



Pen City Current

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Platform comes in \$1.4M over budget

Amtrak Depot relocation in jeopardy with shortfall

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORTY MADISON – The city of Fort Madison took another punch in the gut on Tuesday when a construction bid for the railroad platform at the proposed new Amtrak Depot came in \$1.4 million over engineer estimates.

The bids were opened today at the Iowa Department of Transportation and the lowest bid was from Iowa Bridge and Culvert and came in at \$2.83 mil-

lion, which according to City Manager David Varley is double what the city was budgeting.

“That’s correct. It’s double what we budgeted and finding another \$1.4 million is not gonna be easy,” Varley.

Varley said engineering estimates from Klingner & Associates were at \$1.3 million, but he said he was figuring closer to \$1.4 million.

“I don’t know. I thought this would come in a bit high. I mean you’re working with the railroad and they have so many rules and regulations and insurance requirements,” Varley said. “Working next to the tracks also means you can’t work all the time when trains are going by. I realize how difficult it is to work with railroads. I think engineers would be able to see

this stuff, too.”

The bid letting is up for discussion at tonight’s City Council meeting. Varley said he just found out about the bid Tuesday afternoon and said it was a shocker.

This is the third major project in the past year that has come in substantially over engineering estimates. Two other projects, the Avenue G sidewalk and curb replacement that was planned with grant money from the waste water treatment rehab project came in way over estimates, as did the Old Highway 61 rehab that was supposed to start this fall.

Both of those estimates were from HR Green out of Cedar Rapids and were met with the furrowed

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Tuesday at the beach

Above, students and a mascot from Holy Trinity Catholic dressed in beach garb cheer on the Crusaders Tuesday night, while at left, three Fort Madison High School students are trying to hold onto the last vestiges of summer in their swimming gear.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Supervisors approve new 28E with mental health region

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A new agreement was approved Monday that will provide for additional voting members to the regional mental health board to help with new state laws providing for children’s mental health services.

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed House File 690 into law in May creating a children’s mental health system in the state. The new law, among other things, expanded regional and state boards that will now include children’s behavioral health service oversight.

Southeast Iowa Link, is an eight-county regional board overseeing mental health services in southeast Iowa, headed up by Lee County’s Ryanne Wood.

Wood told supervisors the new agreement will expand the current SEIL board.

“What we have done in the construction (of the amendment) is just address the issues related to the new legislation,” Wood said.

“With the new legislation we will be inheriting, we will be adding a provider of children’s mental health services, a representative from the education system, and a parent of a child that uses children’s behavior services or a representative of that family.”

She said children crisis services were always a part of the regions’ services, but now the board officially takes over administration of those programs and as Wood

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Sports/From the Front

Lady Hounds come together for win over MP

FMHS needs run in 2nd to set momentum in 3-1 conference win

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Kent Bailey saw his Fort Madison High School volleyball team down one game, and behind by 11 points in the second. “I figured, ‘Well, it’s going to take five games to win,’” Bailey said. It took four. The Bloodhounds, playing at home for the

first time this season, roared back to win the second game of Tuesday’s match against Mount Pleasant, then took the next two in the 16-25, 25-23, 25-19, 25-20 victory. “Thankfully, volleyball is a game of runs, and we made that run to come back,” Bailey said. Mount Pleasant took an early 5-1 lead in the second game and extended that margin to 18-7

after a kill from Avery Sutter. But the Bloodhounds had an answer. Trailing 19-9, they scored six consecutive points, three on kills from Jillian Wiseman. “I think we just started playing together,” said Wiseman, who led the Bloodhounds with 21 kills. “And our passing was a lot better.” “We quit making errors, and stopped beating ourselves,” Bailey said. “And they made a few mistakes too, which helped.”

