



Pen City Current

Thursday, Sept. 7 2017 | 16 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 214

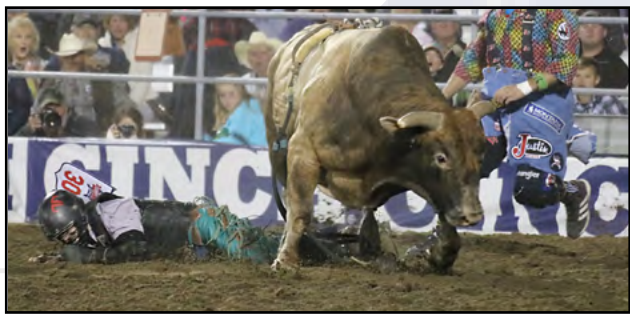
Fans pack arena for CINCH shootout



The action was fast-paced and top level as 31 of the world's best cowboys descended on Fort Madison for the fourth straight year to a packed C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena Wednesday night to witness the Tri-State Rodeo's CINCH Shootout.

Each competitor was vying for a \$10,000 prize in events ranging from saddle bronc riding, to steer wrestling, barrel racing and bullriding, to name a few.

At left, Tim O'Connell gets taken airborne by his horse in the championship round. Below left, Gumby Wren gets dumped by his draw in the later round and below right, Clay Tryan ropes the head of a calf, while Jade Corkill takes a shot at a back leg.



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Some councilmen cool on depot relocation

Randolph, Greenwald say city needs to move forward on plan

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph said the city has never been closer to signing an agreement with Amtrak to get a platform built at the North Lee County Historical building and moving passenger depot service to a closer proximity to downtown.

But several city councilmen including Rusty Andrews, Chad Cangas, and Brian Wright, and Mark Lair expressed concerns about the city's costs associated with the project

going forward.

The city has already spent close to \$600,000 on preparing the site, including lifting the building out of the flood zone, which also was a benefit to the North Lee County Historical Society, so that expenditure had benefits outside of the Amtrak depot.



RANDOLPH

The idea was first proposed by former mayor John Wright and then was taken up by former Mayor Steve Ireland. The city was able to secure grants and



PCC file photo

Some city leaders are cooling to the idea of moving the depot after operation costs were revealed Tuesday night.

peripheral funding to pay for the costs of the project outside the \$600,000. The platform for the new depot is estimated to cost about \$1.2 million, but Randolph said grants have reduced the city's cost to

about \$350,000. When the city first approached the railroads, which includes Burlington Northern Santa Fe, which owns the rail property and grounds, the cost was estimated to the city at about \$115,000, but

adjustments to the original plans and time, have increased the cost.

"I added this to the agenda last week, because we're coming to a critical

See DEPOT, page 16

Election News – Letters to Voters

Anderson seeks first term

Editor's Note: All candidates for the upcoming Sept. 12 school board election were invited to write an unedited letter to the voters to be posted on our website, to our social media outlets and to be published in our e-edition on Sept. 8.

My Dear Neighbors,

When I moved to Fort Madison just a few days before Christmas in 2002, it was out of the home in Wapello where I grew up and into my first apartment. I was 19, and had no clue what being an independent adult entailed.



ANDERSON

In 2004 my wife and I had our first son. Our daughter followed in 2007, and the latest addition to our family arrived as a second son in 2009. That was also the year our oldest started attending the schools in Fort Madison. I had been working third shift since 2008 and missed out on many opportunities to become more active and involved in my community and then in the school & its programs. In 2013, we bought a house just ten blocks from our apartment. Fort Madison was still where I lived, but I still had not yet made it my home.

Then in 2015 I began working first shift. 7AM to 3PM. Exactly when my kids are in school, so as far as my family was concerned, I was never gone. All three kids are in scouts and now I help with their activities however I can. I'm awake when the schools' faculty are, during conferences, meetings, and events. Now that I've begun participating in my community I finally feel like I'm a part of it. After all these years, Fort Madison is my home. And I feel a strong sense of responsibility to care for my home as best I can.

