the city looks at funding options for upgrades to its sewer lagoon. At Monday's regular city council meeting at the West Point library, city officials heard from Travis Squires, a managing director with Piper Jaffray, a bond consulting firm contracted to help the city navigate funding the lagoon improvements.

Squires presented the board with three options in financing the improvements including a rate increase, a general bond issue, or a hybrid of the two. After about a 30-minute presentation, the city council agreed that a one-time rate increase would be simplest to explain to residents and not put a burden on the city's debt limit.

Squires offered the city an original 4-year ramp up of the city's sewer rate beginning with a 32% increase in 2020 followed by a 16% increase the following year and 15% increase in 2022, with yearly inflationary adjustments following 2022 over the 20 year lifetime of the bond.

City officials approved a resolution for funding not to exceed $1.9 million for the lagoon improvement including engineering, designing, and construction. The funds would come from a state revolving loan fund.

"In this case, the revenue increases necessary would be approximately 63% in aggregate split up 32-16-15.

Barley Hops this Friday at Sports Complex

$15 Commemorative glasses still available at Partners office

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Southeast Iowa is gearing up for the 4th Annual Fort Madison Barley Hops, Friday May 17, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. This year’s event is well on its way to again provide you the opportunity to find a new flavor just in time for the summer months ahead.

Vendors participating include: East Grove Farms (Salem, Iowa), Exile Brewing (Des Moines, IA), LaReve Distribution (former Fleck Sales), Iowa Brewing Company (Cedar Rapids), Front Street Brewing Company (Davenport, Iowa), Golden Eagle Distributing (Mt Pleasant), Iowa Brewing Company (Davenport, IA), Keg Creek Brewing (Glenwood, Iowa), V’s Brew Pub (Keokuk, Iowa), Wilson’s Orchard (Iowa City)

"We will head to a new location this year due to the past weather-related issues, not to mention the flood.
JOSEPH “JOE” RYAN NELSON

Joseph "Joe" Ryan Nelson, 24, of Keokuk died on Monday, May 6, 2019 at his home. He was born on July 6, 1994 in Orlando, FL the son of Joseph Ryan Sr. and Laura Ann Smith Nelson.

Joe graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 2012. He most recently worked at Siglax in Ft. Madison, IA and previously worked at Roquette in Keokuk, IA, Siemens in Ft. Madison, IA, Walmart Distribution Center in Mt. Pleasant, IA, Moothed Electronics, Inc in Carthage, IL, and the Iowa Fertilizer Company in Weaver, IA.

Joe enjoyed playing disc golf in Rand Park, going fishing with his friends and video games. He was known for his fun personality, free spirit and sense of humor. Joe’s smile was contagious and his bear hugs will always be remembered. He created memories with everyone he met. He was generous and kind and will be greatly missed by those who loved him.

Joe is survived by his father Joseph Nelson of Keokuk, IA, his mother Laura Nelson of Mesa, AZ, his sister Amanda Cantwell of Billerica, MA, his brother Kenneth Greer of Mesa, AZ, his grandparents Judith Krug of Keokuk and Virginia Wright of Winchester, VA, aunts, uncles, lots of cousins, and many friends.

Joe left us too soon and will be sorely missed.

A Gathering of Remembrance for family and friends will be held from 12-3 p.m., Saturday, at the Vigen Memorial Home, 1328 Concert St. in Keokuk, IA. A graveside service will follow at 3:30 p.m. with Pastor David Yurko officiating. There will be a lunch at 3:00 p.m. at the Vigen Memorial Home.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
05/13/19 – 1:58 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Christina Sue Barnes, 37, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 21st Street on a charge of domestic abuse assault and public intoxication. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/14/19 – 2:37 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Adam James Huss, 30, of Fort Madison, at Aztec Trailer Park on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue G. 05/13/19 – 2:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue G. 05/13/19 – 3:03 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2600 block of Avenue L. 05/13/19 – 3:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of 48th Street. 05/14/19 – 4:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Denmark Hilltop.

Lee County Sheriff’s report
05/14/19 – 12:58 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies cited Seth Thomas Wright, 26, of Donnellson, no location given, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, and manufacture/deliver/possession of a controlled substance. He was released upon citation.