The Bloodhounds trailed 23-20, then scored the final five points of the game, with Kailyn Guzman and Reyna Lampe each having kills in that run. Fort Madison dominated the third game, leading 22-14, before Mount Pleasant went on a 5-0 run. But the Bloodhounds closed out the game with the final three points, the last two coming on aces from Lauren Bailey. Mount Pleasant built a 13-9 lead in the fourth game before the Bloodhounds scored eight of the next nine points.

Fort Madison finished the match by scoring the final four points. Wiseman had two kills in that stretch and Anna Lynk had one. Lynk’s tip on match point fell to the court, and the Bloodhounds celebrated.

“It was a pretty big win for us,” Wiseman said. “It was our first home match, and we wanted to play well.” Wiseman was dominating — she also had 18 digs and two blocks. But Lampe had 10 kills, Lynk had eight and Guzman had seven. “(Wiseman) obviously



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jillian Wiseman attacks the net in the first game of the Hounds’ 3-1 win over Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night. The Lady Hounds lost the first game, but came back to win the next three.

does so much for us,” Kent Bailey said. “But we had a lot of other contributions tonight.” Lauren Bailey had 44 assists and 11 digs. Nadia Boeding had 19 digs. Gracie Pumphrey had 14 digs and Madison Pirri had 12. Pumphrey had four aces and Jenna Jones

had three. Fort Madison moved to 4-10 overall, 1-2 in the Southeast Conference. “We’ve played against a lot of teams that made us look exceedingly short,” Bailey quipped about the Bloodhounds’ early schedule. “Tonight was a good win for us.”



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison’s Anna Lynk (10) and Genevieve Ruble (22) put up a block on Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night in the Hounds’ 3-1 win over the Panthers.



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Amtrak depot may get scaled back after bid

DEPOT - Continued from Page 1

brows of several city councilman and Mayor Brad Randolph. Varley said he understands why the construction bids can come in high as they have on all three projects, but he’s perplexed as to why engineers haven’t been seeing a more accurate picture. “They haven’t been very accurate. It’s not the same firm and all three had extenuating circumstances.” He said much of the increased costs of all the projects are centered around the unknowns. “I understand the the downtown project too, I just don’t know why the engineers didn’t get that. It’s like the railroad project...if I have to jump through these hoops, you’re gonna have to pay me a premium for it.

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For the Record/Current-Lee

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
 09/16/19 – 8:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 09/16/19 – 5:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue H.
 09/16/19 – 5:13 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Logan Glenn Fowler, 22, of Vandalia, Mo., in the 900 block of 48th Street on a charge of carrying weapons, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and interference. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 09/16/19 – 7:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Pele Oscar Wise, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue D, on a charge of 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Scot Andrew Flora, 50, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of 1st degree theft. He was held in custody at the Lee County Jail.
 09/16/19 – 6:33 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Elijah Boyle, 33, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of 5th degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 09/16/19 – 6:51 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Adam Bowen, 39, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Hwy. 61, on charges of interference with official acts and driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

09/16/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
 09/16/19 – 12:23 p.m. –

CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Bloodhound Booster Events

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

Girl Scouts Discovery Night

All girls are invited to join in on a free Discovery night on Sept. 18 at the Fort Madison Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information visit the website at www.girlscoutstoday.org or call 800-798-0833.

North Lee County Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year's theme is "idols of strength."

Volunteer Fair

The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library's Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening

The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Bootten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stueker-jurgen DJing until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Fort Madison Farmer's Market

The farmer's market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the market.

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat. The Kensington is also offering a free classic movie at the Fox Theatre on Sept 23 at 1 PM. Sabrina starring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

FMHS Band Classic

The FMHS Band is hosting their Classic (16th Annual) with bands coming from near and far. The scheduled date is this Saturday Sept. 21 at Richmond Stadium. Gates will open at 11a.m. and the event starts at noon.

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Sports/Weather

Crusaders stave off Notre Dame in four games

HTC girls find heart after dropping first game to win in 4

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – “These girls are better than they think they are,” said Holy Trinity Catholic girls volleyball coach Melissa Freesmeier Tuesday night.

