

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Friday, October 16, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 188



www.pencitycurrent.com

BLOODHOUND PREVIEW

HOUNDS READY FOR PLAYOFFS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

FMHS Senior Bryce Britton brings in the American flag last week before the Fairfield game. The Hounds will host a first-round Class 3A playoff pod game tonight at Richmond Satidum against Knoxville. See inside for a preview of the game.

DOWNTOWN FM

City officials hear no response on Humphrey building

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – One deadline has passed and another is set to expire today in a southeast Iowa judge's order regarding the Humphrey building in downtown Fort Madison.

The building located at 732 Avenue G has experienced structural settling and crumbling of the west exterior wall. City officials barricaded the sidewalk and parking stalls on the west side of the building for fear of additional crumbling. At one point the entire street from the 8th Street alley north to Avenue G was closed off.

The city worked informally for the past several years to get the building brought

See **ORDER**, page 8

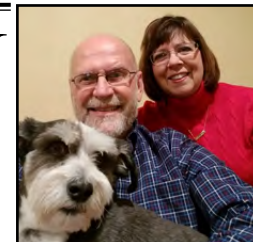


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren puts up some caution tape in front of the Humphrey building earlier this year to barricade off sidewalks and parking stalls on 8th Street due to deterioration of the building.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



From Jerry's Pizza to Casey's Pizza

“Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.” Dr. Seuss

It's the people she misses. Lea (pronounced “Lee”) Bradley talks about the recent closing of her and her husband's business in Mt. Pleasant, Jerry's Family Restaurant, better known as “Jerry's Pizza,” the demolition of the building, and Casey's erecting a convenience store in its place. “There were regular customers who came in everyday. Everyday,” she repeats.

Lea Bradley stands in front of the rubble that was once Jerry's Family Restaurant. Jerry's was a favorite stop for politicians. President Obama was there, as was Joe Biden, John Kerry, Kathleen Kennedy (Robert Kennedy's daughter), Tom and Christie Vilsack, and others.

Dave Helman, former Henry County Democratic Party Chairman, loves to tell the story that Jerry's is the only restaurant that kicked Joe Biden out to make room for the ladies' bridge club. It was when Biden was running for president the first time. Dave Helman had set the meeting up. Biden was supposed to be at Jerry's at 11:00 a.m.

The east room was reserved for them. Lea told Dave that she didn't know if it was going to work because they played bridge there at 1:00. Dave said that he would make sure Biden was out. Well, Lea knew that politicians are notoriously late. Sure enough, the room filled up and no Joe. He came in around 12:15. At 1:00, Lea went to the door and motioned for Dave to clear the room. He did and Biden's group moved outside on the grassy knoll between Car Quest

See **SWARM**, page 8

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WEATHER

THU 09 Jan.....Overcast, 57° F/ 40° F
 FRI 10 Jan.....Overcast, 68° F/ 43° F
 SAT 11 Jan.....Light Showers, 56° F/ 36° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/14.....4 14 24 25 33, Star Ball: 7, All Star Bonus: 2
 PICK 3 10/14 MIDDAY.....8 0 1
 PICK 3 10/14 EVENING.....2 8 1
 PICK 4 10/14 MIDDAY.....1 0 7 8
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Obituaries/ For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/12/20 – 1:36 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue F.
 10/12/20 – 10:36 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 6000 block of Avenue O.
 10/13/20 – 12:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Kimberly Michelle Brewer, 40, of Fort Madison in the 3200 block of Avenue P, on a charge of driving while barred.
 10/13/20 – 3:29 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 400 block of 5th Street.
 10/13/20 – 8:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jesse Winslow Mcgee Jr., of Kahoka, Mo., in the 5600 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 10/13/20 – 7:10 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 10/13/20 – 8:21 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police arrested Corey Lynn Smith, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for probation violation and controlled substance violation. He was taken

to Lee County Jail.
 10/13/20- 8:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue G.
 10/14/20 – 5:49 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police arrested Bryce Duance Caldwell, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of 21st Street, on a warrant for failure to appear and a charge of driving under suspension. He was released on a promise to appear.
 10/14/20 – 10:59 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue O.
 10/15/20 – 12:20 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jessica Marie Fitzgerald, 24, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of 24th Street on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/12/20 – 2:45 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Edward Williams, 38, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/12/20 – 10:18 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Roderick Vaughn Taylor Rice, 42, of Fort Madi-

