

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, February 3, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 33



www.pencitycurrent.com

SUPERVISORS

County to vote on Rashid building hearing

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Fort Madison Food Pantry is one step closer to taking ownership of the Idol Rashid Memorial building in Fort Madison.

Fort Madison city officials have been trying to divest themselves of the property for close to a year as they button down the city's finances. But the city couldn't legally deed the building over to the food pantry because Iowa law won't allow the city to sell property for less than market value.

So the city found a creative way to get the building in the hands of the food pantry, but they have to go through Lee County to get it done.

The city can transfer the property to Lee County and then Lee County can deed the property over to the food pantry.

At Tuesday's regular Board of Supervisors meeting, the board will vote on a resolution to set a public hearing to accept the building from the city and gift it back to the Fort Madison Food Pantry.

See RASHID, page 2

50s and fabulous

Cars, trucks, and vans lined up outside the Turbo-Wash on the city's west side on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon with temperatures in Fort Madison reaching as high as 56. At one point, six vehicles were lined up at the automatic bay while vehicles were backed up in the self-serve bays as well.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

BESIDE THE POINT

The crazy that is caucusing just got crazier

In Iowa, you're primary votes are cast with your feet. Seriously.

You walk into a precinct and walk over to where the group that favors your Democratic presidential candidate is sitting, and you sit there.

You used to be able to be coerced out of your group, typically by someone of

influence and power. But new rules this year say if your candidate has a viable number of supporters you can't leave your initial group.

If the candidate of your choice isn't viable, which means they have to have a certain percentage of the caucus goes in that group, then you can move, or be "moved" to join a different group. In precincts that elect one delegate there is no viability threshold.

Caucuses that elect two delegates must meet a 25% threshold, three delegates requires at 16.7% threshold and four or more delegates requires a 15% threshold.

If you're in viable group, according to Iowa Democratic Party caucus rules, this year you'll sign a commitment form, called

See CAUCUS, page 2

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Friends born from WWII experiences

At 101 years of age, Quentin Fackler still remembers his dog tag number: 37047361. A resident of Van Vorhies Haus in Mt. Pleasant, and hard of hearing, but still sharp, Quentin tells his story of World War II and the surprising and hope-filled message that came from it.

Quentin was drafted into the Army and placed in Field Artillery with the 26th Infantry Division, 3rd Army, called the "Yankee Division." He considers his placement in Field Artillery (ergo the deafness) to be fortunate because it was the Infantry that really took the beating.

The Yankee Division entered France at Normandy following D-Day, so the heavy fighting was over. The Germans, hiding in hedge rows, took a heavy toll on Allied forces. The harbor at Normandy was blocked by blown up ships and airplanes, so they used landing craft for entry.

From there it was the Battle of the Bulge, crossing the Rhine River; Nancy, France; Luxembourg; Corregidor; Bastogne and Czechoslovakia. Quentin emphasizes that he was no hero, and darned lucky to get out alive. It was the infantry who were the real heroes. The Germans were much better prepared, equipped and trained for warfare.

In boot camp, trucks had been used for simulation, with the word "TANK" plastered on the side. Raw recruits were shipped to the front with hardly any training. They learned how to dig a fox hole real fast! It wasn't unusual for a GI to be placed in a tank and expected to fire it without training.

In Luxembourg, Krauts with shot-guns were dressed like GI's, which was a dirty trick. The mud and muck was so

See SWARM, page 6

INDEX

Business Directory..... P.3
CLASSIFIEDS..... Ps.4-6
Fort Madison Family YMCA P.2
FROM THE FRONT..... Ps.2,6
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.3
IOWA NEWS P.3

JDRF.org P.3
Kingsley Inn P.2
Lee County Conservation Center..... P.6
LOCAL NEWS P.2
New Dimensions..... P.6

OBITUARIES..... P.3
• Sharon L. Brotherton, 76
OPINION..... Ps.2,6
Pen City Current..... Ps.5-6
Public Notices..... Ps.5-6

WEATHER

MON 03 Feb.....Light Rain, 41.6° F/ 34.9° F
TUE 04 Feb.....Light Snow, 27.5° F/ 22.1° F
WED 05 Feb.....Scattered Clouds, 25.7° F/ 24.2° F

OpenWeatherMap



IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/01..... 16 8 21 23, Star Ball: 6, All Star Bonus: 3
PICK 3 02/01 MIDDAY 255
PICK 3 02/01 EVENING..... 588
PICK 4 02/01 MIDDAY..... 1634
PICK 4 02/01 EVENING 8166
POWERBALL 02/01.....12 33 54 57 60, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 4

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From the Front

Congress didn't judge Trump, but history surely will

CAUCUS - Continued from Page 1

a "First Expression of Preference", and you can literally leave at that point and your vote still counts.