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RATES - Continued from Page 1

and then an inflationary increase thereafter," Squires said.

But Mayor Paul Walker said he would rather see a one-time increase to cover the costs of the improvements.

"I don't have a vote in this, but I would recommend we do a one-time increase," Walker said.

The 63% increase would take the current $11 minimum charge billed monthly and increase that to $17.60. The sewer rate per 1,000 gallons would go from $5.70 to $9.12/1000 gallons over the 20 years of bond payments.

Squires said the upgrades are projected at a current cost of $1,885,000.

New Iowa Department of Natural Resources requirements are pushing the need for the upgrades to deal with nitrogen levels in treated water being put back into the area's water table, which were over allowable DNR limits. The new system will also stem e.coli presence, which was still below acceptable limits.

The city agreed with Garden and Associates Engineering more than a year ago to add a Submerged Attached Growth Reactor, of SAGR, to the current lagoon to increase the amount of filtration taking place at the site.

It needs to be operational by December of this year, according to DNR mandates.

Squires said the city needs to keep an eye on upcoming mandates, which could include reducing nitrates in the water, which could require additional upgrades to the lagoon.

"That's kind of why I didn't figure this on a 30-year loan because I wouldn't want to have that in place according to DNR mandates."

To cover the costs of the improvements, he said.

"I don't have a vote in this, but I would recommend we do a one-time increase," Squires said.

Weather WP users could see sewer rates jump by as much as 63%

From the Front/Sports

Lady Hounds strike down Davenport North

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC Sports

FORT MADISON – For the third time in a four game stretch, the Fort Madison Bloodhounds shut out an opponent and came away with the win, this time taking down Davenport North 3-0 Tuesday.

Midway through the first half, lightening bolts filled the backdrop, forcing both teams from the field and into the friendly indoor confines of Baxter Sport Complex.

Davenport North nearly put the first points on the board in the 16th minute. With the ball inside of the box, Fort Madison goalie Josie Pumphrey came out of the goal to help play defense and attempted to send the ball sailing back to the Bloodhounds' offensive half of the field. But as Pumphrey kicked the ball, it hit a Davenport defender, lining the Wildcats up for a wide open goal.

Fortunately for the Hounds, the goal sailed out of bounds, as both teams put back into the area's water table, which were over allowable DNR limits.

"That's kind of why I didn't figure this on a 30-year loan because I wouldn't want to have that in place according to DNR mandates," he said.

"I followed the shot coming up and I heard her slide so I knew if I went around her I could get a better shot."

"It was exciting," Simpson said about giving the Bloodhounds the 2-0 lead on her first career goal.

"Alana is a freshman and is one of those sleepers," Seifert said. "We knew it was just going to be a matter of time waiting on her to score."

"It was exciting," Simpson said about giving the Bloodhounds the 2-0 lead on her first career goal.

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"I know we had to pick it up well in the first half, so I..."
Fort Madison bounces at girls regional tennis

**PCC SPORTS**

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison girls tennis team competed at team regionals Monday at Fort Madison High School.

The Bloodhounds were able to collect an opening round victory over Southeast conference foe Keokuk, but Davenport Assumption took the team title with the final of 5-1 over Fort Madison in the championship round.

Davenport Assumption and Burlington Notre Dame started the tournament, as Assumption went on to blank RND 5-0.

Much like Assumption, Fort Madison swept its opening match 5-0 against the Chiefs.

Every Bloodhound won in straight sets Monday. At No. 1, Larissa Ferrill downed Keokuk’s Keleigh opening match 5-0 against the Chiefs.

Fort Madison met Assumption in the finals. Ferrill and Lauren Dilulio were very evenly matched, taking the No. 1 singles into a tiebreaker. Ferrill was the lone Bloodhound to collect a win in the team finals, downing Dilulio 10-8 win in the extra court time.

Caroline Bush got the best of Kuntz at No. 2 singles, dropping Kuntz in straight sets 6-0, 6-0.

