



Pen City Current

Thursday, April 4, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 85

Depot docs just need Amtrak stamp

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Three separate agreements were approved Tuesday night to move ahead with city plans to relocate the Amtrak Depot to Riverview Park.

During the city's regular city council meeting, City Manager David Varley held up a stack of papers about five inches thick, representing about 10 years of negotiations between the city, Amtrak, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

The agreements outline the subleasing, construction, and responsibilities of all the parties in moving the depot to the North Lee County Museum, just off the



RANDOLPH

tracks in Riverview Park in Fort Madison.

Varley said it would appear that the agreements are now ready for Amtrak officials' signatures. When the documents are signed, the Iowa Department of Transportation can try to get them into a summer bid letting and get the project rolling.

"What I have here in my sweaty little hands are some agreements that have only been 10 years in the making," Varley said. "There they are and we can finally put them to rest."

He said Amtrak has given the ok on the agreements

before and then asked for changes, but he said Amtrak officials have said they are prepared to sign off on the three agreements.

"We've been promised this time that if we sign them and send them to them, they will sign them, and they will go to the Iowa Department of Transportation."

He said the signed agreements are one of the last few things IDOT is waiting on to set the project for a bid letting date.

"The only difference between this one and the previous agreements is the third agreement. There Amtrak has kindly conceded to be in charge of the janitorial

See COUNCIL, page 5

HTC opens "Little Shop of Horrors"

Cast brings 1986 cult classic to life this weekend at Holy Trinity High School

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Ok ...so... there's like this really big 7-foot plant on the stage at Holy Trinity Catholic High School?... and it's gonna eat some people.

In a spunky rendition of the cult 1986 rock musical Little Shop of Horrors, the HTC drama kids have a great time taming the manipulative alien Venus Flytrap 'Audrey II' in this weekend's spring production.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Danny Caruso belts out "Grow for Me" as part of the opening act for this weekend's production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at Holy Trinity Catholic High School.

Tickets are just \$5 each and free for children under 10. The curtain goes up on Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Set on the rough Skid Row neighborhood in New York City, a struggling florist's assistant finds a goofy plant he purchased from a Chinese gardener for a buck ninety-five on a full lunar eclipse. Unbeknownst to any human, the plant has grander designs, and a huge appetite for well...humans.

Danny Caruso plays the bumbling

love-struck Seymour Krelborn pining for Audrey, a staffer at Mushnik's Flower Shop. Claire Graham grabs the east coast slang-and-twang dialect nicely as she navigates a relationship with her mean-spirited dentist boyfriend Orin Scrivello, while secretly dreaming of a life with Seymour.

Things get out of hand after Seymour realizes blood and flesh make the plant, who's brought a resurgence of success to the

See THEATER, page 3

"Give Back Iowa" program underway

DES MOINES– Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg announced the start of the fifth annual Give Back Iowa Challenge on Monday. The challenge is issued to employers and runs from April 1-May 31, 2019, to engage Iowans in employer-supported volunteering.

"Volunteering and giving back is an integral part of what it means to be an Iowan," Gov. Reynolds said. "The desire to make a difference or the spirit of personal and community responsibility is what empowers our small towns and urban areas. Volunteerism is one of the reasons why Iowa is such a great place to live, work, and raise a family."

During the challenge, employers encourage their employees to volunteer and log their hours. Employers with the highest average number of volunteer hours per employee during the challenge period will be recognized and receive a visit at their workplace from

See CAMPAIGN, page 2

Advertiser Index

Classifieds	Ps.4-5
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry	P.2
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.6
Holy Trinity Catholic Schools	P.3
Professional Services	P.5
Scotts MiracleGro Company	P.4

News Index

From the front	Ps.2-3,5
Local News	Ps.2-3,5
Lottery Numbers	P.3
Obituaries	P.3
–William "Bill" E. Waterman	
Sports	Ps.2, 6
Weather	P.2

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Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM "BILL" E. WATERMAN

William "Bill" E. Waterman, 82, of rural Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 11:58 a.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa.

Bill was born on April 8, 1936 in Burlington, Iowa, the son of Tim and Olive (Kissick) Waterman. On October 15, 1960 he married Ava Blythe in LaHarpe, Illinois.

He is survived by his wife: Ava Waterman, three daughters: Julie Waterman of Burlington, Iowa; Jill (Brad) Crile of Wayland, Iowa and Beth (Lynn Even) Waterman of Stephen City, Virginia; two brothers: Leroy (Ann) Waterman of Stronghurst, Illinois and John (Linda) Waterman of Branson, Missouri; one sister: Shirley (Dale) Stevenson of New London, Iowa. Also surviving are nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers: Sam Waterman, Harold Waterman and Melvin (Karen) Waterman; three sisters: Doris (Joe) Peterson, Vivian (Ed) Brill and Catherine Waterman and one great grandson, Camden Allen.