son, at the Polk County Jail on warrants for sex offender violation and probation violation.
 10/14/20 – 1:39 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Monica Johanna Lino, 32, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/14/20 – 4:50 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ethan Joseph Walte, 18, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on warrants for violation of probation, striking an unattended vehicle and failure to maintain control. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/15/20 – no time listed
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Antwan Lawrence Brewster, 20, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on warrants for 1st-degree burglary and failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/15/20 – 8:00 a.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chastedy Marie Sargent, 24, of Keokuk, no location given, on a charge of interference with official acts. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

OBITUARIES

FRANCIS M. ENDERLE

Francis Mark Enderle, 62, of Keokuk, IA, died Saturday, October 10, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

He was born on September 23, 1958 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Francis T. and Mary Ann Ferris Enderle. He graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School in Keokuk with the Class of 1977.

He had been employed as a painter for several contractors in Florida.

Mark was very skilled at refinishing furniture. He volunteered his time and talents at Keokuk Walldogs, and helped paint several murals that were placed on buildings in downtown Keokuk.

He is survived by one son, Thomas Phillips of Arlington, VA, two brothers, Andrew Enderle and his wife Deanne and Tom Enderle and his wife Deb all of Keokuk, four sisters, Kathy Carter and her husband Mike of Hamilton, IL, Mary Hurley of Warsaw, IL, Julie Enderle O'Neill and her husband Bob of Seattle, WA and Ann Enderle of Eden Prairie, MN one aunt, Joan Meyertholen and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one niece, Molly Hurley and one nephew, Ryan Hurley.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

PATTY F. HOWELL

Patty F. Howell, 84, of Montrose, IA, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 11, 2020 at the Montrose Health Care Center.

She was born on February 26, 1936 in Missouri.

She married Felix Howell and he preceded her in death.

Patty had been employed at The Chuck Wagon Café in Keokuk for many years.

She was a devout Catholic and a member of the All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk.

One of her favorite pastimes was going to the Casino and playing the slot machines.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Paula Hendricks of Keokuk and one niece, Peggy Cottman of Keokuk.

There will be no services.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.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.



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Sports

HTC wins Mepo Invite; Hounds 1-2 in regular season finale

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MEDIAPOLIS – The Holy Trinity Crusaders swept their way through the Mediapolis Invitational Thursday night to wrap up the regular season.

The Fort Madison Bloodhounds went 1-2 on the night knocking off Mediapolis in the first match of the night, but then falling to Holy Trinity and Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont.

Fort Madison (11-17) and Holy Trinity (25-9) met up in the second match of the night and the Hounds had things in hand early on opening up an 11-6 lead on the Crusaders in the first set.

Madison Pirri reeled off three straight points with the Hounds up 8-6. The Crusaders found a case of the yips in the stretch with Brooke Mueller missing on two attacks and Kassi Randolph shoving a push at the net out of bounds, forcing a time out from Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier.

Randolph would get a kill out of the time out which would trigger a 6-2 run for the Crusaders capped by a kill from the outside by Claire Pothitakis for a 13-12 lead.

The set would go back and forth with ties at 13, 14, 16, 18 and 20 before HTC went on a 7-0 run to wrap it up. Fort Madison called a time out after back-to-back attack errors gave HTC the lead 21-20, but Randolph would take over with two kills in the final three points for the win.

The Crusaders would cruise to win the second set opening up a quick 14-5 lead behind three kills from Mueller, and big block by Mueller and Kayla Box at 10-3. Randolph would get three kills in the middle of a 5-3 run to set the score at 19-8 as HTC ran away with the match.

Fort Madison would take E-B-F into three sets but would fall in the tiebreaker 15-9 in their final match of the night.

Holy Trinity ran into a bit of a buzzsaw with Mediapolis to wrap up the night. The Crusaders jumped all over the Bulldogs in the first set trying to get home for the Dodgers/Braves game, but Mediapolis had other plans after dropping the first set 25-14.

The Bulldogs' senior Josie Wolter took over early recording three kills in the first seven points to spot Mediapolis a 7-4 lead. HTC would come back to tie the match at 8 on a kill from Mueller in a 7-0 run that put the Crusaders up 11-8.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity's Kayla Box pushes an attack to the right in the first set of the Crusader's tie-breaker win over Mediapolis Thursday night.

