



Pen City Current

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 105

City seeing soft hotel/motel tax revenues

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



VARLEY

portion of the funds is then allocated by the tourism board annually to the Fort

Madison Area Artists Association and North Lee County Historical Society with final approval coming from the City Council. The FMAAA gets a 7.5% share of the funds currently capped at \$14,000, while NLCHS is at 6% capped at \$12,000.

Another portion of those revenues are used to fund Fort Madison Tourism Director Jean Peiton's \$35,000 budget. Peiton currently works in a part-time capacity marketing the city throughout the region.

The rest of the funds are controlled by the tourism board and given

“
If things continue the way they are, it would be about a \$30,000 to \$40,000 maximum hit this year compared to last year.”

-David Varley
FM City Manager

on an as-qualified basis to independent groups in the city putting on events that bring people into town, such as the rejuvenated RiverFest, past fishing tournaments, and other hyper-local tourism events.

Varley said it was hard



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The city is seeing a reduced amount of revenue coming in from the hotel/motel tax from city hotels, like Boulders Inn & Suites above, and is taking steps to soften the impact.

to come up with a reason why the revenues are slipping because he doesn't receive data from the city's hotels, however he did point to the end of construction of the Iowa

Fertilizer Plant, which buoyed hotel/motel revenues significantly during the construction years.

He said this year city staff had preliminarily budgeted \$220,000 for

those revenues. But when the final budget was adopted that figure was reduced to \$213,000.

“It's stupid to keep

See **REVENUES**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Local investments and grants have totaled more than \$3 million since Fort Madison Main Street was re-established in 2009. Investments in upper housing apartments and other district businesses will add to that figure in coming years.

FM Main Street brings home honors from state convention

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Main Street program was honored by the state on Friday after surpassing \$3 million in local investments since the program was readmitted to the state's Main Street program in 2009.

But more than \$1 million of that investment happened in the last calendar year, movement that Fort Madison Main Street Director Cassie Gilbert said is very indicative of the progress happening downtown.

“Main Street Iowa has specific milestones they like you to hit and it took us from 2009 to 2017 to hit the \$2 mil-



GILBERT

lion mark in private and grant investments, things like that. But from January 2017 to December 2017, we added another million,” she said.

She said that doesn't include work being done by Barker Financial of Iowa City on the former Cattermole Library or the old Lee County Bank building. Gilbert said she doesn't include those investments until the projects are completed.

She said the next milestone is \$5 million and when those projects are completed, the investments will go toward

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Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

LUCILLE R. FEDLER

Lucille R. Fedler, 93, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 1:05 p.m. Monday, April 16, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa.



FEDLER

Born December 1, 1924 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of William and Genevieve (Kramer) Watznauer. On August 24, 1948, she married Richard J. Fedler at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa. He preceded her in death on January 20, 2010.

Survivors include three daughters: Dixie L. Booten of West Point, Sandy (Jim) Bethurem of West Point and Gale (Gary) Thompson of Houghton; five grandchildren: Jay (Stevie) Bethurem of Fort Madison, Nick Bethurem of Mount Pleasant, Casey (Anna) Thompson of Davenport, Amanda (Sean) Monteyne of Quincy, Illinois and Marcy (Jay) Henrich of Houghton; eight great grandchildren: Ava, Mason, Jovie, Calvin, Logan, Brynn, Sophie & Sadie; three sisters: Laverne Boeding of West Point, Rita Miller of Burlington and Vera Boeding of West Point; two brothers: Floyd Watznauer of Fort Madison and Raymond Watznauer of West Point. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Richard; parents; three brothers and four sisters.

Lucille was a member of St. Mary the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point. She loved playing Bingo and cards, her flowers and the color pink.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon. Friday, April 20, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A Parish Rosary will be recited at 3:00 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa

Memorials have been established in her memory for the Holy Trinity Elementary School Project or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

JAMES L. "JIM" SEAVER

James L. "Jim" Seaver, 74, of Keokuk, IA died Monday, April 16, 2018 at his home in Keokuk.