I'm running for a position on the school board because I know I have the skills and disposition to not only do the job, and do it well, but to genuinely enjoy doing it. As an officer on my Union Local's executive board, I know what it means to be a part of a core team working together to arrive at decisions which will have a lasting effect on many more people than just ourselves. I have plenty of experience researching a subject and weighing numerous points of view against one another, leaving my own personal biases completely out of the equation, to arrive at the conclusion which provides the most benefit to the most people. I am more than ready to ensure the Fort Madison Community School District continues to grow and develop as an excellent component in our community's continued success.

Thank you sincerely,
Gunther W. Anderson

Wondra appeals to residents

Editor's Note: All candidates for the Sept. 12, Fort Madison School Board were invited to send in a letter to voters to be posted on our website, social media outlets and published in our e-edition on Sept. 8.

Kids first! That is my #1 focus. Having served on the Fort Madison School Board for 2 terms I understand the time requirements and commitment required. I want to see the board continue with their professional development and set high expectations for our staff and students. I want to make sure we continue to improve the quality of the education our students receive and continue increasing the opportunities our students have to succeed in life.



WONDRA

Our district has made incredible strides forward the last couple years and I want to see that continued. I feel Fort Madison has some of the best teachers and administrators in the state. We have to continue to find ways to give them the tools they need to succeed. One of the ways we have helped the teachers is finding an excellent Superintendent that wants to work with them, support them and bring new researched based ideas to the district. Superintendent Slater has been here for a year and done an excellent job.

We continue to improve the trades programs offered at FMHS because not every student will go to college and we need to prepare them for other job opportunities that are out there. About 6 years ago we started a welding program that partnered with Southeastern Community College where our students could get a welding certification upon completion of our course from SCC. Then a couple years later we added a building trades program and partnered with Mohrfeld electric and Habit for Humanity that gave our kids the opportunity to build the walls for the habit homes in our class, then they take the walls on site and put them up and help build the homes on site, real world experience. Then 2 years ago we partnered with Indian Hills to add a culinary program.

For the students who are going to college we continue to add and improve our honors and AP courses, this year we have added an AP US history class. We continue to improve the technology available to our students, with the 21st century media room and the makers space.

Having served on the board for 8 years I understand school finance and the budget process. The money the district receives from the state is a set amount each year based on the number of students enrolled in the district and we have to stay within

See WONDRA, page 10

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Founded in 2016

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Lottery Numbers



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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



9/6
8 14 32 58 67
Powerball: 17
Power Play: 3



9/6
3 7 12 24 30
Hot Ball: 10
Sizzler: 3



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



9/6 MID-DAY
7 1 7 0
9/6 EVENING
0 2 8 3

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Life Is Your Art



When creating a masterpiece, artists gather their tools and sketch a plan. Life is your art, and you can do the same to make a rough sketch for the end of life. This is the first in a free series open to the public, regardless of whether you have used Great River Hospice services.

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Great River Hospice staff will help participants complete advance directives

6 to 7 p.m.

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- Free time in Savannah Historic District/Ellis Square
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- Holly Jolly Trolley Holiday Tour
- Davenport House Tour
- Free time in Market Area & Riverstreet in Savannah
- Tour of the Savannah Bee Company
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Local News

Calico press FMAAA's September exhibit

Courtesy of Brian Riggs

Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON - Ft. Madison Area Arts Association always contributes to Ft. Madison's major tourism month. The September feature exhibition uniquely blends the artistry of The Calico Press with commercial printing of Dodd Printing & Stationery. A reception occurs for the collaborative on September 8th from 5:00-7:00pm. Letterpress printmaking will be demonstrated, and receptions are always free and open to the public. Two Rivers Insurance is the sponsor for the exhibition.

Also this month Art-in-Central Park makes its annual return on September 17th from 10am-4pm. Dozens of visual artists under the shade trees, Kid's Art Zone activities by the playground, and BBQ&Lost Duck Brewing under the Johnson shelter house. Afternoon musicians perform in the gazebo beginning with Fox River Fields country sounds, followed by the blues of The Travis Reid Band, and closing with the guitar students of Jesse Mazzocchi. Guitar lessons are available on Wednesdays at FMAAA.

