



Pen City Current

Friday, April 20, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 107

City, commission squabble over chimney

DAR trying to secure grant to help with rehabbing monument

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The ownership of Fort Madison's historical chimney came into question at the Old Fort Commission meeting Wednesday.

The issue came up as City Manager David Varley was reviewing plans for the renovation planned for Hwy 61 that's scheduled for this summer and how those plans will impact the historical areas on the city's east end. The chimney is beginning to deteriorate and private groups are looking at obtaining funds



VARLEY

to rehab and maintain the iconic piece.

Varley said he wasn't sure the city owned the chimney, but Andy Andrews of the North Lee County Historical Society said the chimney had been deeded over to the city.

Dave Moehn, who sits on the commission, said he believed that the Daughters of American Revolution deeded the piece over to the city. "We read it to be owned by the DAR, so the question is who repairs it," Varley said. "Everyone likes to build things and give it to the city because it costs more over the long run to maintain. I don't know if we've accepted it to maintain it. I just don't know. I haven't seen anything that says that. So

"I don't know if we've accepted to maintain it. I just don't know. I haven't seen anything that says that. So if push comes to shove, I doubt the city's going to let it fall down."

-David Varley
City Manager

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Dr. Marie Brady-Whitcanack, who also sits on the board, said the local chapter of the DAR is trying to get some grant fund to do some repairs on the chimney, but she said the DAR thought the city owned the chimney. Varley said he wasn't sure.

"My understanding is that some of the members of North Lee County Historical Society are trying to see if the DAR can get a national grant, but might

not pay for all of it. They brought it up at North Lee meeting," she said.

Varley asked if there was anyone who knew what the cost was going to be rehab the chimney.

Andrews said several bids are still out, but the information probably wouldn't be available until the grant is prepared in September.

"The grant goes in in September and they can get \$10,000," Andrews said. "They've got bids,

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Twisted River

The new Fort Madison food truck Twisted River was parked at the corner of 18th Street and Avenue H for lunch this afternoon.

Libraries to showcase Amish culture in May seminars

Submitted article

LEE COUNTY - Three Lee County Libraries are hosting the program "Our Neighbors, the Amish", presented by Don and Diane Kramer from Dyersville, IA on May 10 and 11. Retired teachers Don and Diane have lived among the old order Amish community for years and will be sharing information that they have learned. This free program is suitable for all ages, no registration required.

The presentations are set for Thursday, May 10 at 4 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library, 7 p.m. at the West Point Public Library or Friday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Donnellson Public Library.

"Our Neighbors, the Amish" is a two-hour PowerPoint presentation containing photos of Amish people and elements of their lifestyle, including customs, language and home and family traditions. The Kramers are surrounded by three Amish communities, and it has been through their interactions with the Amish - plus through extensive research - that they have been able to gather, organize, and present their "findings" about these humble, kind, intriguing people. This presentation will also include samples of authentic Amish

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Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

HELEN COLBY SCHULTE SWIERS

Helen Colby Schulte Swiers, 98, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away peacefully the morning of April 18, 2018 at the Kensington in Fort Madison, Iowa, surrounded by family. Helen was born nearly a century ago, but her exact age has always been the subject of much speculation. She often asserted “you are only as old as you feel” and that no one ever wants to act their age! Her birth certificate says that she was born on November 23, 1919. Helen was adopted as a baby by a Fort Madison dentist and his wife, and promptly became the princess of their household.



SWIERS

Helen described her childhood as a magical time where her father spoiled her rotten and encouraged her to always live life to the fullest. And she lived by that philosophy to her last day!

Helen attended St. Mary’s Academy in Nauvoo, Illinois, but she did not begin her college education until after she was married with children. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude degree from Iowa Wesleyan University, and also graduated from the Artists’ School in Westport, Connecticut. Helen worked her way to a college education by selling art and numerous other jobs.