I think that would be interesting when you're courting your spouse. Go over and sit beside them and hand them a card with their name on it and write "First Expression of Preference". Then get up and leave.

Another new rule is that those initial counts will be revealed at the end of the night along with delegate results, so the nation can see who won by total count and who won by delegates. That was a twist added for this year, when in 2016 Bernie Sanders asked for those numbers and the IDP couldn't come up with 'em.

A third twist is what is called a "satellite caucus" which takes place in Lee County at the LULAC Club and at the Keokuk Labor Temple at 1 p.m. for those that can't make the 7 p.m. events.

Oh, and get there by 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., because entry is denied if you are late according to the precinct captains.

But caucusing is a goofy thing. I believe that more people are comfortable just casting a ballot in private. I remember sitting in a non-viable John Edwards group in 2008 and Fort Madison attorney-turned District Judge John Wright, who was also an Edwards supporter, went to work in the room.

We were viable after one lady who didn't sit with any group came to our side. She was courted over by several people, not me. I found the whole thing somewhat intrusive and time consuming. If my candidate isn't viable, I join someone else's or my vote doesn't count? Well, it actually counted because a tally's taken at the end, but no delegates are assigned to that candidate from your precinct.

But it kind of flies in the face of one person = one vote, just in my opinion. Sure, it's something everyone should take part in and if you're a Democrat and are committed to politics, candidates, and the process, it can even be fun.



But with the IDP changing the rules, it may be time to think about going to a primary election. Some other types of things go on during caucuses in some cases such as speeches or platform discussions, but for the most part its trying to convince someone unsure of who they support, to come over to your side.

I've been a registered Democrat most of my life. The older I get the more centrist I become.

I can't say I'm anti Donald J. Trump because only the future will tell what his impact will have been. But his tactics are deplorable. The weird thing, in real simple speak, is that most Trump supporters would agree with that statement, they're just willing to set it aside.

So be it. Is China moving because the President has thrown down a line? Probably, but are farms going to hell if he loses the Oval Office? I think the federal government wrote some pretty big checks this year to make sure they didn't go to hell while he was president.

But I'm interested to see what his impact on our country economically and politically will be. If nothing else, as I tell my family of heavy Democrats, it's our system. If he pillaged it to win, that's on us. If foreign intervention influenced the 2016 outcome, it's still on us. Who 'wronged ya', Trump or the system?

Whether history is to show that Trump did great things

or horrible things, no can argue this wasn't a wakeup call for America. It is... and was... and could be again.

Pen City Current will stay up and report on the local and state results as soon as they become available, which could be late into the evening Monday.

As an aside, I want to personally thank all of you and continue to ask for your patience as we work with doctors to get our daughter back to health. She's dealing with a very painful condition and has a chronic heart issue that is scary for her and her parents.

We've been intermittent lately when she needs us more. But know we are always thinking of our readers and partners, and work feverishly to get caught up when we can steal an hour or so here and there. And that ain't so much Beside The Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor/co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com

Move will give Rashid building to FM Food pantry

RASHID - Continued from Page 1

The move will give the pantry full ownership of the building with the understanding that it remains used for a public purpose and retain the name The Idol Rashid Memorial Building and the pantry take steps to make repairs.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said food pantry officials have been making plans for a capital campaign to help generate funds for the maintenance of the building.

The United Way of the Great River Region also has office space in the building and will remain in the building under an agreement with the food pantry.

City officials have worked with several organizations including Head Start to move the building in an effort to rid itself of the annual maintenance and upkeep of properties it owns.