Dodd Printing and Stationery has been in Ft. Madison for four generations and was just purchased by the "fifth" generation Matt Hayes. A hand feed press, purchased many moons ago at ISP by Neal Dodd, is amongst the display and will be utilized at the reception. The Chandler & Price Pilot press is special in that it is the only table top press that prints with the quality of a table press. The wood type is locked into a chase. Displays show the differing stages of letterpress to the end product. Cuts or zinks provide

style. Naptha cleans the inks. Inks have evolved from rubber or oil base to a polymer. Oil is still widely used. Drink coasters are perfect for letter press and will be available for families or businesses to order at the gallery (the perfect business card!).

Offset printing came along in the 1950's to take the place of letterpress. When Neal started in 1977 half of the work projects were still letterpress, which is a more technical craft. In the last few years digital printing has taken the place of offset. Now one piece of equipment takes the place of many machines. Neal feels that the nostalgia of letterpress will keep the format continuing, similar to black & white photography. Neal reminisces "I grew up with letterpress and offset. The thing most missed is the smell of the shop. The containers of gas and inks smelled so good that people would come by just to smell the shop. The chemical make-up of solvents has changed and the smell is gone. "We had an old cabinet with the smell trapped inside. As the overall smell of the shop changed, I would go to the cabinet to get the last whiffs!" There is a loyalty and appreciation for the letterpress art form. It is not practical or viable anymore in commercial work, but the beauty of the art can create unique products, like the coasters, bookmarks, and notecards made that are available in the show.

Mel Stockwell of The Calico Press is one busy lady. When she graduated Coe College her degree was in fine arts with emphasis in printmaking but more intaglio and litho. She worked for large commercial print houses and began collecting presses. The mechanical farm girl in her had urgings to collect and refurbish old presses. Eventually she left the corporate world and placed all her collected equipment into one building on her farm. The Calico Press is a commercial printer outside of Birmingham, Iowa, which she runs 36 hours per week. In 2012 she became director and a teacher for Villages of Van Buren Folk school at 20 hours per week. Outside of that she manages work at Printer's Hall at Old Threshers since 2008. The hall hosts several major events per year including "Ladies of Letterpress", incorporating 300 gals being crazy, chaotic, and creative. This year has been one of firsts,



Courtesy photo

Neal Dodd stands next to some early model letterpress printers. The printers are the subject of the September exhibit at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association.

with Mel getting into and selling at Hatch Show Print in Tennessee. Famous posters known to be created there of Johnny Cash and Ernest Tubbs. She scored at the Iowa Agriculture Art Contest awarded to her at this year's Iowa State Fair. Her display is a "show within a show" with the End of Times 2 letterpress booklet, showcasing the 40 national printers selected.

Her mechanical skills set her apart. There is an art to finding the presses and restoring them to peak condition. "Letterpress is layers upon layers, my mechanical thinking asks what can I do to give me a differing technique. I am always engineering innovation." One thing is for sure...the collaboration of Dodd Printing and Stationery and The Calico Press will keep you pressing on a nostalgic journey of appreciation for a technical craft. FMAAA at 825 Avenue G is open for viewing Tuesday-Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

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Sports

Hounds take on pesky Oskey

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Three different Bloodhound football players lead the state in Class 3A in different offensive categories, but the Bloodhounds get their first road test Friday at Oskaloosa.

Senior Shance Redd-Donald leads the state in Class 3A in touchdown receptions with five in two games and also leads in reception yards with 245. Lennon Barker hurled all five at Redd-Donald and added another to lead the state in touchdown passes after two weeks with six. Redd-Donald and senior tailback Alex Gully received regional recognition from are television stations ater the performances in week 2.

Gully, who was named a player of the week after last weeks 183 yard, four touchdown performance against Central Lee, leads the state in rushing touchdowns with seven so far in just two games. He's averaging 7.9 yards per carry in what has been to date a very potent offense for head coach Tony Shiffman.

"They're focused and we want to see it on Friday when we come on the field," Shiffman said of the squad. "We had a great practice Monday and had a good week of superlatives. Shance was top player for Duerr at WGEM and Gully was the player of the week for KHQA. We've had a good week and are letting them know that people are noticing them. Hopefully that gives them some swagger. We don't want them to play cocky, but we want to them to play confident."