Over the past 98 years, she enjoyed no less than four separate and distinct careers. Helen started as an art teacher working for Southeastern Community College. She later continued to serve area children as an art teacher at Fort Madison Community School District, Burlington Community School District and the Creative Learning Center in Fort Madison.

Helen owned and operated her own real estate brokerage firm for many years known as Schulte Real Estate with offices in Fort Madison and Keokuk, Iowa. At one time, her real estate firm was the largest in southeast Iowa, where Helen served as the owner/broker.

Helen thrived as an artist nearly her entire life, only recently retiring from her chair behind the canvas. Her children and grandchildren, and countless others, enjoy her many artistic works that hang in their homes. Helen has been a featured artist at many shows and expositions, including Southeastern Community College, University of Iowa Hospitals, Mercy Hospital, and the Fort Madison Art Center. She received first place in countless competitions, including the Great River Road Art Contest. One of her paintings was presented to Governor Robert Ray to hang at the Terrace Hill Governor’s mansion and another painting is part of a permanent museum collection in Racine, Wisconsin.

Helen’s most recent career path was as an author. Her anecdotal column “Up the Down Side” was published for many years in the Daily Democrat newspaper of Fort Madison, Iowa, which focus on humor and advice for area seniors. Helen published two books and was working on a third manuscript that remained unfinished.

Helen helped start the KDME Catholic radio station in Fort Madison. She was one of the first women to be a licensed pilot in Iowa. She actively supports numerous charitable organizations.

Helen was the proud parent of five children. Her oldest daughter, Deena, suffered from severe cere-

bral palsy, for whom Helen had been her devoted and active advocate. Helen frequently told friends and family that her goal in life was to survive long enough so that Deena would not have to grieve the death of her mother. Deena passed away just four days before Helen on April 13th. Helen was instrumental in establishing the first area clinic for cerebral palsy that served eight Midwestern states. She was a founder of the first school for handicapped children in Lee County, Iowa.

Helen is survived by two daughters, Michele Schulte Franks of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Lynn (Gary) Schulte Hoyer of Fort Madison, and two sons, Joe (Jayme) Schulte of Waconia, Minnesota, and Craig Schulte of Montrose, Iowa, together with numerous grand-children and great grand-children. She was predeceased by her husband, Theodore H. Schulte, and her second husband, Richard Swiers, her daughter Deena Schulte, her brother, Craig Colby, an infant grand-daughter, and her natural and adoptive parents.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, 2018 with a rosary to be recited at 4:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 23, 2018 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held in Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for KDME Divine Mercy Radio or Fort Madison Area Arts Association. Online condolences to Helen’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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SUN 22 Apr	Clear Skies High– 58.9° F Low – 51.9° F
MON 23 Apr	Clear Skies High – 64.7° F Low – 47.2° F
TUE 24 Apr	Clear Skies High– 64.2° F Low – 55.6° F

OpenWeatherMap

Dyersville couple to share Amish styles with area libraries

KRAMERS - Continued from Page 1

treats.

The Kramers are native Iowans who met while students at Xavier High School in Dyersville. Following graduation, they both attended the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, where they majored in education. They taught for 14 years in Grundy Center; then they returned to their home territory of Dyersville and taught the remainder of their careers at West Delaware Community Schools in Manchester.

Now that they are retired, the two enjoy their time on their acreage and in their log home, caring for their cat and horse. They enjoy the simplicity of their lives: gardening, landscaping, walking in their timber, helping others, going on day trips, and meeting new people of all ages. Most recently, they have been given the opportunity to share their interest in the Amish culture with audiences in libraries throughout Iowa.

For additional information about this program, contact Sarah Clendineng, (319) 372-5721, Sarah-Clen@fortmadison.lib.ia.us in Fort Madison, Dara Sanders (319) 837-6315, dsanders@westpoint.lib.ia.us in West Point, or Brenda Knox (319) 835-5545, donn-libr@iowatelecom.net in Donnellson.