Mediapolis would put together a run of their own and a kill from Wolter knotted things up at 11. The two would go back and forth through a tie at 17 and then Wolters would give HTC fits again forcing a time out at 20-17.

The Bulldogs would stretch the lead to five at 22-17 before Randolph dumped a push over the front line that landed in the center court to make it 22-18. Two more attacking errors by the Crusaders and a kill from sophomore Kennedy Willever put the set away 25-20.

Freshman Natalie Randolph got the Crusaders off to a 3-0 start in the tiebreaker from the service line, while Pothitakis cleaned things up at the net as HTC pulled away. A kill from Kassi Randolph inside gave Holy Trinity at 10-5 lead and the junior finished things off with a kill at 14-9 for the win.

Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier was playing without the services of senior Katie Denning, who's still nursing a stress fracture and freshman Mary Kate Bendlage, but she said this year the Crusaders have learned from adversity and can roll with the changes in personnel



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Reyna Lampe (9) tries to get a tip on a kill by Mediapolis' Cara Knoke (8) in early action Thursday night in Mediapolis.

with the post-season starting next week.

"They're ready. We know we can throw any lineup in and it's going to work. We're just ready to get started," Freesmeier said. "We got through the season and now it's hurry up and get to the post season. We're excited."

The Crusaders are in a bracket with 13th-ranked WACO and Burlington Notre Dame, who now are playing with Monmouth transfer twins Josie and Jenna Bentz, two impact players that were originally ruled ineligible by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

After the union did an about face on appeal, the Nikes have gone 7-0 while taking 18 of 21 sets, including a 3-1 win over WACO on the road.

Freesmeier said this will be the toughest road through the regionals in several years.

"We got a bunch of seniors on this team that are great kids and the younger kids have learned a lot this year. So bring it on, let's have some fun," she said.

"It's been tough all year, but the best team goes and you gotta play the best to be the best."

Fort Madison coach Kent Bailey said the Bloodhounds have to find ways to overcome flat spells in matches.

"We put some other players in who work just as hard as starters do. Then we get flat and we put our starters back in and they don't come back in ready to play, and we lose a third game to Eddyville," Bailey said. "We've done that several times this year."

The Hounds post-season Class 4A Region 8 bracket includes several comparable teams, including Mt. Pleasant and Burlington with No. 4 North Scott looming in the top half on a bye.

"We've beat Mt. Pleasant. We've taken games away from Burlington," he said. "We just gotta get kids excited about going out there and battling and win it. You just gotta go out and do it."

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Sports

Knoxville better than 1-6

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Knoxville Panthers are first up in the state's whipped up "pod" playoff system in the 2020 Iowa high school football season – brought to you by COVID-19.

The Panthers come to Jim Youel Field on Friday sporting a shy 1-6 record with the only win coming against Keokuk in week 2 – a win that's not lost on Fort Madison Head Coach Derek Doherty.

"I've said this all year, but if I firmly believe that anyone that beats Keokuk is a good football team," Doherty said.

"From what we know and have seen, Knoxville is a team that got banged up early and got bitten by the injury bug, but they have proven they are a good football team."

On paper, the Panthers like to come out you on the ground with a physical run game championed by sophomore Gavin Montalvo, who has over 350 yards on 56 carries, averaging over five yards per attempt.

Doherty said schematically, Knoxville compares to a West Burlington team that will run wild plays out of the backfield.

"They do some crazy stuff to make it hard for you to prepare for them in a week, but I believe this is a team that is getting better and better," he said.

"We've been getting in our kids ears that we have to train for the best. We have to bring our A game. If we bring our B game anybody can beat us. But when we bring the A game we're tough to beat."

The Panthers are lead by senior quarterback Kieren Nichols who's completing just over 40% of his passes, but has four picks to go against three TDs on the year – a stat that probably has Fort Madison's secondary itching to suit up.

The Hounds have 12 INTs on the year, including five from senior Will Larson. Three of those have been returned for scores. Larson is 3rd in the state in Class 3A with those five picks.

