



Pen City Current

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 81

Author revs up reading at city's elementary schools



Children's book author Jill Esbaum gets the students at Richardson Elementary involved in a discussion on book subjects and what makes a great book Monday at the school.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Blue Grass author has published more than 30 children's books

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Children's author Jill Esbaum is in town talking with Fort Madison elementary students about lonely Bigfoots and cows that jump off cliffs.

The Iowa native visited with Richardson Elementary students for most of the day on Monday before a book signing at the Fort Madison High School Monday evening. On Tuesday, Esbaum is scheduled to visit with Lincoln Elementary students.

She said her message is aimed at energizing the kids' appetite for knowledge through reading, as well as showing them they can accomplish anything they want.

"I want to engage them. I want them to know that

they can grow up in small town in Iowa and do whatever they want," Esbaum said prior to meeting with the Richardson second-grade classes.

Esbaum grew up in Blue Grass between Davenport and Muscatine and has published more than 32 children's books.

She said the publishing businesses is getting tough. She has an agent who handles her books and said agents are still accepting unsolicited manuscripts because they are still looking for the next great thing but it's getting tougher and tougher to get published.

Esbaum showed the kids a slide show that featured her fictional books such as "I am cow, hear me MOOOOO!" about a cow who overcomes her fear of the woods only to be scared at night when she gets separated from the herd. And "Teany Tiny Toady",

See **AUTHOR**, page 8

FMAAA's Expressions Art Auction Saturday

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON - Expressions Art Auction is the annual fundraiser for the Ft. Madison Area Arts Association this Saturday at Comfort Inn&Suites in Ft. Madison. It is the main revenue piston of the engine called FMAAA that chugs out consistent programs and events for the Tri-State area on a regular basis.

Tickets are available at FMAAA Gallery, The Lost

Duck Brewery, FMAAA Board Members, or available night of the event. Wine tasting begins at 6:30 p.m. with live auction beginning at 7:30 p.m.. The art, travel, and enrichment experiences available are quite attractive. See the entire art auction brochure at www.fmaaa.com by linking the brochure on the face page. This is the FMAAA's long awaited new website. It's still in rough editing stages on some of the pages but launched last

See **EXPRESSIONS**, page 2

FM Main Street rolls out quilts, contest in April

Take selfies with some of FM historical pieces downtown

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Join Fort Madison Main Street for the Quilt Walk April 2nd through April 30th in Downtown Fort Madison. Visitors can view these beautiful works of art and learn the history behind their creation while these quilts are on display in more than 30 downtown businesses.



GILBERT

Main Street Director Cassie Gilbert said visitors to downtown this week should be picking up a punch card from Fort Madison Main Street or participating businesses. When you are finished

visiting participating shops, submit the punch card to Fort Madison Main Street for a raffle drawing.

Throughout month of April, Main Street will also be celebrating its historic downtown with an online promotion.

Each week starting April 2nd, Fort Madison Main Street will be posting a photo on their Facebook page of a historic piece in one of our downtown businesses. Participants will have to figure out the location, and take their own photo with the historic piece in the background. Participants will then have to post the photo on Main Street's Facebook page to be entered into a drawing. Each week's contest will open on Monday at 10 am and close on Saturday at 6 pm. There will be a prize for each

“
The reason we're doing this is we want to promote not only the downtown businesses, but the historical value it has. There are a lot of historical aspects to downtown Fort Madison.”

-Cassie Gilbert
Main Street Director

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From the Front/Weather

Auction items include trips throughout U.S.

EXPRESSIONS - Continued from Page 1

week so we had a vehicle for folks to peruse the line-up. The shop page on the site showcases the work of March feature artist at the gallery Jerry Granaman. This page will beef up to 20 items once we start working the new website system. FMAAA is looking to increase our reach!