Head Start was originally interested in purchasing the property, but then determined it wouldn't fit the program's needs. When Mohrfeld, then a city councilman, suggested giving the property to the food bank, the Rashid family balked because they wanted the building to be used for children.

Subsequent conversations with the family convinced them that the food pantry was in important part of keeping children fed and the family agreed to the move.

Kingsley Inn Bridal Showcase

Feb

9

2020

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Ft. Madison, IA



Featuring vendors throughout the property

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Obituaries/Iowa News

IOWA NEWS BRIEFS

Suspect breaks into Capitol Building

DES MOINES – The Iowa State Patrol and Division of Criminal Investigation are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the person responsible for entering and damaging the Iowa State Capitol Building in the early morning hours of Sunday, February 2.

At approximately 2:55 a.m., a young male forcibly gained entry to the State Capitol Building and caused damage. Authorities believe the suspect sustained injuries to his hands and/or arms, which may be significant.

DPS investigates Mapleton shooting

MAPLETON – At approximately 9:40 P.M. on January 31, 2020, the Monona County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call in reference to a shooting that occurred in Mapleton. Emergency personnel responding to the call located a deceased male subject at the scene. The victim and witnesses at the scene are minors, and their names are not being released at this time.

State offers two science scholarships

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds announced today the opportunity for two Iowa high school seniors to receive full scholarships to attend the 2020 National Youth Science Camp (NYSCamp) this summer in West Virginia. The students will exchange ideas with scientists and

other professionals from the academic, corporate and government worlds during the nearly month-long experience. Application forms are available online at <http://apply.nyscamp.org>. All applications must be submitted by Feb. 28, 2020.

Gov. voices support for renewable fuels program

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig submitted joint comments to USDA voicing support for the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP). The federal HBIIP would provide grant funding to support investments in renewable fuels infrastructure. Iowa is one of a handful of states with a standing appropriation

for a Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program (RFIP). The RFIP helps the operators of motor fuel dispensing sites or fueling stations convert their equipment to allow the expanded use of renewable fuels in Iowa.

DNR penalizes Lee County couple

Roland and Mary Wierather of Lee County were penalized by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for violation of animal feeding operations regulations and water quality regulations resulting from a manure discharge at the Wierather's confinement feeding operation in Lee County. The order indicated the Wierathers closed the operation and were ordered to pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

OBITUARIES

SHARON L. BROTHERTON

Sharon L. Brotherton, 76, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:11 a.m. on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at Great River Medical Center. She was born on February 18, 1943 in Fort Madison, IA to Darrell & Dolores Thurman Cross. She married Larry



BROTHERTON

Patrick Brotherton on February 8, 1964 in Fort Madison, IA. She was a clerk for many years at the Sheaffer Pen Company and later at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She enjoyed playing Bingo, camping and helping out with the kids at her daughter's daycare. She enjoyed visiting with family & friends and didn't know a stranger

Sharon is survived by: her husband: Pat Brotherton of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Tina (James) Householder of Donnellson, IA; 2-grandchildren: Alexis Nelson & Tayler (Shelby) Powell; 1-step granddaughter: Stephanie (Josh) Wade; 3-step great grandchildren; 1-brother: Mike (Barb) Cross of Fort Madison, IA; 1-sister: Debbie (Randy) Weisinger of Fort Madison, IA & several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents & a brother, Craig Patrick Cross.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 with the family to receive friends from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Following the visitation, her body will be cremated. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A memorial has been established for the P.A.W. Animal Shelter. Online condolences to Sharon's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.



2020 To Do List

Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

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
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda**

**DATE: TUESDAY,
February 4, 2020**

**MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.**

**LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA**

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Approve Tuesday, January 28, 2020 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Public Input
- Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Public Hearing Accepting Rashid Library Building from City of Fort Madison and Gifting Building to Fort Madison Food Pantry
- Consider Approval of Federal Aid Agreement for Iowa's Diesel Emission Reduction Act Project Safety Update
- Consider Approval of Resolution Removing Mobile Home from County Tax System
- Consider Approval of Publication of Gross Wages for 2019
- Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution (4)
- Reports:
 - A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report
 - B. Commission of

Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

**PUBLIC MEETING
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**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed bids clearly marked "ONE SINGLE AXLE CAB AND CHASSIS" will be received in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, until 2:00 P.M. on February 19, 2020, for the sale to the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, the following:
One (1) 2021 SINGLE AXLE CAB AND CHASSIS
Any bids received after this time will be returned unopened.
All bids properly received will be opened and publicly read aloud in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The bids will be evaluated and presented to the City Council.