SEAVER

He was born July 10, 1943 in Carthage, IL the son of William and Fay Pilkington Seaver. On May 16, 1965 he was united in marriage to Betty Hyatt at First Christian Church in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Kristina Centers (Tim) of Lincoln, IL, one son, James W. Seaver (Becky) of Cedar Rapids, IA, two grandchildren, Laura A. Centers and Colin J. Centers both of Lincoln, IL, one step-granddaughter, Tasia Kos of Cedar Rapids, IA, one step-great-granddaughter, Kiara Ware of Cedar Rapids, IA, three brothers, Warren Seaver (Joan) of Dover, DE, Willian J. Seaver (Mary Jo) of Nauvoo, IL and Richard Seaver of FL, two sisters, Jeanne Bartoli of AR and Maryann Clark of FL, his mother-in-law, Dorothy Hyatt of Keokuk, one brother-in-law, Bill Hyatt of FL, many nieces, nephews and cousins, including a special cousin, Leland Seaver (Pat) of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Seaver, his mother, Fay Seaver Bollinger, grandparents, niece, Joyce Clark, sister-in-law, Rosemary Hyatt Boyd, father-in-law, William Hyatt and two brothers-in-law.

Jim graduated from Hamilton High School in Hamilton, IL.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy and proudly served his country.

Jim was a member of First Christian Church in Keokuk.

He had been employed by Hubinger-Heinz/Roquette in Keokuk for thirty-four years until his retirement in 2000.

Jim was an avid golfer and Iowa Hawkeye fan. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren and especially loved to golf with his grandchildren. Jim made awesome doughnuts, which became a Christmas tradition.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, at the First Christian Church in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating. Burial will be in the Sandusky Cemetery in rural Sandusky, IA.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Thursday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends from 5-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



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THU 19 Apr	Clear Skies High - 48.3° F Low - 30.9° F
FRI 20 Apr	Light Rain High - 50.8° F Low - 42.0° F
SAT 21 Apr	Light Rain High - 48.7° F Low - 33.0° F
SUN 22 Apr	Clear Skies High - 54.7° F Low - 41.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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Sports

FMHS boys rackets fail vs. Fairfield

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The FMHS boys tennis team fell 3-6 to Fairfield on Tuesday night with only Jason and Vasin Thurman winning in singles matches, while the duo of Sam Avery and Austin Krueger were able to slip away with a doubles win at No. 1

Avery and Krueger both dropped their No. 1 and 2 singles matches

against Fairfield's Logan Williams and Dante Cingire. Avery fought back from a first set 2-6 loss to take the second set 6-4, before falling 10-6 in the tiebreaker.

Krueger never got going against Cingerie losing 6-4, 6-3. At No. 3 singles Jason Thurman took a two set 6-4, 7-5 win from Jarod Willmon, but A.J. Greiner took FMHS's Blake Feuerhammer 6-1, 6-0.

Vasin Thuman got the Hounds back on the

board with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Will Sheppard at No. 5 singles, before Noel Peterson stopped the Hounds' Gage Hind 4-6, 6-1 (10-5).

After the Hounds got the win at No. 1 doubles, the Thurman brothers fell 6-7 (6-8) 6-1 (10-5) in a hard fought match.

Feuerhammer and Hind fell in straight 6-4, 6-4 sets to round out the doubles action.

The Hounds host Burlington Notre Dame on Thursday.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jason Thurman scrambles to a ball in the middle of his two set win over Fairfield's Jarod Willmon Tuesday on the Hounds courts.

HTC drops two games in two days

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT - The Holy Trinity Catholic boys soccer team dropped two games to start the week after cold weather wreaked havoc on high school sports schedules last week.

On Monday, Adam Rauenbuehler scored HTC's only goal against four from Burlington Notre Dame in Burlington. Rauenbuehler had seven shots in the game, while the Crusaders got one shot each from Aden Alfred and Audrae Vincent. Jason Reese had five saves in the contest.

On Tuesday, the Crusaders were tied with visiting Central Lee at the halfway mark, but couldn't get anything else in the net as the Hawks ran away in the second half.

Alfred scored Holy Trinity's only goal in Tuesday's game on an assist from Rauenbuehler. Reese tended the net again for the Crusaders giving up three goals on four saves.

Holy Trinity stands at 4-5 on the season and plays host to Danville on Thursday with a 5 p.m. kick.



HTC's Reed Fehske gets tied up with a Central Lee defender on Tuesday night in the Crusaders' 3-1 loss to the Hawks. The Crusaders have dropped their last two games and now stand at 4-5 on the year. Below, HTC defenders jump to block a free kick outside the box in first half action against Central Lee Tuesday night.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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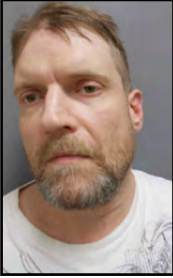
Local authorities make three area drug busts

Keokuk man facing eight charges; three are felonies

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - A Keokuk man is facing eight drug charges including three felonies as a result of Lee County Task Force investigation.

