



Pen City Current

Monday, July 31, 2017 | 6 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 183



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Tim Gobble, center, and Rotarian Matt LaFrenz left, are pictured here with other Rotarians and customers at the event at Hy-Vee Friday afternoon. Hy-Vee asked customers to round up their purchase and will make a donation to the Rotary's effort to raise funds for polio vaccines.

Rotarians, Hy-Vee raise funds in fight against polio

FORT MADISON - Members of the Fort Madison Rotary club were at Hy-Vee Friday selling lunches and root beer floats to help raise funds for polio vaccines. Rotarian Tim Gobble said funds raised through the effort will go to the local Rotary club and then forwarded along to help snuff out the disease. Hy-Vee will be asked all customers to round up their purchases over the weekend and will donate those funds to the campaign as well.

In 1985 Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through a massive campaign to vaccinate children. Since that time Rotary has contributed more than \$1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries.

In addition Rotary's efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort. Today there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the polio virus: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Just 37 cases of polio were reported in 2016.

GUEST AUTHOR

Hens are old-fashioned therapy

I love my hens. They're ISA Browns. The literature on them said they are, "A docile bird, extremely easy to work with." They are all of that and then some. It's about a half-a-block from our house to the hen house. All I have to do is open the door of our house and step out and they come running—half running, half flying, skittering across the gravel drive. It's so cute. They love me and I love them.



SWARM

In addition to laying mash, I feed them—table scraps, peelings, popcorn, stale cereal, bread crumbs, what-have-you. They know it and come running—like prairie chickens or hen pheasants running across the prairie. They are so tame I can pick them up and pet them. They talk to

me, I talk to them.

There's such a calming effect to just watching the hens, who are so much happier now that we butchered the bully roosters. I don't know why chicken therapy isn't recommended more as a cure for modern-day stress, except that a lot of people don't have room for chickens, or city ordinances prohibit raising them. Many cities are beginning to allow a few chickens (no roosters), with the renewed interest in self-sufficiency and growing your own food. It's so relaxing, stepping outside in the evening, watching the sun set and the hens looking for just the right roosting spot.

I guess our hens are what you would call "free-range." I let them out during the day, to wander, eat grass and bugs, and do chicken stuff. If it's hot, they like to chill under

See **SWARM**, page 4

BESIDE THE POINT

Running for public office is more than joining a club



C. VANDENBERG

I cover a lot of meetings, and I don't get to a lot of meetings, the Lee County Republican's dinner Saturday night, just a case in point. I don't have a lot of free time, but since I work from home, I feel like all this time is free. Guess that means I enjoy my work a little bit.

But one of the down sides of what I do is that my job prohibits me from running for office. It doesn't make sense to do that and would put any board in an unenviable position. But when I sit in a lot of these meetings, I can't help but see who does what...you form beliefs, see commitments - and the lack thereof.

We elect people to represent us in official capacities and that process shouldn't be taken lightly. In covering the Fort Madison City Council, the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors, and the Lee County Board of Supervisors it's clear that a couple people aren't living up to the faith the voters have placed in them.

In my eight months covering these boards the Lee County Board of Supervisors is to be commended on their attendance. Not one of the supervisors has missed more than one board meeting. I didn't check on the committees as most of those are liaisons to committees.

When I look at the local school board there is one school board member, Jared Ho-

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

NEVA L. PEAK

Neva L. Peak, 87, of Ft. Madison and formerly of Table Grove, IL passed away on Friday, July 28, 2017 at 8:45 PM at her home.



PEAK

She was born on October 28, 1929 in Doddsville, IL to Henry and Faire Prather Warrington. On December 31, 1950 she married Keith Peak in Doddsville and he passed away on September 28, 2006. Neva was a member of Ft. Madison Christian Church.

She was an avid volunteer for many organizations and committees in Table Grove and Ft. Madison and won Volunteer of the Year in both towns. Neva loved to travel, especially overseas where she visited several different countries. She did everything on her bucket list except going to the Westminster Dog Show. Neva gave countless hours over the years to numerous organizations, clubs, class reunions, so many in fact they are too numerous to name. She will always be remembered for her giving heart to her family and her communities.