Specifications and instructions to Bidders are on File at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa.

The City of Fort Madison reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept that proposal which the City Council deems to be in the best interest of the City.
Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk
City of Fort Madison

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Fort Madison
Community School
District
1930 Avenue M
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2020**

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:14 p.m. Directors DiPrima, Hope, Wykert, Ross, Menke and Steffensmeier were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater, Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon and Secretary Elmore.
- II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.
- III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and

Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications

A. Student Rep report. The Board received an update of ongoing activities at the High School.

B. Superintendent Goal Report. Superintendent Slater shared training videos related to the Professional Learning Communities work that is ongoing in an effort to progress towards the Board's established goals.

C. "Did You Know?" The "Did You Know?" for this month was a link to the district Kindergarten page. The link was accepted as presented.

D. Curriculum Corner. Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon shared information regarding future implications for assessments, grading and indicators of mastery of learning.

E. District Presentations. There were none.

V. Approve the agenda. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by DiPrima to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

VI. Consent agenda. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the January 6, 2020 Work Session; December 16,

2019 Regular Meeting; financial reports including the December Balance Sheet, December Revenue Summary, Expenditure Report and Student Activity Report, accounts payable for the December General Account Board bills for Approval, January General Account Board bills for approval, Student Activity Board bills for approval and Nutrition Account Board bills for approval; resignations from Ashley Fraise as elementary health assistant, Stephanie Setles as associate at the middle school, Deborah McWhortor as bus driver, employment of Christine Toubekis as associate at Holy Trinity Elementary, Mandi Eid as food service at Richardson, termination of Kylie Daughters as associate at Richardson, and approval of activity and athletic fundraisers. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

VII. Action Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services.

1. Modified Supplemental Amount and At-Risk. The Board reviewed the

Modified Supplemental Amount and At-Risk application. It was moved by Menke and seconded by DiPrima to approve the request to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for Modified Supplemental Amount and State Aid for the 2020-2021 Dropout Prevention Program in the amount of \$719,923 for expenditures necessary to implement the 2020-2021 at-risk and dropout prevention program plans for the Fort Madison Community School District School. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

B. Superintendent.

1. Consider approval of recommendation of Activities Director through Superintendent for termination of a 279.19A contract. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Menke to approve the recommendation from the Activities Director through the Superintendent to terminate a 279.19A contract that was the subject of the previously held private hearing. The motion failed on a 6-0 voice vote. Director Hope abstained

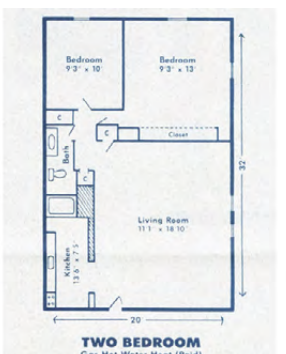
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Classifieds/From the Front

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PUBLIC NOTICES

from the vote.

2. Consider approval of policy changes.

a. 208.1-R School Improvement Advisory Committee. This policy was tabled to be brought back for discussion at the February board meeting.

b. 501.6b – Admission of Exchange Students. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Wykert to delete policy 501.6b as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

c. 505.5 – Graduation Requirements. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Wykert to approve policy #505.5 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice

vote.

d. 505.5-R – Graduation Requirements. It was moved by Wykert and seconded by Menke to approve policy #505.5-R as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services

1. Scheduled February Board Instructional Tour. The Board will tour Richardson Elementary on February 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

B. Superintendent.

1. Policies for 1st reading. The Board reviewed policies 209.1 through 209.5. These policies will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval.

2. Certified Employee Attendance. The Certified Employee Attendance report was accepted as presented.

3. Board Member Attendance. The Board reviewed and discussed the Board Member Atten-

dance report.

C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager.