More than 30 of this regions best artists have given excellent works to keep the FMAAA train on the tracks. Their generous donations towards

our mission help make FMAAA what it is.... "Always Moving". If you cannot attend the event but wish to leave your bid on one of these beauties access an FMAAA Board Member: Angela Sodey, Teresa Dearing, Becky Carlsen, Mary Brockman, Coni Graber, Linda Marshall, Kathy McCracken, George&MaryAnn Gaudette, Jerry Granaman, Cindy Roberts, Dorothy Kramer, Kelly Peters, Mio Santiago, Dr. Tim Benson, Pam Perdue, and

Anna and Gary Grinstead. Gin Lammert is the cover artist with her Best of Show win in the December 2017 Feature with "Just Keep Swimming". That magnificent work will be on sale at the auction that evening. There is a bounty of art mediums showcased as always with several new artists giving to the cause to include old school letterpress, acrylic pour, and glass galore. The travel packages and enrichment experiences are fantabulous with a Pontoon Boat



Photo courtesy of FMAAA

This acrylic from Carol Janosik will be on display at this Saturday's Expressions Art Auction to benefit the Fort Madison Area Arts Association at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Fort Madison beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a wine tasting.

Party for 12, trip to the heart of New York City, Catering for 20 from Ivy Bake Shoppe, and VIP treatment during Parade of Lights ...just to name a few. Purchase a \$10 raffle ticket for the "Pick Your Own" vacation....seven nights at an Interval International Resort, over 2,900 locations in 75 different locations! Winner will talk with Christmas for Kids

Chair, Linda Marshall, as she aids you in selecting and booking your spot with her gift.

No matter what your flavor, Expressions Art Auction has it on the menu that night. Silent auction items favorites such as VIP Tri-State Rodeo tickets and Rajun Cajun Party are back as well as offerings from Swed Coffee/Fox Theatre, Velocity Dance & Tumbling, BCK Jewelry,

and Artisans Next Door. Enjoy a fun evening of wine tasting, delectable hor d'ouerves, and the camaraderie of the best regional artists in the area at 2018 Expressions Art Auction at Comfort in on March 24th while insuring that FMAAA continues to do what it does....keeping the cultural arts on tap in your neck of the woods. Dilly, dilly.

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TUE 20 Mar	Light snow High – 36.8° F Low –31.3° F
WED 21 Mar	Clear Skies High– 38.8° F Low – 26.6° F
THU 22 Mar	Light Snow High– 45.6° F Low – 38.3° F
FRI 23 Mar	Moderate Rain High – 53.6° F Low – 48.9° F
SAT 24 Mar	Light Rain High– 74.7° F Low – 46.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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From the Front/Area News

Main Street Quilt Walk, contest start April 2

CONTEST - Continued from Page 1

week's winner. Winners will be announced on Mondays at 9:00 am. "Main Street will release a photo or two on Monday starting April 2 and people will have until Saturday at 6 p.m. to post their pictures on our Facebook page," Gilbert said. "The reason we're doing this is we want to promote not only the downtown businesses, but

the historical value it has. There are a lot of historical aspects to downtown Fort Madison." The snapshots Main Street will be uploading will be defined by the downtown district from Sixth Street to 10th Street on avenues G and H. Gilbert said the district is also getting a head start for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Na-

tional Preservation Month in May. The prizes will be gift cards to local businesses in the district some valued up to \$50. "It's more like a come down and enjoy yourself and see what we have to offer in downtown including the Quilt Walk, while having a little fun looking for historical elements and taking some selfies," Gibert said. For questions or if you

are interested in having your quilt displayed in a downtown business during the event, please contact Cassie Gilbert by calling Fort Madison Main Street at 319-372-5471 or by email at cgilbert@fortmadison.com. Information can also be found on Facebook at "Fort Madison Main Street" or on the Fort Madison Partners website, www.fortmadison.com.

Argyle woman injured in Sunday ATV accident

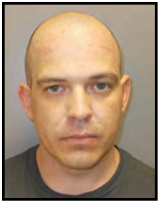
BY PCC STAFF

ARGYLE - An argyle woman was airlifted to Iowa City Hospitals Sunday evening as a result of an ATV accident. According to the Lee County Sheriff's department, 35-year-old Jana Kirchner was involved in the 4-wheeler accident. Emergency crews were called to the 1800 block of 285th Street just after 7 p.m. Sunday where Kirchner was found unresponsive, but breathing. She was taken by AirEvac from the scene and transported to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Task Force grabs Burlington man on felony meth rap

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Burlington, Iowa man on felony drug charges. Nicholas Ryan Queen, 39, of Burlington was arrested on March 18th, 2018 at 1012 Fulton Street in Keokuk on felony drug charges. Queen is charged with three counts of delivery of methamphetamine less than five grams, second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with enhancements. If convicted, Queen faces up to 90 years in a state correctional facility.