He attended country school through eighth grade and graduated from Media, Illinois high school in 1954.

Bill was lifetime farmer and livestock trucker. He also ran the Middletown Livestock Auction in the 1970's. After that, he worked in two sale barns in Kahoka, Missouri. He loved to watch NFL football games and was an avid Chicago Bears fan. He also enjoyed watching western movies, rodeos and country music on T.V.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa with Pastor Ryan Dexter officiating.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

Y opens youth ball signup

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – T-Ball and Coach Pitch registration is now open at the Fort Madison YMCA. Registration forms can be found online at www.fortmadison.org and at the Fort Madison YMCA at 220 26th St. Fort Madison, Iowa.

Registration closes on Friday, May 3rd. Early registration is encouraged.

Season runs from May 20 through June 20; all games will be played at Baxter Sports Complex

on Monday and Thursday evenings.

T-Ball – The emphasis of this league is FUN! T-Ball is designed to teach 4-5 year olds the basic skills needed to prepare them for Coach Pitch. Players will have the opportunity to develop and practice these skills through game situations. The importance of teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, and cooperation will also be emphasized.

Coach Pitch is designed to teach 6-7 year olds the basic skills needed to

prepare them for baseball and softball. Players will have the opportunity to develop and practice these skills through game situations. The importance of teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, cooperation, and FUN will be emphasized.

The Y is also seeking volunteers to coach teams in both leagues. For further information or to volunteer as a coach, contact Program Director, Noah Dean at 319-372-2403 or email noah.dean@fortmadison.org.

Campaign aims to boost volunteering

CAMPAIGN - Continued from Page 1

Gov. Reynolds or Lt. Gov. Gregg. Multiple winners will be selected based on employer size.

The Give Back Iowa Challenge had 56 companies participate in 2018. The companies represented nearly 54,000 employees and 83,660 hours of

volunteer time. Those hours equaled about a \$1.9 million investment in Iowa communities.

"We appreciate the companies who have participated in the challenge the past four years," Lt. Gov. Gregg said. "It's been an honor to recognize their employees and celebrate the impact they're making."

The Give Back Iowa Challenge was created

by representatives of employers across Iowa who served on the Iowa Employer Initiative Advisory Council. Today, the team at Volunteer Iowa leads the challenge each spring. Iowa employers are invited to register for the Give Back Iowa Challenge and learn more at <https://volunteerchallenge.iowa.gov/>. Registration is open through the end of the challenge on May 31st.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 04 Apr



Light Rain
High– 57.5° F | Low – 49.8° F

FRI 05 Apr



Partly Cloudy
High– 59.7° F | Low – 53.7° F

SAT 06 Apr



Scattered Clouds
High– 71.2° F | Low – 62.5° F

SUN 07 Apr



Overcast
High– 68.5° F | Low – 60.1° F

MON 08 Apr



Clear
High– 63.9° F | Low – 52.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

Spring musical is swing of pendulum for troupe

THEATER - Continued from Page 1

fledgling florist Mushnik, grow to more than hedge clippers can handle. Ryan Otte hits the boisterous Mushnik on the button and Maille Sheerin, Jayde Watnauer and Annabelle Scheetz form the Greek Chorus and keep the music coming.

John Stinson plays Scrivello and Ali Robu voices the carnivorous Audrey II.

Other players include Wyatt Hellman, Mia Vradenburg, Rosie Strickland, Lulu Zhang, Elizabeth Ebbing, Sterling Barnes, and Rhett Fullhart.

Director Stewart Beyer said the three phases of "Audrey II" were obtained from Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School. The three versions of the plant from seedling to monster will be handled by Sterling Barnes and Alexis Stalcup.

"It's actually going to eat three people this weekend," Beyer said with a smile at Wednesday's dress rehearsal.

He said the performance features 14 students and six back stage hands.

"It's a pretty small number of kids involved and a very small cast. But every person that auditions always gets a part somewhere. This year is really neat because every single person has sort of a little feature or moment they get to be the spotlight performer. Even the very smallest role, which is pretty cool."

He said the students had just seen the movie at the end of the year all together and they showed interest in doing it.

Beyer's wife, Taylor, did the same play in high school so he looked at that performance and then went and watched it at another production after deciding to do it.