1. Certified Budget 2020-2021 discussion. The Board participated in a discussion session regarding the Certified Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

IX. Comments from the audience. There were none.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a legislative update.

XI. Announcements.

February 3, 2020 5:00 PM – Special Meeting/ Work Session, Board Room, Central Office

February 11, 2020 10:00 AM - Board Instructional Tour, Richardson Elementary

February 24, 2020 6:00 PM – Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office

XII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President
January 20, 2020
Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary

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LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION IS HIRING SUMMER POSITIONS!

AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

- AMERICORPS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POSITION (QUARTER TIME)
- CONSERVATION AIDE
- BEACH CONCESSIONAIRE

Applications: All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation 2652 HWY 61 Montrose, IA 52639. These positions will be opened until filled. To be included in the first review, applicants should have their application submitted by February 12, 2020.

Applications and job descriptions are available online at www.leecounty.org.

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer.



Enemies laid down arms and became friends

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

thick, that French farmers with horses were recruited to pull the 105 millimeter howitzers out of the gump and goo. Some of the guys wound up wearing German boots that were far superior. One day a truck pulled into Quentin's division and unloaded four-buckle overshoes—all size 14!

But the Allies prevailed. Following the war, Quentin was discharged and came to Des Moines. He started working for the Green Colonial Company that made coal furnaces. He became a salesman and was given SE Iowa as his territory.

Bernhard Andresen was a German Soldier. "No one wins in war," he states in his memoir. The Russians attacked, "in four waves, with the second and fourth unarmed. They would pick up the guns of their falling comrades." "On the whole, the Russian soldiers were dedicated and as we, very much brain washed to believe we would not take prisoners and as a result fought to the bitter end."

Bernhard was a tank driver. The Russian tanks were far superior to the German tanks. Consequently, Russian tanks were highly sought after. (The American Sherman Tank was the best of all!) "A call came to us for volunteers to a tank unit which comprised old Russian captured tanks." "The tanks, all freshly painted, now carried our emblem and proved to be a welcomed addition to the infantry." "One problem surfaced at the outset with the Russian tanks, now in our hands and that was the stocking of parts. Only two ways were available, one was to salvage incapacitated tanks and the other was from tanks mired down and abandoned....these were located in no-man lands." In scavenging parts, "We had the misfortune to be shot at from both sides, enemy and own troops as well."

"Civilians, mostly led by regular soldiers...were blowing up bridges and railroad tracks." "Here we were introduced to a different kind of warfare....First of all, you do not recognize the enemy because he wears no uniform. During the day you see him as an old and fearful citizen and in the evening he becomes a knife and rifle wielding patriot." "Fire is being received from a town. You attack and take it with those tanks....Now you secure your lines against the direction the enemy escaped, only to be attacked at night from the rear. It then became necessary to guard against all directions." "I came to accept the lost war as the best thing for the rest of the world as well as for our country."

Following the war, Bernhard and his family emigrated to the United States with the help of his minister brother and church members in Illinois. There was nothing much left in Germany. America was the land of opportunity. He farmed in Illinois and then in Iowa. Because of his war injuries and a farm accident, he gave up farming and bought a dry-cleaning business in Mt. Pleasant on the west side of the square—Ruby Cleaners. He, his wife, and four daughters, lived above the store.

Quentin Fackler was a sharp dressing salesman. He took his suits to Ruby Cleaners to have them dry cleaned. As fate would have it, or Divine Providence, there he met Bernhard Andresen. They began talking. Lo-and-behold they discovered that not only had they been on opposite sides of the war, but they had also been in some of the same battles. They could have killed each other, but they were now standing in front of one another, conversing and enjoying life. They became fast friends.

Bernhard and his family had moved out of the apartment above Ruby Cleaners and built a house on the Southwest side of Mt. Pleasant. Bernhard invited Quentin to his home and introduced Quentin to his family. They sat together in the outdoor swing and reminisced about their war experiences, life, and the future.

Bernhard passed away 10 years ago at the age of 81. Quentin still lives and gets around with the aid of a cane or walker. They both agreed, nothing good comes from war, but enemies can lay down their weapons and become friends.

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

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*Must show ad; Both cuts must be at same session. Expires Feb. 29, 2020.

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