Zoe Ramatowski was able to put points on the board at No. 3, but was overpowered by Assumption’s Julia Thomas 6-1, 6-1. Kilkklyn Nafiger was able to come up with six points in her two sets, but Davenport’s Ellie Motynezau was too much coming away with the 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Lily Cadwallader was close to giving Fort Madison its second win in the championship round, forcing Davenport’s Audrey Jeste into a tiebreaker. Jestel got the better of Cadwallader however, taking the tiebreaker 10-8.

Alyse Schmidt had the final match for Fort Madi-

son, but much like her teammates, she drew a difficult matchup. Davenport’s Faith Resmick downed Schmidt 6-0, 6-0, giving Assumption the 5-1 team win and the team regional crown.

The Bloodhounds next take the court Saturday, May 18, at the girls tennis varsity regional meet.

**BURLINGTON** – The Holy Trinity boys soccer squad gave West Burlington/Notre Dame all they could handle, but dropped the fourth contest of the year to the Nikes all year and have been dealing with injuries throughout, playing one game with just the starters.

In the preliminary conference matches this weekend, HTC opened with a 2-0 shutout over Mediapolis at Iowa Mennonite. Crabtree had five saves in the shutout with both goals coming from Audrae Vincent. Senior Adam Rauenbuehler had four shots on goal to lead HTC. Pothitakis had two SOGs and an assist in the game.

With the win, HTC moved to the Saturday bracket to face Danville at Notre Dame. Crabtree wrangled 12 saves against two goals in the 7-2 Crusader win.

Ryder Brune scored the hattrick as did Vincent. Pothitakis got the seventh goal of the game. The Crusaders peppered the Bears with 10 shots on goal converting seven.

Both the Holy Trinity girls and boys will be in action Thursday in a tussle with cross-town rival Fort Madison.

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Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!

**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

**WED 15 May**

Scattered Clouds

High – 72.6º F | Low – 60.5º F

**THU 16 May**

Light Rain

High – 81.4º F | Low – 70.2º F

**FRI 17 May**

Moderate Rain

High – 79.3º F | Low – 66.8º F

**SAT 18 May**

Heavy Intensity Rain

High – 78.0º F | Low – 66.9º F

**SUN 19 May**

Light Rain

High – 80.9º F | Low – 58.9º F

**Bredemeyer 7th, Robu 9th in post season golf**

**PCC SPORTS**

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic’s Ali Robu shot a 113 around Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course in the Class 1A girls regional Monday afternoon, while HTC’s senior Kyle Bredemeyer finished 7th in boys Class 1A sectional action Friday.

At the 9-hole Deerwood Golf Course, Bredemeyer shot bogey golf on his first trip around for a 45, but shot a 21 on the last nine, despite a par 3 on the 2nd (11th) hole for a 96 on the day.

Siguorney’s Dustin Haines shot a 1-over 73, recording four birdies on the day for medalist honors. New London’s Clayton Phillips was runner up with an 8-over 80.

The Crusaders’ Mason Holvoet carded a 105 and Josh Barr shot a 109 to go with Trevor Mehrfeld’s 114 to round out the scoring players for Holy Trinity. The Crusaders finished with a 424 team score for sixth place overall in the eight-team field. Siguorney won the team title with 346 with Winfield runners-up at 353.

Colby Bredemeyer shot a 124 and Brant Holtkamp shot a 155 for HTC.

In the Girls regional tournament held at Sheaffer Memorial in Fort Madison, Robu’s 113 was good enough for 9th place.

Robu shot a 52 on the front nine including a birdie on the dog-leg right par 4 9th hole, but pulled triple boged holes 3, 5, 6. On the back nine a 61 knocked her out of contention.

Addie Py of New London shot an 89 to lead the field, followed by Columbus’ Aubrey Duncan with a 91, and Highland’s Charlie Ascher who carded a 98 as the only three girls under 100 for the day.

**FMMS Red, Black win**

**PCC SPORTS**

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Middle School Red team won 10-1 on the road at Keokuk in the Little Hounds final game of the season.

Xander Wellman, and Nathen Bowen both recorded hat tricks, while Carson Rashed, Leif Boeding, Camille Kruse and Tate Settles scored one goal apiece. Bowen, Wellman and Boeding had and assist apiece.