Survivors include two daughters, Julie (Mitch)

Doherty of Wever and Suzy (Dave) Ross of Wever; five grandchildren, Derek (Amy) Doherty, Kyle (Brittany) Doherty and Kelsie Doherty all of Ft. Madison, Luke Ross of Danville and Libby (Matt) Ross of Ft. Madison; three great grandchildren, Rayvn, Mehki and Rowan; a sister-in-law, Jan Warrington of Lansing, MI; three nephews and one niece.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; her twin brother at birth; a brother, Dr. Willard Warrington and one nephew.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet friends from 5-7 PM. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 10 AM at Ft. Madison Christian Church with Rev. Mike McHugh officiating. Friends and family are invited to attend a graveside service at 2 PM at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Macomb, IL on Wednesday, August 2, 2017.

A memorial has been established for Christmas for Kids and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Racers continue to compete Sunday afternoon's behind the Fort Madison Christian Church. Here four racers compete on the oval speed track.

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MON 31 Jul Clear Skies
 Low – 69.0° F | High – 81.0° F

TUE 01 Aug Light Rain
 Low – 69.9° F | High – 82.7° F

WED 02 Aug Light Rain
 Low – 69.6° F | High – 83.4° F

THU 03 Aug Light Rain
 Low – 61.5° F | High – 71.7° F

FRI 04 Aug Heavy Intensity Rain
 Low – 54.6° F | High – 69.4° F

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Opinion/Lottery Numbers

Those elected to serve, need to be there to serve

POINT - Continued from Page 1

top, who's only made 32% of scheduled meetings, workshops, and sessions. Hotop has made 5 of 12 school board meetings, 3 of 8 special meetings, 0 of 5 work sessions for a total of 8 of 25 called meetings or sessions from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Attending 32% of gatherings of the board you were elected to serve is not giving the voters the value of their vote. It was my intention to call Hotop and some others listed below to ask them why their attendance is suffering in such important community roles, but I decided against it. This is my opinion and my opinion is that you need to show up or get off the board. When you run for a public office such as these, you assume a bit of public scrutiny. Here's some public scrutiny.

I know that's tough, but it's a simple concept. There are procedures to replace people that resign, it's not rocket science. Looking at the rest of the board, the other six are all above 88% attendance with Tim Wondra, Carol Ross, and Dianne Hope all making 100% of

the meetings and sessions in the same time period. Timm Lamb and Gayla Young are both at 92% and Lois DiPrima is at 88%.

Major decisions are being considered including employees – both union and administrative salaries, building new schools, and other things. You can't be absent from those votes.

On the Fort Madison City Council, looking at the same 12-month period, Councilmen Chris Greenwald and Mark Lair have the best attendance missing just one meeting each of 24; Brian Wright has missed two of 24;

Rusty Andrews has missed four of 24; Kevin Rink and Chad Cangas each have missed five of 24 meetings; Travis Seidel has missed 10 of 24 meetings; and mayor Brad Randolph has missed five of those 24 meetings.

Seidel is missing 42 percent of the scheduled meetings and Hotop is missing 68% of the meetings. I'm not writing about resignations or anything, but the people of Fort Madison had faith in you to represent them on these boards and, at this point, that isn't being done. If it's a health related issue, that's only minimally our concern, but I've heard nothing indicating that these absences are health related. Even if they were, consideration would have to be given to those whom you represent and marked a box with your name.

Decisions are made by those who show up. You've been elected to show up. It's our job to mind the public's business and the attendance of our elected officials is a matter of public

lic interest.

Also, a shout out to a respected peer, who put in 32 years at the Burlington Hawk-Eye before the sale of the product eliminated his position. Dale Allison has always had an ear for those writing news about southeast Iowa, as well of

those who just want to talk about the news of south-east Iowa. He helped create the formula for the dissemination of news in the area as well as helped mold the talents of those who did the disseminating. Mr. Allison has always had an ear for me, and although

I've never been on his staff, despite a couple conversations on that topic, he will always be a mentor as I grew up on the Hawk-Eye.