The Hounds will certainly need the confidence going into Friday's 2-hour road trip to Oskaloosa, who lost out of the gate to top-ranked Pella 35-7 at home, but made easy work of Grinnell 41-0 in week 2.

"It's a lot different. It's always tough, not difficult, but a different animal on the road, especially when you have to go on the road two hours," Shiffman said. "The



SHIFFMAN

added negative is we don't have school on Friday. We're getting them up early and they're going to Hy-Vee for a team breakfast. So at least they're up and then we'll get on the road at 3:30."

Shiffman said the biggest difference Oskaloosa presents is they will run a spread offense with sometimes as many as four wideouts in the set.

Senior quarterback Seth Howard is 21-of-45 on the year with a touchdown but will regularly look to three or four different receivers in the offensive set.

Junior Cole Henry stands 6'8" tall at one of the wideouts and has the only touchdown through the air for Oskaloosa. Senior Jared Kruse leads the Oskey offense with six receptions for 76 yards.

"The biggest difference is they're gonna be spread out. Typically they'll have one back and they will spread the ball out with the four wide," he said. "It's something we haven't seen yet with the exception of our own offense and we saw a little at Mediapolis. But on the flip side of that we've been seeing it all summer in 7-on-7s."

Shiffman said the Hounds don't want to find themselves in a shootout like last week in the 56-35 win over Central Lee and hopes his team adjusts to the Oskey offense quickly.

"It's still different and we don't want to have to take a quarter to get used to it. With a team like Oskey it could be 21-0 at the end of the first quarter. I know they beat us last year like 49-0 and I heard most of that was in the first half," he said.

Defensively the Hounds have been opportunistic with four interceptions and three fumble recoveries. Shiffman said the Hounds with Redd-Donald, Shaymour Redd-Donald, and the rest of the secondary have

HTC, Hellige take 1st at VB Invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOSAUQUA - Holy Trinity Catholic's Matt Hellige turned in a 17:31 5K to win the Van Buren Cross-Country Invitational on Tuesday, a full 13 seconds ahead of Winfield-Mt. Union's Brody Barton as Holy Trinity took first place in the Class 1A meet.

Hellige, just a sophomore at HTC, is also ranked 30th in the first Iowa Association of Track Coaches 2017 poll from Class 1A in the state. He finished just two seconds off the pace of Fairfield's Mark Diers, the Class 2A winner who pulled a 17:29.

HTC Head Coach Matt Mohrfeld said he expected that Hellige was mentioned among the state's best.

"That's no surprise. When you turn in 17s you're going to get some attention," Mohrfeld said. "He's a good solid 30 seconds faster this year. Matt just ran a real smart race and ran his own race. He got his own pace and kept and then stretched it."

Following Hellige, Blake Crabtree came in 8th-place overall and second for HTC with a 19:04 time. Jacob Mohrfeld finished third for the Crusaders with a time of 19:27 good for 11th overall and Ben Abolt ran a 19:35 to round out the top four finishers for the blue boys.

"When you run four runners under 20 minutes you can win events," Mohrfeld said. "We had times over times from last year. Blake took off a couple minutes, Jacob was three minutes faster and then Abolt came on strong."

Adam Rauenbuehler was next for HTC at 20:12 good for 22nd overall, Brant Holtkamp ran a 20:45

See PREVIEW, page 9

See HTC page 9

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CINCH SHOOTOUT - SNAPSHOTS



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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Sports

Shiffman wants balanced attack

PREVIEW - Continued from Page 6

the speed to keep up with Oskaloosa and possibly create some turnovers.

"It'll be a different animal going from seeing two wide receivers to four and even five," Shiffman said.

He said all the players are healthy but he's playing smart and using Diego Lozano to give Gully breathers throughout the game.