As a matter of fact, the Hounds have quite a few players with the FM logo on the state leaders mark. Senior Brock Califf is first in the state in kickoff returns for touchdowns and 3rd overall in return yards. Tate Johnson is second in the state in defensive touch-

downs and placekicker Xander Wellman holds second place in Class 3A with four field goals and is fifth in PAT attempts and points.

Doherty said the achievements of the Bloodhounds this year is a result of training and foundation. He said former Coach Tony Shiffman started laying the foundations of this program four years ago. That coupled with players commitment to athletic enhancement has brought the program into the light.

"I think you have to look at in parts. Coach Shiffman laid a foundation and then you see what an Alex Gully was able to do while we rebuilt, but then a lot of this is done in the dark at 6:30 in the morning when it's cold," Doherty said.

"From the outside this may look like a fluke, but we think different."

In the other game in the four-team Pod 11, District 7's Grinnell and Newton are facing off. The winners of the two games will meet next week at a site to be determined.

Doherty said he wasn't sure what the state was thinking putting those four teams in the same pod. But he's happy the Hounds are playing this week rather than getting one of the 11 byes handed out in Class 3A.

Each of the nine district winners were given byes, and then two other teams, both from District 1, Spencer and Sergeant Bluff-Luton were also given byes, which means three teams in that 6-team district were given byes, joining Boyden Hull/Rock Valley.

The Bloodhounds were ranked 9th in the final Des Moines Register Poll and 12th in the final AP poll, both ahead of all three of the District 1 teams with byes.

But Doherty said he'd rather be playing Friday than sitting out.

"We were split as a coaching staff as we talked about it. Some said we'd take a bye, but I want to play. I hate waiting. The week is super long to me – and Friday, the pregame stuff, it just kills me. I want to get to 7 o'clock and go," Doherty said.

"I don't know what the state is looking at sometimes. I really truly wonder what they're looking at with different decisions. But it's certainly different being in my chair down here and not dealing with those.

"I guess the mentality we're trying to push across is that this is business as usual.

We're gonna stick with the recipe that's worked fairly well for us. Normal practices all the way until Friday."

Part of the recipe includes an offense that has settled in with Landes Williams calling the snaps and making reads. Williams has accounted for 18 TDs this year since coming in to start in the fourth game against Keokuk.

Williams has 10 throwing scores to three different receivers and has rushed for eight more.

Another ingredient in the recipe is an opportunistic defense that has scored five touchdowns in seven games and a special teams squad that has accounted for 58 points, 40 from Wellman on PATs and field goals, and 3 TDs from Califf off kick returns.

Calem Maclearn has established himself as the featured running back with 291 yards on 41 carries for 7.1 yards per attempt. But offensive coordinator Justin Menke isn't afraid to give the ball to a bevy of runners as the Hounds have five backs with more than 10 carries on the year.

Doherty said moving Menke to the booth this year and putting him in charge of the offense has produced results.

"He's very reactionary. He looks at what's happening and the vision he has in the booth with Patrick (Lamb) generates ideas that get relayed down to us, but I've been happy with the change there," Doherty said.

"He puts a smile on my face because he'll walk in the door and say, 'I've been thinking...' and I love that. He's adding his wrinkles and its making more and more sense to him, which is the important thing"

Doherty also said the linemen are the unheralded heroes in the mix.

"That's a great group of guys led by two awesome men in Coach (Josh) Wykert and Coach (Ryan) Smith," Doherty said.

"Skill players get their names in the paper, but these guys are the ones beat up and dirty and underappreciated. You look at our guys and they move they're smart, and they adapt, which is a bit innate but is also coached up."

The game at Richmond Field starts at 7 p.m. Friday and because it's a state playoff game passes will not be accepted and entry is \$6 per person. Masks are still required when social distancing cannot be observed.

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Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.

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HELP WANTED

IT/GIS SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Lee County government has an opening in the IT/GIS Department for an Information Technology / Geographic Information Systems Administrator.

Job functions include coordination and monitoring all IT functions, network, telephone systems, computer hardware, software and cabling, planning, developing and controlling the IT / GIS department, and maintenance & growth of the Geographic Information System.

Degree in GIS, computer science or related field or combination of related experience and education required. Knowledge and experience with Microsoft server and desktop software, IBM iSeries and ArcGIS software preferred.

Salary based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits package.