Thanks Dale...from all of us.

But that's Beside the Point.



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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
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



7/30 MID-DAY
9 6 1
7/30 EVENING
1 2 0



7/30 MID-DAY
2 2 4 7
7/30 EVENING
9 6 8 5

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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Hens better without roosters

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

the hen house and take dust baths. A girl's got to keep up her appearance, don't you know. In the evening, they return to the hen house. The old adage, "All the chickens come home to roost," is true. I shut them in at night to keep wily coyote away. If it's a little earlier than their bedtime, and I want to get them shut up early, all I have to do is go out there, and they follow me right into the hen house like Pied Piper. Of course, I have a special treat for them. If we've had sweet-corn for supper, the left over cob is to die for.

We had a violent storm on the Empty Nest farm a week-or-so ago. It came out of nowhere, not even forecast. It appeared as a tiny spec on the radar that just sat there and vegetated. It was traveling very slowly from east to west, which is highly unusual. In fact, I can't recall a storm movement from east-to-west ever. Anywho, Ginnie and I sat in the living room

and watched the rain roll across the corn-and-soy-bean fields toward us, like a wet blanket. Wham! It hit the house. It was a squall, a gully-whumper! There was some pea hail in it also. Then I remembered. The hens! They were out! I hoped that they had enough sense to get into their hen house. Then a straight-line wind hit, blowing from north to south. I watched debris and my gutter hose go flying by. Both doors of the hen house were wide open, which meant the wind and rain was blowing straight through. Oh, my poor hens! They could blow away! When the rain and wind let up some, I scurried out to check on them. They were huddled under a Colorado blue spruce, soak'n wet, but alive, and full of recrimination about what they'd just been through. They came running to me and I herded them in their hen house. Lord-o'-mercy! We needed the rain, but two inches in

15 minutes is wild.

The hens will be laying soon. I have a 14-compartment nesting station for them which should be sufficient for a dozen hens. Too many choices leads to indecision, you know. But we'll have good brown eggs to eat and give away. People are saving egg cartons for us already in anticipation.

When we have visitors to the Empty Nest farm, like our grandkids, they always want to see the chickens, and Grandma and Grandpa are glad to accommodate. When we have a bucket calf next spring, we'll have even more to see. No, we are not getting a goat. But I've heard they do a pretty good job of keeping the weeds down. Hmm.

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](https://facebook.com). Curt's stories are also read at 107.3 FM in Farmington.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
August 1, 2017
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center, 2530
255th St.,
Montrose, IA 52639
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing
 for FY18 Budget Amend-
 ment
 Consider Approval of
 Resolution Adopting FY 18
 Budget Amendment
 Consider Approval of
 Resolution Approving Ap-
 propriations for FY18
 Public Input
 Consider Approval of
 Contracts and Performance
 Bond with E & H Resto-
 ration, LLC. for South Lee

County Courthouse Tuck
 Point Project
 Consider Approval of
 Plans for Roof Replace-
 ment on South Lee County
 Courthouse
 Consider Approval to Re-
 place General Assistant/Rep-
 resentative Payee Position in
 General Relief Office
 Consider Approval of Ser-
 vice Agreement with ISAC
 to Participate in HIP AA
 Program Consider Approval
 of Tuesday, July 25, 2017
 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of
 Claims
 Consider Approval of Tax
 Abatement Resolution
 Consider Approval of
 Class C Beer Permit for
 Gamer One Stop, Montrose
 Consider Approval to Re-
 appoint George Morgan and
 Pat Fraise for Three Year
 Terms on Veteran Affairs
 Commission
 Consider Approval of
 Resolution Raising Credit
 Card Limit for Assessor's
 Employee
 Consider Approval of
 Lease Agreement with Lee
 County Labor Council
 Personnel:
 A. Step Increase-Treasur-
 er's Office (2)
 B. Step Increase-Sheriff's
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 tee Reports
 Adjourn

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