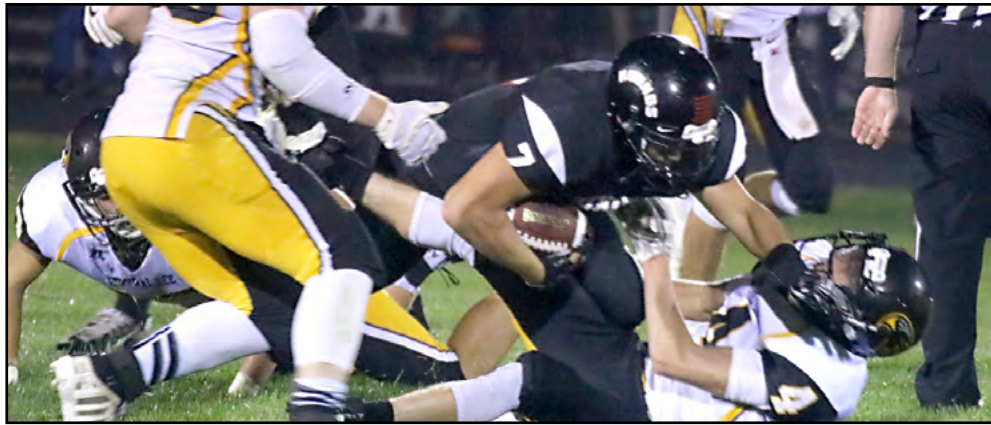
"We want Alex to get his 20 carries a game. I'm also smart enough to not wear him out by week 3 and 4. He needs those carries all year."

Shiffman said he typically doesn't hear the crowd during the games, but said he's aware that people are taking notice of the Hounds and their success and wants to build on the program, not just week to week but year to year.

"We want people to take notice of the football game. I was talking with Coach (Derek) Doherty and some of these kids who went off to Central Lee or Burlington in the past, hopefully we can show them a great program and they will stick around. And maybe get some more kids from HTC to come over and play. We want to get numbers like Washington and Osky and Solon where we have 85 kids in the program. We don't want to be a flash with one good year or two good games and trail off. We want to keep it rolling and moving."

Shiffman said he was at the Tuesday night volleyball game and saw a packed house and he said he wants to help the community buy into all the Bloodhound sports.

"I want that to transfer to basketball...we had a packed house at the volleyball game and we want everyone in and on board with the Bloodhound train," Shiffman said.



Fort Madison's Diego Lozano pushes for yardage last week against Central Lee. The Hounds take their 2-0 record on the road Friday to 1-1 Oskaloosa.

Crusaders ready for FM invite next Thursday

HTC - Continued from Page 6

and Sam Avery ran a 21:10. Other times for HTC runners included Chandler Rung 21:28, Josh Bau 23:39, Wyatt Hellman 24:36, and Kyle Sheets 24:40.

"Those guys just went out to win it," Mohrfeld said. "Blake managed his first mile stronger this time than in Keokuk. Jacob and Ben Abolt were virtually in the same pace and held up pretty well."

In the junior high match, Phillip Goldie took first place for the second straight meet with a 7:39 in the 1.5 mile race. The varsity runners go 5K.

"For a young guy, he ran a very smart race," Mohrfeld said. "Two guys got out in front of him early and he didn't get stupid and about how half way through they didn't have much left on him."

Other junior high finishers for HTC included: Mickey DiPrima at 8:45, Tyler Snaadt 8:55, Michael Hellman 9:16, and Nikolas Fullenkamp 10:12.

The Crusaders lace up again on Sept. 14th for the Fort Madison Invite at Rodeo Park. That is a junior high, junior varsity and varsity run beginning at 4:30 p.m.

FMMS runners place seven in top 15

BY PCC STAFF

KEOSAUQUA - Hayden Wolfe took 8th place at the Van Buren Cross Country meet Tuesday for the Fort Madison Middle School.

Fort Madison had seven of the top 15 runners in the middle school meet. Wolfe ran

the 1.5 mile trek in 8:25, Austin Miller was just a step behind at 8:26 and Miles Dear was the same distance behind at 8:27. Dayton Davis - 8:32, Will Gager - 8:35 and Emmett Kruse crossed at 8:45 to round out the top six for the Bloodhounds.

Other finishers for the Fort Madison included

Reiburn Turnbull who finished in 29th overall with a 9:22 time. Ben Thele finished at 9:24, Matthew Steffensmeier crossed the finish line at 9:37, Tate Settles at 9:57, Collin Greenwald at 10:34, Cameron Shutwell at 12:02 and Shawn Peters at 13:35.

