



Pen City Current

Monday, March 19, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 80

Area lawmakers see benefits of SAVE up close

Taylor and Heaton tour FM schools to contrast old, new

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - In a two-hour morning tour of two Fort Madison schools, two area lawmakers saw the impact of the state's 1-cent local option sales tax.

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

Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Erin Slater hosted the tour at Richardson with Principal Emily Settles and at the middle school with Principal Todd Dirth.

The tour at Richardson focused on the hurdles in place that hindered contemporary learning including handicap obstacles and moving classrooms around the school to accommodate students in wheel chairs, poor structural conditions, a total lack of space for collaborative learning, which is at the heart of most new school



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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



SLATER

designs in the country.

"The message today was that we appreciate

and have utilized those SAVE dollars well in the past and to show what kind of building we're dealing with here," Settles said. The middle school is a beautiful facility

and its up to speed as far as technology and learning. If we could continue to have those SAVE dollars we could see more improvements in the district. I think the focus would turn to high school with SAVE dollars if we could continue to make some needed improvements over there."

The S.A.V.E., or Secure an Advanced Vision for Education, is the funding

stream that was called the L.O.S.T. or Local Option Sales Tax, when the middle school was built.

According to the Iowa Department of Education's website, "Moneys received for school infrastructure purposes shall be utilized solely for school infrastructure needs or school district property tax relief.

See **TOUR**, page 3

Alfred named HTC Teacher of the Year

BY AVA PEITZ
PCC HTC Intern

FORT MADISON - The annual Holy Trinity Blue and Silver event was held this past Saturday, and was full of Irish dancing and delicious desserts.

After the festivities had concluded, however, Loren Menke and Lisa Hansen, both school board members, took to the front of McAleer Hall to

announce Holy Trinity's 2018 Teacher of the Year.

This year, the award recipient

was Holy Trinity High School's social studies teacher, Ryan Alfred.

Alfred has been teaching at the Holy Trinity Catholic High school for 3 years, and has enjoyed every moment of it.

"All the good times that I've had teaching at Holy Trinity and working with the students, I've really enjoyed those times."

Along with teaching several classes, he also advises the debate team, student council, and

See **HTC**, page 2

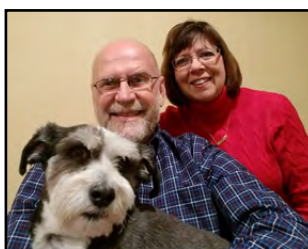
Animal containment getting creative at Empty Nest

I'm a little confused with the term, "mad as a wet hen." Our hens don't get mad when they get wet. As a matter of fact, they seem to enjoy a rainy day. They busy themselves scratching in the wet grass and generally run around and act as if they're on holiday. On a rainy day, I leave the door open to their hen house and

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm

they have the option of staying indoors where it's dry, or going out in the rain. They always go out. "Mad as a wet hen" is a misnomer, like "quantum leap." We usually think



of a quantum leap as something large, but in physics, it's the smallest possible change.

Are these hens friendly or what? Our hens let us pick them up. I've made

the mistake of picking up a hen on a rainy day. They can be quite soggy, which is not a pleasant feeling. But they don't seem to mind wet feathers. Their feathers are so dense, I believe, that their body stays warm and dry, like corn in shucks.

We let our hens have the run of our two-and-a-half-acre Empty Nest Farm, and the boogers

take advantage of it. We occasionally see them out on the shoulder of the highway eating gravel, and it makes passing motorists (as well as us) nervous. We had to do something to contain them. Considering the bad experience we had with a mink, and our desire to keep the hens out of the garden this spring,

See **SWARM**, page 4

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

PAULA LOZANO

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

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



LOZANO

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

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

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

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Alfred teaches to pass on passion on knowledge

HTC - Continued from Page 1

homecoming committee. In and out of the classroom, many students would agree that Alfred uses teaching methods that can spark interest in social studies.

"It (the award) will allow us to get more resources for the classroom, but other than that, I'll still continue to teach the same way."

By taking students to the United States Capitol to meet with their legislators, Alfred has spread his love for government and social sciences.

"I really wanted to become a teacher to pass on my love for social studies, history, and government. I also wanted to help students gain knowledge, and to pass on that interest that I have to my students."

This is Holy Trinity's fourth year of the Blue and Silver Celebration, which is held by the Holy Trinity School Board. Blue and Silver is made possible every year by generous donors and sponsors, including local businesses and citizens. The money raised during the fundraiser goes directly into teacher bonuses.