Tab Andrew Bottger, 45, of 516 S 5th Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on April 16th, 2017 in the 700 block of Palean Street on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Bottger is charged with the following: possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine in excess of five grams within 1000 feet of a park, a class B felony with an enhancement, possession with intent to deliver marijuana within 1000 feet of a park, a class D felony with an enhancement, Drug tax stamp violation, a class D felony, Delivery of methamphetamine less



BOTTGER

than five grams, a class C felony,

Delivery of a schedule IV controlled substance (Clonazepam), an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of a controlled substance (Clonazepam), a serious misdemeanor, Possession of a controlled substance (Marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor.

If convicted, Bottger faces up to 59 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

In an unrelated arrest, Carroll Vernon Brewer III, 43, of 3001 Avenue P, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on April 15th, 2017 at his residence on a felony drug warrant. Brewer is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted, Brewer faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.



BREWER

The arrest of Brewer stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of



illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

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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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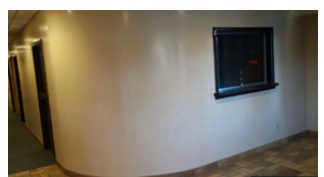
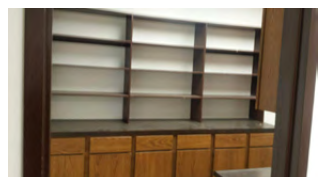
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From the Front/Area News

Lori Illner wins Main Street's FM Volunteer honor

MAIN STREET - Continued from Page 1

reaching that milestone. She said the vast majority of the recent surge has been building sales.

For the year, the Fort Madison Main Street program saw \$47,500 invested in projects, which includes rehab projects and new construction. It also saw 12 district properties purchased and \$1,031,220 in acquisitions. They also logged 599 volunteer hours, and 22 new jobs were created.

Lori Illner, who serves as the board's secretary and volunteers on many projects with the local Main Street group, was given one of Main Street Iowa's community Volun-

teer of the Year awards.

"She's a board member and a member of the Economic Vitality committee," Gilbert said. "She's one of those members who's reaching out to potential business owners to open up here. She's involved in our wine walk, Big Buckle Bash, and she's always picking up marketing materials when she travels so we can learn about what other communities are doing to promote their downtown. She's just a good overall volunteer. If we need something we call her and she's always willing to help."

Main Street Iowa hosted the 32nd annual Main Street Iowa Awards celebration on Friday at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines.

Main Street Iowa has annually presented awards honoring outstanding accomplishments, activities, and people making a difference in Main Street districts throughout the state. Projects large and small are recognized and serve as outstanding examples of what historic commercial district revitalization is all about.

Gilbert, Stephanie Knoch (Board President), Lori Illner (Board Sec-

retary), and Eric Greene represented Fort Madison Main Street.

"The Main Street Iowa program is a powerful catalyst for local revitalization and community investment," said Governor Kim Reynolds. "As I travel across the state, I see over and over that Main Streeters are passionate, innovative, and creative. They're also committed to making their downtowns - and our state - a stronger, more sustainable place to live, work and raise a family."

In 1985, the Iowa Legislature adopted the National Main Street

Center's Four Point Approach® to district revitalization by establishing Main Street Iowa within the agency that is now the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Since its inception, the state program and its communities have been considered examples of excellence in the national effort to revitalize historic commercial districts across the country.

Since 1986, local Main Street programs have made a significant impact on Iowa's economy, resulting in: The inception of 4,670 new businesses and a net gain of 14,348 jobs; nearly

12,000 building projects reported, totaling a private investment of over \$1.85 billion dollars; more than 3 million hours of human capital equating to over \$72 million dollars in time and talents, according to the Independent Sector's estimated value of a volunteer hour.

For more information about Main Street Iowa and how all Iowa communities can access commercial revitalization assistance through the IDRC, visit iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/MainStreetIowa, email mainstreet@iowaeda.com or call 515.348.6184.