TateSETTLES and Hayden Segoviano shared time as the goal keeper. Ben Thiele, Teague Smith and Raymond Sutton played well at defense. Nathaniel Swigart, Henry Morris, Oliver Santiago, and Xander Lumsden played well at midfield.

FM Black tied won 1-0 with Collin Campbell scoring the lone goal on a penalty kick and Trevor Luke played in the goal recording the shutout. Salena Stots, Ellae

nore Wright, and Gracie Partyn Wiegand played well at midfield. Daniel Sokolik, Reid Bell, Ivy Arnold, and Conner Geltshorpe played well at defense.

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DONNELSON – After having a week off due to the saturated grounds, the Pepsi Lee County Speedway in Donnellson, Iowa returned to action on Friday, May 10th.

Even though mother nature tried early in the week to put a damper on this weeks action, with enough sun and wind the grounds dried out enough for the track crew to get on it and worked it in. After the nights action that was sponsored by Darkside Tint & Graphix and Driftwood 13, three drivers claimed their first win of the season at the track, one of those scoring his first career in his class, while three others picked up multiple wins.

The first feature to take to the track was the 18 lap Robert’s Tire Center IMCA SportMods, with Kyle Hamelton and Brian Berghger scheduled to start on the front row. But when Hamelton was scratched, this would move Ron Kibbe to the pole for the event.

Despite starting in the seventh spot, Daniel Fellows shot to the front to lead lap 1 over Kibbe and Asten Becerra. The action up front was slowed on lap 2, when Berghger spun in turn 2 to bring out the yellow. On the restart Fellows jumped back out front, with Becerra and Brandon Dale, who started 12th, close behind. While Becerra and Dale raced for the runner-up spot, Fellows would start to pull away. Just as it looked like Fellows would cruise to an easy win, the first and only caution of the race appeared on lap 8.

Beta got past Puntd for the runner up spot, and then went to work on Agre for the top spot. Agre, who was working the top, and Brandies, who was on the bottom, raced laps 5 thru 8 side-by-side, with Agre maintaining the lead at the split each lap. Then coming off turn 4 Brandies was able to edge Agre out at the line to take over the top spot. Agre would stay in Brandies tire tracks over the final laps, but wasn’t able to mount a challenge, as Brandies was able to work on Agre for the top spot. When the caution appeared on lap 14 to bring the field back to his back bumper.

When the green flew on lap 15, Brandies was able to close in on Agre for the win. Despite Gebhardt’s late charge, Brandies was able to hold off to claim his first win of the season at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway. Gebhardt settled for a close 2nd, Jeff Wilke was 3rd, Pohren was 4th, with Joe Laue finishing 5th.

Derrick Agee and Beau Taylor led the field to green in the 18 lap Donnellson Tire & Service IMCA Stock Car feature, with Agee grabbing the lead on lap 1 over Jeremy Puntd and Abe Huls. While Agee paced the field out front, David Brandies, who started 5th, was working his way towards the front.

On lap 3 Brandies got past Puntd for the runner up spot, and then went to work on Agre for the top spot. Agre, who was working the top, and Brandies, who was on the bottom, raced laps 5 thru 8 side-by-side, with Agre maintaining the lead at the split each lap. Then coming off turn 4 Brandies was able to edge Agee out at the line to take over the top spot. Agee would stay in Brandies tire tracks over the final laps, but wasn’t able to mount a challenge, as Brandies was able to work on Agre for the top spot. When the caution appeared on lap 14 to bring the field back to his back bumper.

A cone was clipped onto the track in turn 4 to bring out the yellow. On the restart Simmons jumped back out front, with Roberts Jr. and John Oliver Jr., who started 6th, close behind. Oliver Jr. would get past Roberts Jr. on lap 10, but by then Simmons had built up a straight-away lead.

Coming to the white flag, Oliver Jr. had cut Simmons lead down to about three car lengths. But that was as close as he could get, as Simmons went on to claim his first career Modified win. Oliver Jr. was 2nd, Dennis LaVeine was 3rd, Roberts Jr. was 4th, with Jeff Waterman completing the top 5.