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Celebrations/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/18/18 - 12:47 p.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2900 block of Avenue L.

04/18/18 - 3:39 p.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of 14th Street.
04/19/19 - 12:50 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Nancy Kay Row, 34 of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/18/18 - 5:33 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawndra Jo Anne Spoore, 28, of Fort Madison in the 400 block of Mill Street SW in Mitchelville on a warrant for possession of methamphetamine less than 5 grams. She was held in custody.

04/18/18 - 8:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Charles Skinner, 50, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
04/18/18 - 10:50 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Bryan Jay Biggs, 58, of Hillsborough, Iowa at the Henry County Jail on a judgment hold. He was held in custody.
04/19/18 - 4:44 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Brooke Nicole Malmgren, 20 of Hamilton, Ill., at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of possession of alcohol under age - 1st offense. *Those listed above should be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire and Rescue Report

04/16/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one lift assist
04/17/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medicals
04/18/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medicals, one bike accident, and one false alarm.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Open house

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis welcomed visitors to his new office at 4273 Avenue J on Fort Madison's west end across from the Baxter Sports Complex. Dr. Pothitakis talks with Andrew Wiese as other visitors milled about the new office.

Celebrations

AIYANNA MINNE JO LORENTZEN

FORT MADISON - Brittany Horner and Damen Lorentzen of Fort Madison announce the birth of the daughter Aiyanna Minne Jo Lorentzen on April, 17, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Aiyanna is welcomed by siblings Jaelyn, Peyton, Gabe, Bentley, and Dakota.

Grandparents are Joe and Amy Coulter of Chatham, Ill., Beth and Jim Purtle of Keokuk, and Jeff Horner of Fort Madison.

Great-grandparents are Tom (deceased) and Marilyn Jones of Keokuk, Steve Horner (deceased) of Keokuk, Nancy Walters (deceased) of Wayland, Mo., Leslie (deceased) and Peggy Harmon, of Hamilton, Ill., and Minne Fire (deceased) originally of South Dakota.

The Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.



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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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4/19
16 19 35 43 48
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4/19 EVENING
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4/19 EVENING
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The FMCH Hospice program is funded by the FMCH Foundation.



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Sports



HTC's Collin Thornton hits a short iron up to the green on hole #3 at Sheaffer's golf course Thursday. The Crusaders fell to Van Buren 174-188. Thornton shot a 46, while Cole Thornton led HTC with a 44.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS senior Kaycee McGregor brings the ball up the right side of the field to where the Bloodhound offense awaits. The Hounds moved to 2-1 on the season with a 2-1 win over Iowa City Liberty at Baxter Sports Complex Thursday evening.

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Go to www.agemark.com/careers/ and click on the link for positions in Fort Madison or send resume to ebrown@kensington-evergreen.com. You can also stop in The Kensington at 2210 Avenue H, Fort Madison, IA.



Volunteer Services Program Director

United Way of the Great River Region which serves Lee, Hancock, and Clark counties is seeking a full-time Volunteer Services Program Director to manage all aspects of a newly formed Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long-standing Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Ideal candidate will have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer, and bookkeeping skills; and ability to work with and manage volunteers and the organizations and businesses who utilize volunteers. The ability to multi-task is a must. Some travel required. To be considered, please send cover letter and resume with three references to: director@unitedwaygrr.org or mail to: United Way of the Great River Region, P.O. Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 on or before April 23, 2018.



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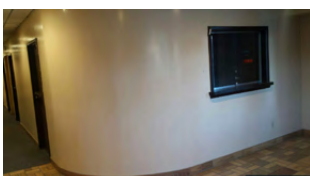
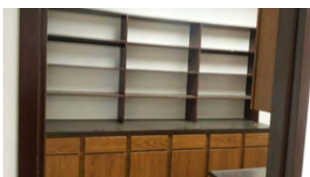
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From the Front

Board tables idea of moving monument to new park

CHIMNEY - Continued from Page 1

but they're waiting on another bid. They won't know until Feb. 2019 whether they will get the 10,000."