Freesmeier was all kinds of fired up after her Crusaders erased a loss in the first game of their match with Burlington Notre Dame and came back to win 3-1.

The normally docile Freesmeier, entering her 27th year as a head coach, was as animated on the sidelines



FREESMEIER

as she’s ever been motivating an HTC squad that lost to New London Thursday in four games.

“You know I’ve told myself I’m going to be calm. These kids need me to be calm... these kids need me to be calm, but I’m not going to be calm anymore.

These kids can handle it,” Freesmeier said.

“These are some kids with some heart and are some that are competitive but it’s deep down inside them. We’re gonna bring it out and we’re gonna play some volleyball.”

The first game was loaded with errors for the Crusaders but they managed to come from three and four points down on several occasions and had tied the

score at 20, but the Nikes went on a 3-0 run to be two points away. HTC battled back to 22, but Notre Dame would get the next two points for the win.

In the second game, HTC found themselves down 14-11 and then senior Maille Sheerin came to the service line. With Freesmeier calling spots from behind her clipboard, Sheerin began methodically dissecting the Nike front and back defense moving the ball around and five points later HTC was back in front 16-14.

“She did great,” Freesmeier said of Sheerin’s timely service points.

“She was hitting her spots and was on point. We were mixing things up and trying to get them in a daze. We went deep and then short and they weren’t sure where she was going to go, and Maille has such a great serve.”

In the third game, the two squads battled through about six ties with HTC pulling away down the stretch on some Nike errors. It seemed the Nikes lost of a bit of their mojo in the fourth game after starting up 2-0.

HTC went on a run and was up 7-2 before Notre Dame could regain their footing, but the Crusaders sensed the win coming and pulled away for a 25-13 win.

Freesmeier said she was happy with the way the girls battled back, not only from the first game loss, but the loss at New London last week.

“Look at game one – errors... errors....errors. But then look at the heart out there. Our kids were on the floor diving for stuff, they weren’t letting anything hit the floor. I got to give our kids credit they came out and did a great job tonight, she said.”

“Notre Dame’s gonna win a lot of volleyball games this year and we’re going to have to play them a couple more times so we just gotta be on our game all the time. But that’s fun though, that’s volleyball.”

On the night, Sheerin was 25 of 25 with five aces and 16 digs to lead Holy Trinity. Claire Pothitakis was 24 of 33 attacking with 17 kills including a fourth game where she went 12 of 14 with four kills as the Crusaders pulled away.

Kassi Randolph and Bailey Hellweg combined for 36 sets in the four games.

The Crusaders are off until Saturday when they travel to the Keokuk Invitational Tourney starting at 9 a.m.

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THU 19 Sep	Moderate Rain High– 84.8° F Low – 71.7° F
FRI 20 Sep	Moderate Rain High– 83.6° F Low – 69.2° F
SAT 21 Sep	Heavy Intensity Rain High– 75.5° F Low – 69.5° F
SUN 22 Sep	Light Rain High– 77.6° F Low – 67.5° F

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Sports/Classifieds



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Notre Dame sophomore Katy Stephens powers an attack at HTC's Kassi Randolph and Avery Hopper in early action Tuesday night. The Crusaders downed the Nikes in four games.



HTC senior Avery Hopper goes up for a kill against Rylie Todd at left, while at right freshman Brooke Mueller gets in an attempt at a kill. The Crusaders came back from a first-game loss to win by a score of 3-1

the classifieds

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Holy Trinity Jr./Sr. High School is seeking a part-time assistant cook. The position is for 4-5 hours on days that lunch is served. For more information, please contact Paula at 319-837-6131 or paula.bales@holyltrinity-schools.org.