See LeeCounty.org website for employment application and job description. Submit application and resume to

Lee County IT Department
Attn: L.Schmitt
933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA 52627
or email to lschmitt@leecounty.org

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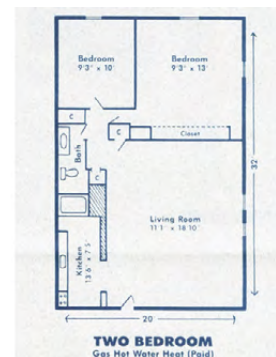
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From the Front

Jerry's sidestepped pandemic

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

and Jerry's. But the ladies had their bridge game.

Lea also has a hard time accepting that the perfectly good building that was Jerry's Restaurant is being demolished so that a convenience store can go in. There are so many memories wrapped up in that building. They were in it for 42 years. It was an icon of Southeast Iowa. People came from as far away as Cedar Rapids to eat pizza at Jerry's. And they shipped pizza and tenderloins all over the country for people who wanted food from Jerry's. When they announced that they were closing, the restaurant was swamped with people ordering half-baked pizzas that they could take home and freeze.

But Lea is thankful that they were not open when the Coronavirus pandemic hit, and restaurants had to close down. She feels so sorry for the restaurants. It's almost impossible to survive on "to-go" business. She is convinced God was looking after Jerry and her.

Casey's had approached the Bradleys early on about purchasing the property. However, the Bradleys were hoping a restaurateur would step forward with an offer. It didn't work out so the Bradleys went with the offer they had.

And Casey's is a great Iowa-based company that has an outstanding reputation for quality service, food and convenience. The first question people asked was if the Casey's store on West Washington was going to close or stay open. It is going to stay open. So Mt. Pleasant will join the ranks of towns that have more than one Casey's General Store—one on West Washington, and one soon-to-be on East Washington. Casey's plan to have the new convenience store in operation by the end of 2020, a memorable year if there ever was one.

It's been an emotional week for the whole family with the Jerry's building being demolished. It's like losing an old friend—there are just so many memories that can't be wiped away, or buried in the rubble. Lea has been keeping busy sorting through "stuff" that they accumulated over the years. They sold most of the equipment, but hung onto the pizza ovens. You never know. They have a son, Brent, or the grandkids, who just may want to start a pizza business some day.

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

City looking to attorney for path with bulding

ORDER - Continued from Page 1

up to safety standards and code, and served a notice to abate the ongoing structural issues on Sept. 20, 2019.

On Sept. 25, 2020 District Judge Michael Schilling gave Bryan Humphrey, the owner of the building, until Oct. 9 to let city officials know how he was going to proceed with the building. He also fined Humphrey \$150,000 with \$120,000 suspended based on completion of the court order.

City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said he's heard nothing from Humphrey on the court orders.

"Thus far we've received nothing from him, so we're not sure where he's at with it," Krogmeier said.

"I've passed it back to

our city attorney with some questions on how to move forward, but haven't heard back from him."

The court order gave Humphrey until Oct. 9 to inform the city whether he was going to repair the building per recommendations from an engineer hired by the city to evaluate the building, or get permits to demolish it.

That evaluation took place under a warrant in early September with structural engineer Michael Purol of Poepping, Stone & Bach Associates of Keokuk.

The order also mandated that if Humphrey chose to repair the building to the city's recommendation, he had to shore up the western portion of the building by today, Oct. 15.

Krogmeier said those repairs would be internal repairs so he doesn't know if anything is being done.

"We haven't seen any evidence of it – unless they're working without any visual changes. But that's part of a bunch of questions I sent back to our attorney," Krogmeier said.

"We will continue to move forward at the direction of our attorney."

Krogmeier said it's possible that Humphrey mailed in a response to the judge's orders, but said it's been almost a week since the original Oct. 9 deadline, and that's long enough.

Under the order, all the repairs have to be done in coordination with a licensed engineer who is required to confer with Purol to make sure the repairs are in line with his, and city, recommendations.

Krogmeier said he has not heard anything from Purol.

"He would let me know if he heard from them."

If Humphrey is deemed to have failed to meet the Oct. 9 deadline, or if he fails to shore up the structure's west side by the end of Thursday, the city may assume, under the order, that he intends to take no action and may proceed in abating the property as a nuisance.

If Humphrey fails to adhere to any other parameters of the order, he must vacate the property by Dec. 15 to permit the city to take any action necessary to abate the nuisance.

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