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Keokuk man facing drug charges

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Courtney Allen Kellum, 34, of 868 Johnson Street



KELLUM

Road #G4, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on April 17th, 2018 at the Lee County Sheriff's Office

on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Kellum is charged with possession

of marijuana with intent to deliver, a class D felony, possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Kellum faces up to 7 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.



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From the Front/Area News

Small changes holding up depot

REVENUES - Continued from Page 1

something on the books if you don't think you're gonna get it," Varley said.

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph indicated during the budget meetings that the city may be looking at losing 20 to 25% of hotel/motel revenues off trends of other area cities.

Varley said that Burlington is experiencing the same type of revenue decreases. However, he said Fort Madison's revenues for the past quarter were closer to previous year's receipts.

"We're hoping we make that up. Last quarter wasn't as bad as the first two," he said. "You just never know. We won't get the next quarter until June 15. We did drop the numbers down, but I think we'll still come in below what we dropped it to. We're trying to start now to prepare for that."

He said the FMAAA and NLCHS should still be able to get the max funds the city council approved for next year, but going forward there may be some adjustments.

"I don't think it will have a big impact on them right away, but going forward, does the tourism board want to make any changes and reduce that? Because if it's being reduced, there is less money going around, and should everyone share in the pain," he said.

"That's up to them and the council because the council determines how much they get to spend. My guess is they will have a discussion and talk about changing levels. But that won't happen for a while."

But he also said the city will be in a better position in the fund next year because this year a one-time payment for the construction of the new Amtrak Depot platform...if and when that project is actually bid out.

We've got money in there we've transferred out for construction of the platform. If Amtrak does go through, we spend that, and then that's a one-time expense that won't get transferred out next year. That's going to free up that much more money, which is good news for the Hotel/Motel fund.

Varley said the dance between the city and the other parties in getting agreements inked continues. He said BNSF requested a change in one of the agreements, which he said will have to go back in front of the council for approval and then back to BNSF...and then to the other agencies involved.

"Amtrak has said once BNHS approves those changes, they will move very quickly to get approval. Then that will have to go to the Iowa DOT to get a firm date set for bid letting on the project," he said.

"If I could give you a date on that, you'd be coming to me for advice on the stock market."

Alliant adds to wind energy profile

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – April 17, 2018 – Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company received approval to increase its wind expansion program from the Iowa Utilities Board. By 2020, the company now plans to add 1,000 megawatts of new wind energy in Iowa – enough clean energy to power 430,000 Iowa homes.

In Iowa, the company plans to have invested \$1.8 billion in cost-competitive renewable energy by the end of 2020. The new wind farms will create hundreds of construction and other jobs while generating tens of millions of dollars in additional property taxes to communities and payments to landowners.

"Our wind energy initiatives help keep rates competitive, enhance our environmental stewardship and drive economic growth in our communities," said Doug Kopp, president of Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company. "Wind energy is a major part of our transition to a clean energy future."

This spring, crews began construction on the first of several wind farms, starting with Upland Prairie Wind Farm, located in Clay and Dickinson counties in north-west Iowa. Later this year, construction is expected to start at English Farms Wind Farm, located in Poweshiek County in central Iowa.

Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company (Interstate Power and Light) filed an application for advance ratemaking principles on August 3, 2017 (RPU-2017-0002). The company continues to review the written decision order from the IUB.

Iowa Utilities Board order terms:

The ratemaking principles apply to any new wind facility constructed as part of IPL's New Wind Project that qualifies for 100% of the federal Production Tax Credits, regardless of its location in Iowa, up to 500 megawatts.

Cost cap: \$1,780/kilowatt, including allowance for funds used during construction (AFUDC) and transmission costs

Return on common equity: 11%, with the exception of certain transmission facilities classified as intangible assets, which shall earn the rate of return on equity authorized by the Iowa Utilities Board in a future rate case

Return on common equity used in calculating the AFUDC rate to be 9.6%

Depreciable life of 40 years, unless changed as a result of a contested case before the Iowa Utilities Board

Alliant Energy's Iowa customers shall be entitled to the full value of any environmental attributes, beyond those needed for compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, associated with investment included in IPL's Iowa jurisdictional rate base. Alliant Energy is permitted to include in Iowa rates the actual cost of the wind project up to the cost cap without need to establish prudence, but required to establish the prudence of any cost in excess of the cost cap

Cancellation costs: recovery of prudently incurred and unreimbursed costs, if applicable, amortized over 10 years

Spring Cleaning

Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more



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