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Election News

Wondra is proud of accomplishments

WONDRA - Continued from Page 2

that amount. It's not like the district is a business that can sell more widgets to make more money to give to our employees. The only ways to increase the district's income is to increase the number of students or to increase property taxes. I'm proud of the fact that Fort Madison Community School District's tax rate is in the middle compared to the rest of the districts in south-east Iowa. We tried to be very cautious about raising the rate. Being a homeowner and commercial property owner I'm very aware when the property rates goes up. I don't think people realize that board members receive no pay, it is strictly a volunteer job. So when I'm trying to balance between pay raises and what is best for the students, I'm truly trying to do what is best for the

students.

I realize the time requirements necessary to do a good job on the board. It's more than just 2 meetings a month, there are also committee meetings, IASB regional trainings and attending the IASB State convention in Des Moines in Nov. Training to learn about school finance, which is very complicated and professional development for the board plus trying to attend events in the district. I have a proven track record of being at the meetings, getting the training, and attending as many district events as I can. Please Vote for me to continue to improve the district and put students 1st!

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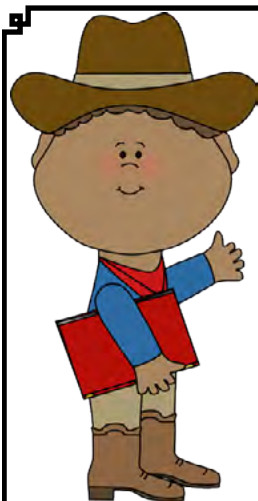
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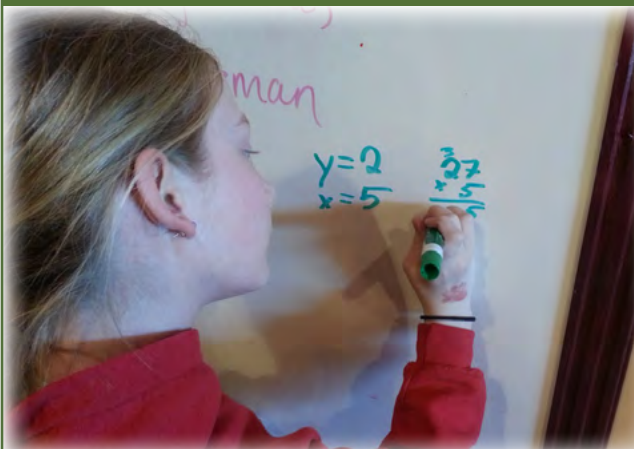
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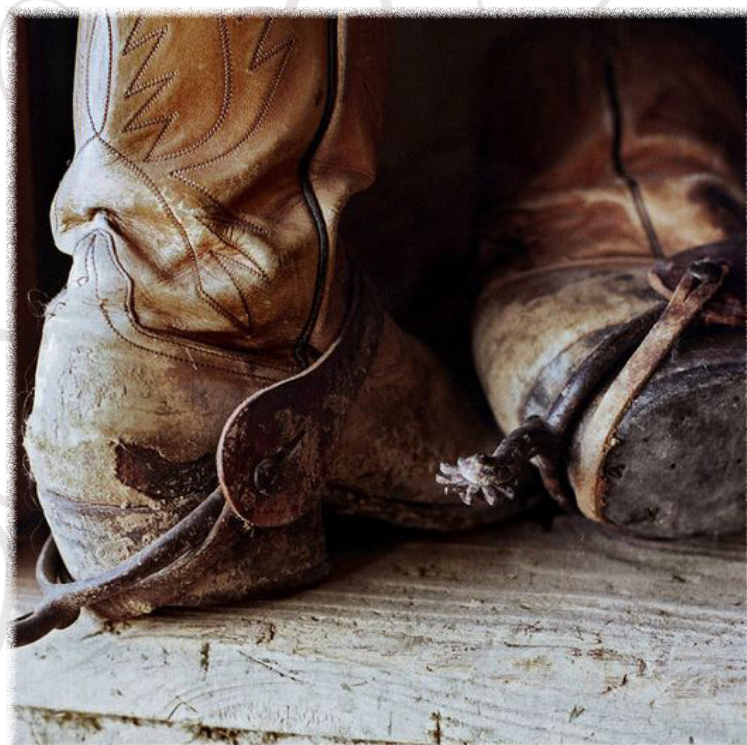