The arrest of Queen stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. The Lee County Attorney's Office, Fort Madison Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Lee County Sheriff's Department, Keokuk Police Department, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Gov. heralds passage of Future Iowa act

DES MOINES - The Iowa Senate approved the "Future Ready Iowa Act" on Monday in a unanimous vote of 47-0, sending the legislation to Gov. Kim Reynolds' desk for signature. Future Ready Iowa is the governor's plan to train Iowans for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The goal of Future Ready Iowa is for 70 percent of Iowa workers to have education or training beyond high school by the year 2025. "This is an exciting day for Iowans," Gov. Reynolds said. "Our state is ahead of the curve for educating our children for the knowledge economy, and this piece of legislation will only strengthen the efforts

already underway." "Future Ready Iowa is my number one priority because it gives Iowans the opportunity to learn a high-demand skill and then not only get a job to pay the bills, but also a rewarding career," she continued. "That's life-changing." "This act creates opportunities for Iowans of all ages and experiences," the governor concluded. "It will have a real impact on real Iowans, and I'm grateful to the Iowa Senate for recognizing that in this vote." An announcement on a signing for the "Future Ready Iowa Act" will come at a later date.

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

KAREN KAY BONTA

Karen Kay Bonta, 71, of rural Fort Madison, IA, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 13, 2017 in Arizona, the result of a car accident while enjoying a morning walk with her husband, Bob. She was born on October 19, 1946 in Keokuk, IA to Carrel & Leona Meeker Bruder and was raised by Carrel & Helen Leona Bruder.



BONTA

Karen graduated from Morris IL community high school in 1964 then attended Culver Stockton College where she acquired a degree in business education. Karen joined the Chi Omega sorority during her time at college and met the love of her life, Robert (Bob) Lee Bonta.

Karen and Bob were wed on July 29, 1967 in Morris, IL while both were attending graduate school at Western Illinois University. With her graduate degree as an education counselor, Karen began her career teaching business in Dallas City, Illinois. Karen retired as a guidance counselor at Fort Madison High School and Fort Madison Junior High. After retirement, Karen enjoyed playing the piano at the First Christian Church, study club, being a member of the Red Hat Society, and was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Karen and Bob enjoyed traveling the globe with their close friends and family. In addition to spending the last several winters in Fountain Hills, Arizona, they had visited Africa, China, South America, Antarctica, Australia, Egypt, Alaska, Europe, Caribbean and Mexico.

Karen's priority was being a great wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Family and friends looked forward to her ham balls, chocolate chip cookies, and apple dumplings. She was an avid lover of jewelry and "cute things." One of her favorite things to do was sharing her immense knowledge of jewelry with her granddaughters. Karen and Bob traveled extensively to attend their grandchildren's activities including sporting events, musical performances, and stage plays. Karen would light up a room within minutes of entering with her positivity and generosity of spirit.

Karen is survived by her mother, Helen Bruder of St. Paul MN and her siblings Kent McCormick (Holde) of Germany, John (Lynn) Bruder of St. Paul MN, and Barb (Roger) Rogotzke of Sleepy Eye MN. She is also survived by her three children, Grant (Amy) Bonta, Barb (Jeff) Snyder, and Amy (Nic) Ferin. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren; Carter, Chandler, and Camden, children of Grant and Amy; Harrison, Alexa, and Ainsley, children of Barb and Jeff; Olivia, Madisen, Dexter, and Stella, children of Amy and Nic. Karen is preceded in death by her mother Leona Meeker Bruder, and her father Carrell Bruder.