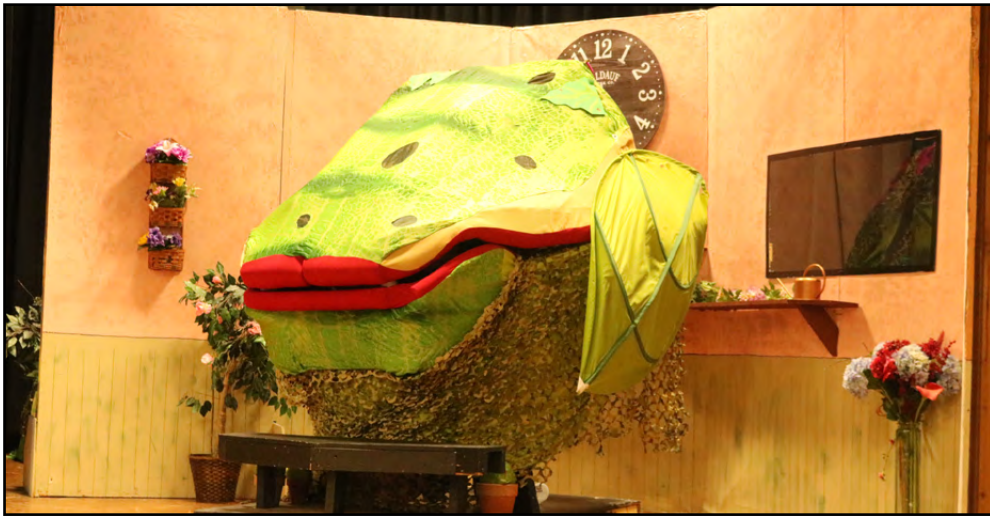
"It's kind of like swinging the pendulum in a different direction. It's fantastical like Wizard of Oz, but at the same time goes beyond that in terms of the psychedelic nature of the music and the plot itself," Beyer said.

Tickets can be obtained from students or they can purchased at the door prior to the show.



'Audrey', played by Claire Graham, and Ryan Otte's 'Mr. Mushnik' discuss the current bleak state of the Mushnik Flower Shop, while a vagrant is passed out on the sidewalk outside on Skid Row in New York City. Below, HTC Choral Director Stewart Beyer gets the cast and staff ready for the night's dress rehearsal.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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



4/2
33 47 58 59 64
Mega Ball: 25
Megaplier: 3



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4/2 EVENING
6 8 4



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4/2 EVENING
0 9 8 5

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If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.



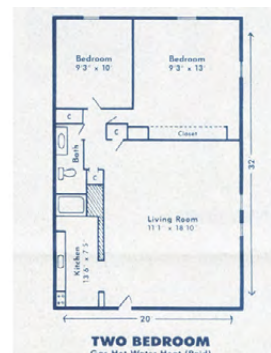
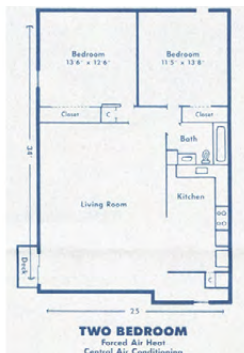
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Classifieds/From the Front

Consultant could have Viking dock ideas this month

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

inside the depot for the first 10 years of the agreement. Before we were taking care of the agreement.”

Mayor Brad Randolph said that concession on Amtrak's part would save the city an additional \$210,000 over 10 years. Amtrak has also agreed to contribute \$150,000 to construction of the projected \$1.3 million passenger platform. They would also pay the city \$400 a month in rent for the space in the museum.

According to the agreements, the city would be responsible for all maintenance to the platform including snow and ice removal. The city is also on the hook for the utilities at the depot.

The city is currently waiting on formal approval of an additional \$400,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation's Transportation Commission. Mayor Brad Randolph said he's hoping the city has that news by the 16th of

April.

The money isn't guaranteed and Councilman Bob Morawitz asked if the city had an out in the agreement if that money didn't materialize. Varley said IDOT would be accepting the agreements contingent upon the city obtaining the \$400,000 grant.

Randolph said the council needed to keep in mind that it could cost the city more to get out of the agreement, if IDOT demands repayment of some of the grants already given to make improvements to the museum, including raising it out of the flood zone, and money used for preliminary work and studies to prepare the area for the depot.

Varley said during budget negotiations that IDOT could ask for a significant amount of money to be reimbursed if the city bailed on moving the depot, with some estimates being as high as \$700,000.

“Remember getting out costs us more than staying in,” Randolph said.

“Depending on how nice or mean they want to be, yeah,” Varley said.