Board member Carol Ross said the commission had discussed moving the chimney into the 1812 Battlefield Park that is under construction between 4th and 5th streets and Avenues H and G.

"At what point could it be brought up again to move the chimney," Ross asked.

Varley said current plans for the highway do not include moving the chimney,

"It's not going to get moved unless somebody goes to (City) Council with a plan and says we want to move it... here's the plan...here's who's going to pay for it...and that type of thing. Until there is a positive plan, there is no plan to move it," he said.

Commission President Joe Thurman said if the city has ownership, he wouldn't be in favor of relocating it to the park.

"As far as moving it - the city has plans to leave it there, make it aesthetic and it's still marking the original site of the fort with the ruins under it," Thurman said.

Varley said there's still plenty of time to look into

the issue and get definitive plans as reconstruction on that portion of the highway probably won't happen until 2019. He showed the commission the plans for the highway in that area including landscaping, parking and highway rehabilitation. Those plans have the chimney sitting on city property where it is currently located with 11 parallel parking stalls along the south side of the highway across from the 4th Street intersection and a series of shrubbery around the south side of the monument.

The chimney itself is beginning to deteriorate with several cracks in the heavy stone mostly along the back side with several heavy cracks near the top of the structure.

Varley said the group should take some time to

discuss what they want to do with the chimney. He also suggested the group look to private foundations to help offset some of the costs.

In other action, the commission

- heard from Old Fort Site Manager Dr. Eugene Watkins who indicated attendance during the most recent historic Iowa State Penitentiary tours was not on par with other tour attendance. He said that could be partially due to the self-guided tours and also a lack of information about the tours being held.

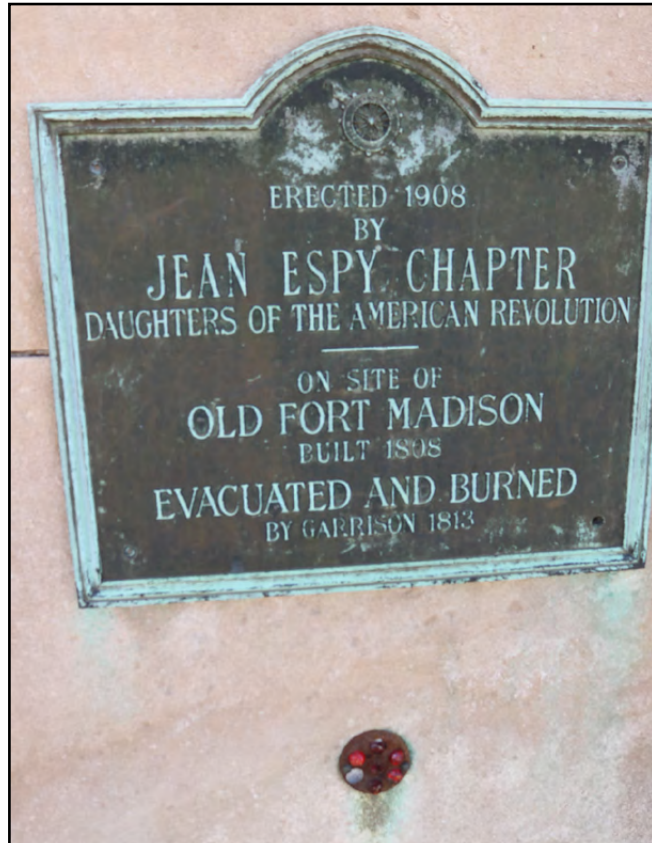
- approved the March budget, which showed a first quarter balance of \$2,874. Revenues totaled \$30,934 with expenses at \$28,060.

- heard an update from Andrews on the Battlefield Park progress.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Several large cracks can be seen on the south side of the historic chimney that was built in 1908 by the Jean Espy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chimney stands at the original location of the Old Fort Madison.



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