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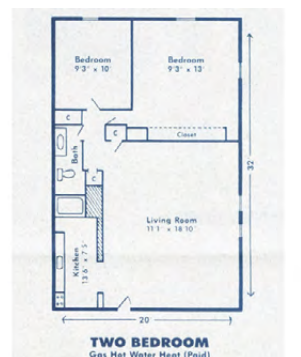
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
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Mental health officials says state has to come up with funds

FUNDING - Continued from Page 1

stated, "will be the boots on the ground for children's mental health services".

It was a mandate that came without additional funding from the state.

"We were identifying with just the expanded services on the adult side, the financing of the regions would have to be addressed legislatively because there wasn't enough money," Wood said.

"Then we inherited the children's behavioral mental health system. So we know absolutely with these timelines and mandates that we need additional resources to be able to fund sufficiently."

Wood said several ideas are floating around including increasing the property tax levy, but she said that idea doesn't have a lot of support. Other funding options include a lump sum appropriation, or a targeted sales tax contribution that would create funding that could be divided among all the regions of the state.

"There's no doubt there was a need for a children's behavioral health system because as it stands right now, there was nobody administrating this system and that's

why legislators chose to appoint the regions to do that," she said.

"Essentially we're the boots on the ground, and the only boots on the ground, locally throughout the entirety of the state."

The regions will begin assuming responsibility of administration July 1, 2021. The region will also have the expanded complex needs adult services on their plate beginning that date.

Supervisor chairman Gary Folluo asked what benefit there was to the county in approving the new agreement. Wood said there wasn't any benefit, but eventually the region would have to come in line with the new law.

"There's lots of conversation that this is an unfunded mandate by not expanding our capacity to levy or contributing any additional revenues to assume this responsibility," Wood said.

"But our community services affiliates and supervisors affiliates will be advocating that this needs to be attended to in some shape or fashion if we have to assume these additional responsibilities."

She said if all eight member counties in the region didn't approve the amended agreement by resolution it would fail and the old agreement would remain intact. Currently the levy cap in each county for mental health services, funds the regional board.

Larkin told the board tongue-in-cheek to hang on because the next legislature will have a bunch more changes to the new law and the regions will probably end up amending the agreement again.

"We've done this before," he said.

The board eventually approved the new agreement unanimously.

In other action, the board:

- approved a waiver of taxes that came to Wood on property the county owns in the 300 block of Avenue G in Fort Madison. County property is exempt from county tax liability. The property was sold to the county from a subsidiary of Fort Madison Community Hospital, but the building sale wasn't recorded until 2018 and FMCH had been paying the tax bill for eight years after the sale.
- approved a native wine permit for Appleberry Orchard in Donnellson.

Lady Hounds go 1-4 at Linn-Mar tourney

BY PCC STAFF

MARION – The Fort Madison High School volleyball team came away with just one win at the Linn Mar tournament

near Cedar Rapids on Saturday, but two of the losses went into a tiebreaker.

The Lady Hounds dropped matches to Linn-Mar 12-21, 12-21 and Tipton 5-21, 14-21 before falling to Center Point-Urbana 21-18, 23-25 12-15.

Fort Madison got it's first win of the day over Sumner Fredericksberg also in a tiebreaker, after again taking the first set

21-18, but falling 13-21 in the second set. This time the Hounds came out on the winning side of the 15-12 tiebreaker.

Solon then ended Fort Madison's day with a 12-15 tiebreaker. Fort Madison again had the momentum after a 21-19 first set win, but lost focus in 9-21 second set loss.

Jillian Wiseman was 84-100 hitting, and then went 24-26 from the service line with four aces on the

day. She also had 28 digs, which was second best on the team, and had three blocks on the day to lead Fort Madison.

Nadia Boeding had 40 digs from the back court for the Lady Hounds. Lauren Bailey had 54 assists on the day, which was tops for FMHS. She also went 32 of 33 serving with four aces on the day.

The Hounds take on Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night in the team's home opener.

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Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 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



9/16
11 12 22 31 37
Lucky Ball: 7



9/16 MID-DAY
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9/16 EVENING
1 6 1



9/16 MID-DAY
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