The previous three winners have been Brad Kurtz, Linda Peitz, and Renee Holiday.



HTC's Michael Sheerin works the room Saturday night at McAleer Hall during HTC's annual spring fundraiser.

Photo by Ava Peitz, PCC Intern

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3/18 EVENING
3 1 8



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From the Front

Tour shows impact of state sales tax funding

TOUR - Continued from Page 1

'School infrastructure' means those activities for which a school district is authorized to contract indebtedness and issue general obligation bonds under Iowa Code section 296.1, except those activities related to a teacher's or superintendent's home or homes. These activities include the construction, reconstruction, repair, demolition work, purchasing, or remodeling of schoolhouses, stadiums, gyms, field houses, and bus garages, and the procurement of schoolhouse construction sites and making of site improvements and those activities for which revenues under Iowa Code section 298.3 or section 300.2 may be spent. Additionally, 'school infrastructure' includes the payment or retirement of outstanding bonds previously issued for school infrastruc-

ture purposes, and the payment or retirement of bonds issued under Iowa Code section 423E.5."

The current SAVE authorization law is set to expire in 2029 and proponents of the funding stream are hoping to extend it to 2049.

Current bills would limit funding use to educational improvements and would place limits on how the funds could be used for athletic facilities and program spending. It would also incrementally increase the portion used for property tax reduction.

Slater wanted to show what SAVE dollars have done for Fort Madison schools, in a stark contrast to what kind of buildings the district is currently dealing with.

She told Taylor and Heaton there is community committee in the process of trying, for

the third time, to get a referendum passed to get a new school built on the campus with the middle school. The middle school was constructed totally with moneys from the sales tax option and had zero impact on property tax dollars.

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

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

"I used to teach at Van



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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

Buren in Keosauqua 55 years ago and the school I was in there was in better shape than the one I was in at Richardson," Heaton said.

"So it was pretty icky and I just hope that we can respond and help create a much better environment. Because then we went to the middle school and it's a fabulous facility. It's so important to reinforce that process

and give every kid the opportunity to learn as best they can. It's a world of compete, compete, compete and those with the skills sets necessary to compete will have that advantage."

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

"Extending the SAVE dollars is hugely im-

portant for us because it would allow us to focus on the middle school and some of the upgrades and challenges, because the SAVE dollar extension would not generate enough money to build the elementary," she said.

"You'll see some of the challenges we have in the Richardson building have been completely taken care of in this building."

Spring Cleaning

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This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

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- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more



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From the Front/Classifieds

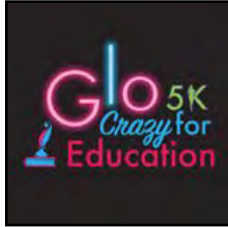
CURRENT-LEE

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



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

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7



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

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, [click here](#) or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

Empty Nest may adopt bucket cow

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

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

Electric fences have come a long way from the single-strand electric wire and white porcelain insulators of days gone by. Now, the entire mesh is electrified,

except for the bottom strand, and is solar powered. Sexy! The wire mesh comes embedded with stakes, so you just string it up wherever you want, attach the energizer, and you have a portable enclosure that you can move at will.

You've got to really love chickens, or whatever you're penning up (sheep, goats, etc.), because this electric mesh is not cheap. If you look at the price of eggs in the supermarket, compared to what it costs to feed and house chickens, it's not worth it. But when you go out to the hen house in the morning and collect a basket of nice, brown, free-range eggs, and talk to the hens and they talk back to you, well there are just some things that are priceless. And giving away farm-fresh eggs to friends and family is a gift of love as well as nurture.

Our hens seemed to be affronted the first day we had them penned up. They eyed the wire mesh as if to say, "What's this? Why is this wire here?" One hen paced the fence looking for a place to get through. I saw her stick her head through the wire mesh, then pull it back real fast. That ended that. We feel better knowing that we're doing all we can to keep the chickens in and predators out. At least the four legged kind. Hawks have not been a problem as of yet. Knock on eggs.

For our bucket calf that we should be getting soon, I had a three-sided shelter erected, and am building a little corral with gates and posts. We may get two bucket calves, if a second one is available, because two calves do better than one. We will then butcher one and sell the other (that is, if Ginnie doesn't get too attached). In a year or so, there may be a package of hamburger or steaks to go along with that dozen eggs. Lord-o-mercy! Farm fresh eggs, and hand raised beef—it doesn't get any better'n that!