The final feature to take to the track was the 20 lap I-Smoke Silver IMCA Late Models, with Stacy Griffs and Tommy Elston driving the front row. But when Griffs was a scratch this would move Darin Weisinger Jr. to the pole. Elston took advantage of his draw to jump out front on lap 1 over Ray Raker and Brandon Queen. Brian Harris, who started 6th, took the runner up spot on lap 2, but by then Elston had pulled out to a big lead.

It looked like Elston would cruise to an easy win, when the first and only caution of the race came out on lap 15. Queen spun in turn 4 to bring out the yellow, and also brought the field back to Elston’s back bumper. On the restart Elston moved back out front, with Harris and Ron Boyse, who started 7th, close behind. Harris would stay in Elston’s tire tracks over the final laps, but wasn’t able to mount a challenge, as Elston picked up his third win of the season. Harris was 2nd, Boyse was 3rd, Sam Halsted finished 4th after starting in 8th, with Jay Johnson coming from 10th to finish in 5th.

Don’t forget the Pepsi Lee County Speedway will be off next weekend, Friday, May 17th. But will be back in action on Friday, May 24th, as Buford Dozing & Excavating and Bix Basement Services helps to bring the first of two stops to the track by the Sprint Invaders. The Denny’s Dozier Discount Tire & Service IMCA Stock Cars, Roberts Tire Center IMCA SportMods, and Discount Tire & Service IMCA Sport Compacts will continue their season long points battles.

Come to one of the Live Healthy @ the Market events to learn about area health & wellness services.

June 4, 4:00-6:00pm – Montrose Farmer’s Market
June 15, 7:00-11:00am – Keokuk Farmer’s Market
June 24, 4:00-6:00pm – Fort Madison Farmer’s Market

Special market bags will be given to the first 100 people. Drawing will take place for Market Bucks to use at your local farmer’s markets.

Keltner gets first win at LC Speedway

BY BRIAN NEAL
Lee County Speedway

**Racing action resumes after last weeks cancellation**

The Bears’ Bryce Carr found the net off a pass from Roberto Carillo.

Half.

1-0 game. The Hounds had six shots on goal against the Grayhounds, two from both Fort Madison and Danville. The Bloodhounds spikers at .500 on the year.

BY PCC STAFF

Lee County Speedway

The Bloodhounds’ Will Larson would then slide a pass to Rung at the 18-minute mark of the season at the track, one of those scoring his first career in his class, while three others picked up multiple wins.

DANVILLE – Austin Sexton and Brody Rung each scored goals Monday night as Fort Madison edged Danville on the road 2-1 to move the Bloodhounds back to even play on the year.

On Friday night, the Hounds dropped their home finale to Burlington in a tough 0-1 overtime loss. The Hounds had six shots on goal against the Grayhounds, two from both Sexton and Rung, but couldn’t find the cords.

Keepier Trevi Trojo had seven saves against the one goal, including a first-half shut-out, with Burlington scoring the game winner at the 13-minute mark of the second half.

At Danville Monday night Sexton scored at the 29:30 mark on a duel assist from Rung and Reuben Eid. Danville countered with 6:30 gone in the second period when the Bears’ Bryce Carr found the net off a pass from Roberto Carillo.

The Bloodhounds’ Will Larson would then slide a pass to Rung at the 18-minute mark for the game winner.

Fort Madison had 10 shots on goal on the night, five coming from Sexton. Fort Madison travels to Holy Trinity Catholic’s South Park in West Point on Thursday for a boys/girls doubleheader.

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This little piggy went to market

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Larry Holtkamp
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Fort Madison
(319) 372-9145
www.dawgsndivas.com

For your professional services needs, please contact:

Steve & Michaela McClain
All the way from Fairfield!
Friday, May 17th - 8ish from Fairfield!
Lee County Attorney's Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim Witness Coordinator position is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney's Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of files/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for communications with victims and witnesses and/or their attorneys, staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.

The position's successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level degree or in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or related fields or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.
7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney's Office computer programs.
8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
9. Ability to multi-task.
10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.
11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.
12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims.
13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court staff.
14. Ability to maintain a large case load.
15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of $35,000 annually plus benefits including insurance, paid personal/sick leave and medical/dental/vision insurance.