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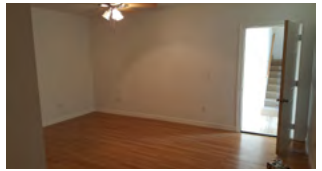
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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

VANCE W. BISHOP

Vance W. Bishop, 53, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 1:48 p.m. on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at his home. He was born on December 5, 1963 in Davenport, IA. Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

09/05/17 - 1:38 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Avenue L.
 09/05/17 - 4:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Geraldine Roi Yurth, 74, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Avenue M on a charge of 3rd degree harassment.

She was released on a promise to appear.
 09/05/17 - 5:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the Fort Madison area.
 09/06/17 - 2:41 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

09/05/17 - no incidents to report

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

09/05/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, two assists and one faulty detector.

Lee County Sheriff's report

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SAT 09 Sep Light Rain
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SUN 10 Sep Clear Skies
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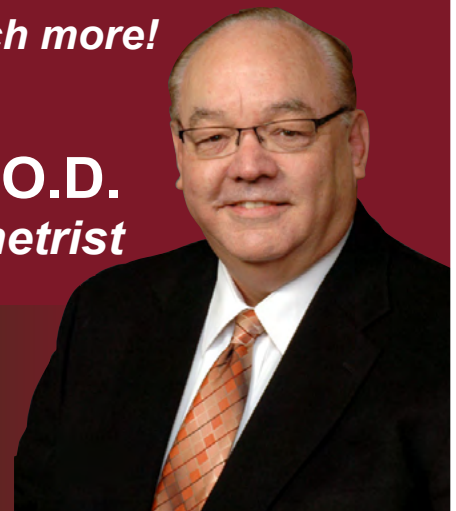
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From the Front

City Council gets varied response to depot relocation

DEPOT - Continued from Page 1

point in the negotiation process. The city manager has offered up some insights and specifics to an agreement that will be considered for approval. Since we're at that point of cost, going forward it's imperative that we have an understanding of what it means to move Amtrak service to the new depot," Randolph said.

City Manager David Varley told the council that he had projected some costs to run the depot on an annual basis. He said the documents are getting very close to being ready to sign.

Varley said on several occasions during the conversation that he had estimated costs a bit higher.

"We tried to put in here a budget that estimates what it would cost to run the depot. We're hoping we estimated on the high side and we think we did. I'd rather come back and say we can run this amount vs. this amount plus x%. It looks like if we get the bid letting to the point where we'd like to get it, we probably won't be open for six months in the current budget year,

but we did put \$19,000 in the budget for six months.

When all the costs were added including possible personnel, security, maintenance, utilities and increases in insurance at the facility, Varley said he was projecting about \$51,000 per year on a 20-year agreement.

He did say, however, that utilizing current staff would save some money, but they already are picking up other tasks, and possible negotiations on the insurance could reduce the amount, as well as costs dropping each year as they fine tune the processes.

"To be honest, we're not sure if we're high or low because things are still unknown. There are things we need to do for Amtrak that we just don't know yet exactly how much it's going to cost. If we can do maintenance with staff that will keep our out-of-pocket low, but we would charge that to Amtrak's cost center.

Regarding the insurance, Varley said the main culprits for the increase is pollution insurance at \$5,500 per year and Am-

trak demands some insurance caps be moved from \$1 million to \$2 million and that would require an additional \$8,000 annually with current projections.

"That's our best estimate. My best guess, if you said - 'Dave, what can we do it for a few years from now', - my best guess would be \$35,000 and maybe less than that.

After the meeting, Randolph said he didn't want those numbers to scare people because they are estimated high and who knows how the final negotiations will work out.