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

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority Is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

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

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I recommend approval of the employee resignations as presented.

VIII. BOARD ACTION ON NEW EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS

a. Dean Garrison, Custodian, 379.5 hours (prorated from 1326 hours), \$14.39/hour, \$5,461.01

b. Alana Hutchinson, School Improvement Consultant, MA, Step 9, \$54,849
c. Brad Sternberg, Teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Step 4, MA+60, \$55,308

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I recommend approval of the new employee contracts as presented.

IX. BOARD ACTION ON CONTRACTUAL ADJUSTMENT

a. Brita Oyen, 1.0 FTE Literacy Consultant to 1.0 FTE School Improvement Consultant

b. Ellie Hamilton, 1.0 FTE Assistive Technology Specialist to .5 FTE

c. Morgan Dickey, 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist to .5 FTE

d. Laura Wood, .5 FTE 21C Learning Specialist and .5 FTE Science & Technology Consultant to 1.0 FTE 21st Century Learning Specialist

e. Amanda Larkin, 1.0 FTE Early ACCESS Service Coordinator to 1.0 FTE School Social Worker

f. Jessica Vance, 1.0 FTE School Psychologist to 1.0 FTE School Improvement Consultant

g. June Morgan, 1.0 FTE Special Education Consultant-Early Childhood to .5 FTE Special Education Consultant-Early Childhood and .5 FTE Early ACCESS Service Coordinator

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I recommend approval of the employee contractual adjustment as presented.

X. BOARD ACTION ON THE 2018-2019 CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENTS

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I recommend approval of the 2018-2019 certified staff appointments.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I recommend approval

of the Board Policies as presented.

XII. BOARD ACTION ON FIRST READING OF THE AGENCY'S OFFICE CLOSING REGULATION 405.7 & 405.7R

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

Approved at the February Meeting; language updated to reflect the Montrose facility. I recommend approval of the Board Policies as presented.

XIII. BOARD APPROVAL OF THE 2018-19 AGENCY CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I recommend approval of the Agency Calendar as presented.

XIV. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

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Marketing Director

We are in search of a candidate for a possible opening as Marketing Director for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. This is a part-time position with full benefits, which may become full-time. Duties include all marketing for the school system including advertising, press releases, public relations, etc. Successful candidate will be responsible for social media, event planning, and helping with recruitment and retention. Facilitating the current International Student program is also part of the position.

Marketing Degree or several years of marketing experience is a plus. Necessary qualifications include excellent written, verbal, social media and interpersonal communication skills.

Send resume to:
Michael Sheerin
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Fort Madison, IA 52627



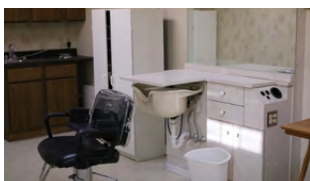
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Sports/Weather

4x800 girls relay takes 3rd at Galesburg

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

BY PCC STAFF

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

Both FMHS boys and girls track and field teams

traveled to the meet. The 10:35.29 time of the relay team was good enough for third place.

Elijah Barnes took fifth place in the boys' shot put with a heave of 47', 11". Heath Hoenig threw 36', 11.5".

Howardson took a 6th place finish in the 800-meter run with 2:34.05 while Lauren King ran it in 2:56.71. Garrett Hannum took 10th place in the boys 800-meter run at 2:11.00. Dayne Cordray crossed the line at 2:19.78.

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

In the 60-meter run, Trey Kuntz and Calem Ma-

clearn recorded times of 8.09 and 8.2,5 respectively. For the girls, Reyna Lampe crossed the line at 9.13 and Kylie Cashman finished at 9.19.

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

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

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

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

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

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

| | |
|------------|---|
| MON 19 Mar | Light Rain High - 46.2° F Low - 37.2° F |
| TUE 20 Mar | Light Snow High - 34.9° F Low - 29.1° F |
| WED 21 Mar | Clear Skies (HAPPY SPRING!) High - 36.1° F Low - 21.9° F |
| THU 22 Mar | Clear Skies High - 43.5° F Low - 26.3° F |
| FRI 23 Mar | Light Rain High - 47.5° F Low - 38.8° F |

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