Benefits: This position includes a competitive and comprehensive benefits package, that includes PERS, paid personal/sick leave and medical/dental/vision insurance.

HOURS: 261 days

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's degree preferred
- Minimum of 5 years experience in maintenance or operations related field
- Experience in a school district preferred
- Valid driver's license
- Demonstrated ability to work independently
- Demonstrated ability to effectively supervise others

REQUIREMENTS: The Director of Operations shall be responsible for maintaining the physical school plant and grounds in condition of operating excellence at all times

Physical Requirements: Bending, carrying, climbing, driving, lifting, pushing/pulling, reaching, sitting, standing, walking.

Applications, in writing, for the above position will be accepted until May 15, 2019

For more information or to apply:

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent

This year’s event moved to Baxter’s Sports Complex

**BEER - Continued from Page 1**

waters standing where we would normally be set up,” said Tim Gobble, Executive Director Fort Madison Partners.

“The event will be held at the Baxter Sports Complex, 909 48th Street, where there is plenty of parking, covered space in case of inclement weather for both patrons and vendors and all the amenities that go along with the complex.”

Get your commemorative tasting pilsner glass at the Fort Madison Partners office during regular business hours or the day of event for $15.00.

“We are setting the event up the same as last year, having all the vendors in one location providing the ability for people to enjoy the event while they mingle from one vendor to the other,” Gobble said. “This way the participants will be able to try all the flavors within the time frame.”

For more information about the event and selections, check out the website: http://fortmadison.com/mainstreet/events/fort-madison-barley-hops/.

**From the Front**

Blossom bred for beef, but fondness remains

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

insisted that I rent the metal detector again and give it one more try. I found it! Unbelievable. I put the ring on immediately, not caring about the detour. My marriage was saved.

Blossom was an escape artist. She had the longest tongue, and could work loose any latch, even unscrew a nut off a bolt. Her most famous escape took place when Ginnie and I were at a political rally in Iowa City. I think Blossom knew when we were gone—maybe because we drove by her pen to see how she was doing before we left. Anywho, we started getting these wild calls and texts from people driving by on the highway. “Hey, did you know your cow is out?” We panicked.

What could we do fifty miles away? Fortunately, a farm boy we knew drove by, saw her out, and was able to get her corralled. After that, I padlocked the gate, then watched her work and work, trying to get that lock loose with her tongue. If we’d kept her longer, I’m sure she would have succeeded.

The cruelest April Fool’s joke ever played on us came from my son. He was paying me back, I think, for all the April Fool’s jokes I’ve played on him. He deceptive-ly waited until about 8:30 on the night of April Fool’s, knowing full well that I would be half asleep. He texted me saying Blossom was out. Here I was in my PJs and slippers. Ginnie and I went tearing out only to find Blossom curled up in her little barn, calmly chewing her cud. Grrr. I hate paybacks.

If it’s any consolation, one quarter of the beef is a donation to the Christian School in Mt. Pleasant in the form of hamburger. The Christian School holds a “Taco Tuesday” weekly for the public, and this will save them from having to buy hamburger. The other three quarters are going, one each, to my two kids and their families, and one to us. There is nothing like home raised beef.

This officially leaves the Empty Nest Farm without livestock, since the minks got our hens, and Blossom fulfilled her life’s mission. But we have Barney the Barn Cat (always complaining) and Buddy the buddy dog (always fawning). Life is still better on the farm, our happy place.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

**FMHS controls fate in Southeast Conference**

**WIN** - Continued from Page 3

the field and had possession inside the box. The Hounds nearly had an open shot at the goal, but Davenport stole the ball away.

Bernhardt, who was again playing heads up off-the-ball offense, was in perfect position and stole the ball back. Bernhardt raced past the two Davenport defenders she stole the pass from and sent the ball to the top right corner for the 3-0 win.

“We’ve asked her lately to push up on the wing a little bit and today she had the space to do that and it worked,” Seifert said.

“I’ve been wanting that since the beginning of the season,” Bernhardt said with a grin.

The Bloodhounds move to 8-5 on the season with the win and currently sit at No. 2 in the Southeast Conference. Fort Madison is still in control of its own destiny and a po-tential share of the conference crown with two more conference games left on the slate.
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