Councilman Matt Mohrfeld said he was willing to walk past the project, but gave Randolph and Chris Greenwald credit for finding a way to get the project done.

“They didn't like to take no for an answer and they kinda bristled up a little bit and dug deep making phone calls and meeting with people and coming up with money,” Mohrfeld said.

“I'm really impressed you guys did that and took the project and didn't just let go which would have been the easiest path. So kudos to you guys for doing that.”

In an unrelated issue, Randolph said he and Varley have had preliminary meetings with SmithGroup of Madison, Wis., a consulting group hired by the city to look into building a dock for a potential domestic cruise line stop in

Fort Madison by Viking Cruises.

The city agreed last month to contract with SmithGroup for a \$24,500 plus expenses feasibility study for what a dock with Vikings could look like.

Randolph said preliminary discussions with SmithGroup have unearthed some interesting “out of the box” ideas for possibilities down there.

“We've directed them in a most economical approach at this point with the thought maybe we could use some of those ideas to enhance the riverfront down there,” Randolph said.

“A lot of interesting things they put in there and, at some point, I think we'll show you this list of possibilities they've come up with. It's pretty neat.”

Varley said the city needed the feasibility study done so Viking Cruise Lines has an idea of costs as they have agreed to share in some of the costs associated with building the dock.

Randolph said he's hoping to have that information by the end of the week.


the classifieds

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Sports

FM girls open season with win over BND

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison girls tennis team swept six singles matches to open the season Tuesday night on Fort Madison’s courts.

The Lady Hounds took down Burlington-Notre Dame 8-1 with the only loss coming at No. 1 doubles.

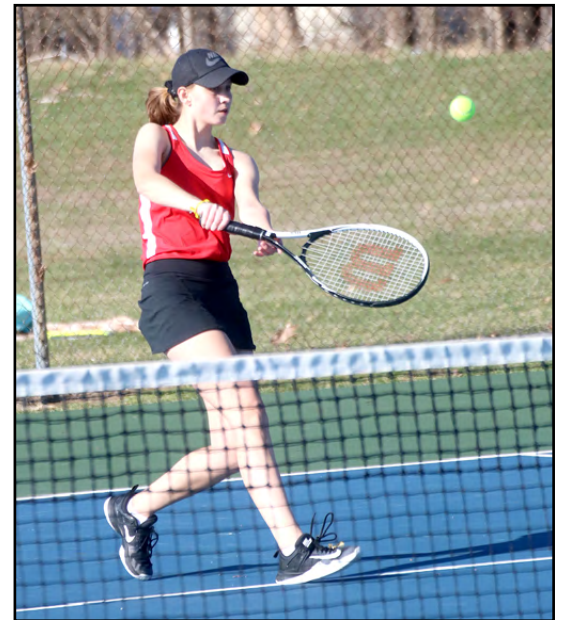
Senior Larissa Ferrill knocked off the Nikes’ McKenzie Fry 8-6 at No. 1 singles, while Lanie Kuntz took advantage of some stellar serving to keep Notre Dame’s Bethany Shane off balance with an 8-3 win at No. 2 singles.

The two struggled getting in sync in doubles action however as Fry and Shane took that contest 9-7, for the Hounds only loss.

“I’m very pleased with how we performed as a team tonight. Notre Dame is a team who is traditionally tough and well-coached, so



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Burlington Notre Dame’s Bethany Shane, foreground, returns a shot against Fort Madison’s Lanie Kuntz in No. 2 singles action Tuesday night in Fort Madison. The Hounds won the season opener 8-1. At right top, Zoe Ramatowski hits a lob and at right bottom No. 1 seed Larissa Ferrill returns a shot against Notre Dame’s McKenzie Fry.

we’re happy leaving here tonight on top,” said first-year head coach Jeremy Swink.

“With any season opener there is some nerves and rust that need to get knocked off, but all-in-all our girls played well. There is always areas that we can improve in. A few that come to mind would be our team communica-

tion and chemistry with our doubles play.”

Rounding out the singles varsity action, Zoe Ramatowski beat Joleen Kelly 8-1 at No. 3 and Lily Cadwallader won by the same score over the Nikes Binita Gautum. At No. 5 Kirklynn Nafziger shut out Frankie Taylor 8-0, and Fort Madison’s Alyse Schmidt won 8-1 over

Shuyu Xian.

The Hounds shut out the Nikes in the final two varsity doubles matches on the day with Ramatowski and Nafziger downing Kelly and Gautum 8-0, and Cadwallader and Schmidt knocking off Taylor and Xian 8-0.

The girls host a 6-team invitational on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m.



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