He said 10 years ago the cost of the project initially was about \$115,000, but that was with a 750-foot platform. He said Amtrak wanted the platform 1,200 feet so the trains wouldn't have to be moved a second time to drop off additional passengers. Then BNSF, which will own the property and lease it to Amtrak, who will lease it back to the city after it's constructed, asked that the platform be moved 400 feet to the west because it was too close to the curve on the track. Because of that move, a retaining

wall had to be constructed. With those changes, the cost to the city is now about \$350,000. Randolph said he has been applying for grants to help offset some of that cost as well.

"In the original agreement given to us, there was no rent and we were responsible for moving Amtrak at a cost of \$37,000 plus," Randolph told the council. "We weren't comfortable with that at all. Remember, the location they are in now, they pay nothing. Amtrak pays nothing to be in that facility and they can stay there in perpetuity for nothing. They can never be kicked out of that building. That creates a dilemma because we want them to move and we want them to pay, and right now they don't have to move and they don't have to pay."

Councilman Rusty Andrews said at this point with the agreement the way it is, it may not be fiscally responsible to keep moving forward. He said the cost of the platform didn't bother him as much as the 20 years of operating costs.

"How many dollars is it worth? It's not just me thinking. A lot of people have told me this doesn't make sense and have said let's take care of ourselves, our infrastructure first," Andrews said.

"Everything said about the good parts of this are true. A 24-hour museum exhibit space that's open all the time - that's great. But at the end of the day it has nothing to do with preserving that space for the museum. That's not the issue. It just scares me. 20 years for possibly 50,000 per year, it's a lot to commit to."

Councilman Chris Greenwald said he wasn't in favor of the depot move at first, but now the city's at a "gut-check" time when it comes to tourism.

"This is kind of like we

did in 1985 when we built the Fort. That was intended to be self sustaining and it still isn't. This is a lot better return on our investment than the Fort," Greenwald said. "Am I taking a bad example and saying we should do this bad example? No, because it seems to me this project improves that project."

Greenwald and Randolph both said that if the city doesn't do this, they risk losing the Amtrak service, the only east-west stop in Iowa, and that in essence 'shrinks' the town.

Andrews argued that those people are still coming into town on the trains.

"I can give you pretty good odds they aren't doing a lot of shopping now," Greenwald responded.

"People want to know where they're stopping and might inquire about the city and it might invite further interest later because they could see the Fort, the river, the historic depot," Randolph said. "The fact is that we get somewhere near 9,000 people that either get on or get off at our facility. You hope that you are getting something out of that."

Councilman Brian Wright said the costs seems like a lot of money a year and it's not a sure thing they're going to go in down there.

Randolph said everything presented to the council on Tuesday had been agreed to.

"There are some things they are being inflexible with and we're not ready to accept that premise yet, but everything that's been presented to you is a done deal," he said.

Councilman Chad Cargas said he didn't think going forward was a bad idea, but he wanted someone to tell him how to explain it his constituents who will ask the questions in a different forum.

"People would say this is fiscally a bad idea. But

have we done any projections as to where the benefit to the city lies. For those that won't ask the question now, but will ask me in some other forum, do we have an answer for that? I'm not asking you to quantify it, but I want to understand why it's a good idea to move forward with this," he said.

Randolph said originally when this was tossed about it was thought it would be a way to bring more people back to the central part of town and people would see the benefit of that. Somebody would have to be the benefactor of that.

"I've always looked at it as an infrastructure benefit. If you were to ever lose Amtrak, the talk was if you don't improve your depot, there was a good chance you would lose your stop. We had to have legislatures intervene with that years back and that was a real concern. If you took away Amtrak and you take a person's ability to get in and out of town, you invariably shrink your town and I don't want to see that."

Greenwald said the only real way to determine the impact is to not bring them into town.

"I did the math if we bring 9,000 people and we can get our cost to \$30,000 that \$3.30 per person. If we can get them to get gas or ice cream we can make our money. I've said a couple times at budget meetings we're spending more money than this on the fort. But I think this adds to the fort, this adds to that picture."

Councilman Mark Lair asked what would happen at this point if the council voted it down.

Randolph said at that point it would be in the hands of Amtrak to see what the next steps would be, but the historic district would have a renovated building.

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