Friends may call after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2018 with the family to receive friends from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening at the First Christian Church, 608 10th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the First Christian Church with Rev. John Simpson officiating. Burial will be held at Claypoole Cemetery in rural Wever, IA. A memorial has been established in Karen's memory. Online condolences and a video tribute of Bob & Karen's lives may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison, IA is assisting the family with the arrangements.

ROBERT LEE BONTA

Robert Lee Bonta, 72, of rural Fort Madison, IA, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in Arizona, the result of a car accident while enjoying a morning walk with his wife, Karen. He was born on April 11, 1945 in Quincy, IL to Robert G. & Jessie L. Snodgrass Bonta. Robert attended Culver Stockton College where he acquired a degree in education, joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and met the love of his life, Karen Kay Bruder. Robert and Karen were wed on July 29, 1967 in Morris, IL while both were attending graduate school at Western Illinois University. With his graduate degree in counseling education, Robert began his career as an elementary teacher in Lomax, Illinois. Robert (Bob) retired as the Education Administrator for the Great River AEA in Burlington.



BONTA

After retirement, Bob was passionate about community programs, the First Christian Church, and being active with the Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was a member of the Fort Madison Lions Club and enjoyed being a Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselor. He also enjoyed gathering for breakfast with friends for discussion and bragging about his grandkids.

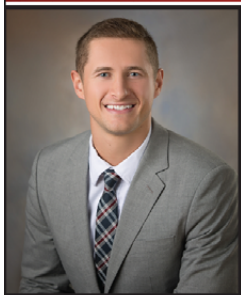
Bob and Karen enjoyed traveling the globe with their close friends and family. In addition to spending the last several winters in Fountain Hills, Arizona, they had visited Africa, China, South America, Antarctica, Australia, Egypt, Alaska, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico.

Mostly, Bob enjoyed spending time with his family. Bob's priority was being a great husband, father, grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. His children and grandchildren looked forward to his waffles, convertible rides and spending time discussing his travels and history.

Bob is survived by his three children, Grant (Amy) Bonta of Belleville IL, Barb (Jeff) Snyder of Manchester MO, and Amy (Nic) Ferin of Marion IA. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren; Carter, Chandler, and Camden, children of Grant and Amy; Harrison, Alexa, and Ainsley, children of Barb and Jeff; Olivia, Madisen, Dexter, and Stella, children of Amy and Nic. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert G. and Leola Bonta.

Friends may call after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2018 with the family to receive friends from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening at the First Christian Church, 608 10th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the First Christian Church with Rev. John Simpson officiating. Burial will be held at Claypoole Cemetery in rural Wever, IA. A memorial has been established in Bob's memory. Online condolences and a video tribute of Bob & Karen's lives may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison, IA is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Two heads are better than one.



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Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



3/19
17 26 31 32 45
Lucky Ball: 14



3/19 MID-DAY
4 6 2
3/19 EVENING
4 8 6



3/19 MID-DAY
0 3 1 7
3/19 EVENING
2 3 0 7

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Obituaries/Current-Lee

OBITUARIES

RICHARD P. MORGAN

Richard P. Morgan, 70, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:30 AM at his home.



MORGAN

He was born on April 7, 1947 in Quincy, IL to Lena Morgan. Richard was a fireman in Joliet, IL for twenty years. He also worked at Huber in Quincy for fourteen years and Bagcraft in Ft. Madison. Richard married Angie Nichols, his companion of twelve years. He served in the US Army during Vietnam. He enjoyed woodworking and was a trade machinist. Richard also enjoyed spending time in his RV.

Survivors include his wife, Angie Nichols Morgan of Ft. Madison and a step daughter, Bobbie (John) Montgomery of Keokuk; step grandchildren, Justin (Lisa) and Jacob (Jaleesa); step great grandchildren, Konner, Kameron and Claire; brothers-in-law, Ivan (Breeze) Nichols, Jack (Bernice) Nichols and Ron (Donna) Roberts; sisters-in-law, Irene Sisk and Lee Link. He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, one sister and several in-laws.

The funeral service will be held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 1:30 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Reverend Richard Stover officiating. The family will meet with friends from 12:30 until the time of the service. Burial will follow in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery with military rites performed by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard.

A Memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

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.holytrinityschools.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.

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LOADING FRESH CONTENT...

Classifieds/Public Notices

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 Carbine 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.

HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME DAYCARE ASSOCIATE

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.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holyltrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.



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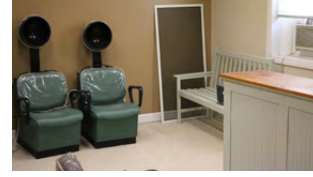


Pen City Current has an exciting opportunity in media sales available for a customer service maniac who is goal-oriented and creative, with a strong drive to succeed. Prior sales and media experience is a plus, but not necessary. Must be Internet and social media savvy, as well as highly computer literate. If you love working with people and thinking outside the box, this opportunity could be perfect for you!

Pen City Current offers a fun, rewarding, and family-like working environment with lots of flexibility. Our mission is to help our customers succeed while providing #HyperLocalSuperFresh content for our readers 24/7. If you're interested in learning more, shoot us an email, message us on Facebook, or DM us on Twitter.

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VEHICLE: 2011 Chevrolet Impala LT, 106,305 miles, 4dr, V6 Flexfuel, automatic

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: Secretary with glass front bookcase; Glass front pie safe; Kitchen cabinet w/ flour bin; (4) Glass front sectional bookcase; 4 drawer dresser w/ mirror; 3 drawer dresser w/ mirror; Vanity w/ mirror; Accent table; 6 gal. crock; Antique pictures; Antique wall phones; Stamp collection

TV, APPLIANCES & MODERN FURNITURE: Samsung 55" UHD TV, 4K; GE electric dryer; Maytag washer; Entertainment center; (2) Lazy Boy recliners; Electric lift chair; End tables; Dining room table & 4 chairs; Corner cabinet; Couches; Recliners; Full bed w/ night stand; Chest of drawers; Dressers; Antique dishes; Hall's kitchenware; Glassware; Kitchen utensils; Lamps; Christmas decorations; Bookshelves; Book collection including Western's & others; Kirby vacuum; Alum ext. ladder; Bench grinder; Vice; Bolt bin; Lawn & garden tools.

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Turning Hope into Reality

Esbaum triggers students inquisitive nature

AUTHOR - Continued from Page 1

about a young toad who has to figure out how to get his mother out of a bucket.

She told the students that writing has to be entertaining and each main character has to confront a problem, because stories about a normal day where everything goes according to plan is a boring read.

But she also has done non-fiction writing including several series for National Geographic Kids. Esbaum told the second graders she doesn't write to tell the obvious.

"Why don't I want to write that giraffe's have long necks," Esbaum quizzed the second graders. After about four answers, one insightful second grader said, "We already know that."

"You already know that!" Esbaum said. "But what if I told you kangaroos can't walk backwards or a walrus can hold their breath and actually sleep under water?"

She said writing about the little known facts gives children the "Whoa...I didn't know that" reaction and piques their interest in reading more about the subject.

Debbie Moeller, a reading teacher at Richardson, said students are coming to the school with a higher skill set than a

decade ago. And it's starting earlier with technology, but it still takes the interaction of young children with influences that read to them to give them the head start they need.

"Sitting on your parents' or grandparents' laps and reading that book, is what generates the real interest in reading at a young age," Moeller said. "It just depends, there are a lot of opportunities and if parents send them to preschool or take advantage of the online things, those kids are advanced, but not everyone has access to those things now. You have kids coming into kindergarten that can read second grade books who had exposure to that technology. But the other kids can catch up because they get that technology at school. Generally, the gap closes very quickly."

Esbaum said then it comes to the issue of comprehension and, if the students are excited about what they are reading, the comprehension comes quicker. She also said she has greater comprehension with a paper book than the e-versions on tablets and computers.

"I just have a better comprehension if I have a book in my hand. When I read on a laptop or tablet, it just isn't the same."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jill Esbaum, author of more than 30 books for children, both fiction and non-fiction, talks about why reading has been a part of her life since she was child growing up in eastern Iowa and how it became a part of her professional life.

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:

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