FOOTER: Going Digital
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Platform approval could be weeks away

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A project almost a decade old is getting close to becoming a reality, but city officials find themselves at the mercy of the railways and government oversight.

City officials have been working to move the Amtrak Depot from its current 20th Street location to the Santa Fe Depot in Riverview Park since 2007 under the leadership of Mayor Steve Ireland. Ireland died in March of 2012. Ireland had served as mayor for seven years prior to his death, spearheading the effort and for his efforts the depot has been named the Steven Ireland Memorial Depot. City Administrator David Varley said he's hopeful the city will hear from the rail lines in the next two weeks as to any additional hoops the city would need to jump through to gain approval on plans to construct a new platform at the depot, which is the final piece of the project.

Many agencies are involved in the project including the city, Amtrak, Burlington-Northern Santa Fe, the Iowa Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers. Construction plans were sent to Amtrak and the FRA last year for comments.

According to Varley, approval of the platform construction must go through several com-

DOC names former ISP officer warden

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - State officials with the Iowa Department of Corrections announced today that a new warden has been appointed to the Iowa State Penitentiary.

Patti Wachtendorf has been appointed Warden of the ISP, according to a release today from the DOC. Warden Wachtendorf is currently the Warden of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women.

The appointment was necessary in order to fill the vacancy created when Nick Ludwick retires. According to Executive Officer Rebecca Bowker, Wachtendorf will take over operations officially on Feb. 1, as Ludwick’s last official day will be at the end of the month.

Wachtendorf, who will be the first female warden at ISP, has been the Warden at ICW since 2009. She guided ICW thru a major expansion and new construction at the only female prison in Iowa.

Wachtendorf began her career in 1983 at ISP

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Wachtendorf, who will be the first female warden at ISP, has been the Warden at ICW since 2009. She guided ICW thru a major expansion and new construction at the only female prison in Iowa.

Wachtendorf began her career with the Department of Corrections in 1983 at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison. She was a Correctional Officer, Investigator, Senior Correctional Officer, Correctional Counselor and Treatment Services Director. She left Fort Madison in December 1997 when she was appointed as Treatment Services Director at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility.

In January 2001, she became the Security Director at ICW and then Deputy Warden in July of 2006.

“I am very excited to return to Fort Madison where I started my career. Two of my children and five of my grandchildren live in Southeast Iowa so I will be able to spend more time with family,” Wachtendorf said in a statement released today.

Warden Ludwick is retiring after an eventful six and a half years at the Iowa State Penitentiary. Mr. Ludwick enjoyed a 35-year career with the Michigan Department of Corrections prior to accepting his position in Fort Madison. His departure is due to the medical advice of his health care team at the Mayo Clinic who have been treating him for melanoma for twelve years, the last five and a half years with stage four cancer.

Although I’m leaving prematurely to spend time with my beautiful wife and family, I leave with immense pride for all our team at ISP has accomplished during my tenure as their Warden,” Ludwick said in a statement today. “I accepted this job for the challenge of closing the oldest operating facility west of the Mississippi and transitioning staff and offenders for the move to our new institution. We’ve developed a culture of respect, teamwork and open communication with staff and the men we supervise. I would have selected my friend and peer Warden Wachtendorf as my replacement and am elated that she accepted the appointment to Fort Madison. I’ll be forever thankful for my time serving the state of Iowa and the opportunity to say that I worked alongside the proud staff at The Fort.”

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City optimistic platform will be done in 2017

From the Front

Fort Madison City Manager David Varley said this week that he’s hoping for an approval on the new design for the passenger platform that is part of the proposed Amtrak Depot in Riverview Park. The project, which has been in the works for almost a decade, needs approval from Amtrak and BNSF before the city can begin signing agreements with the DOT.

Project chugging along

Varley said the city was close about a year ago, but BNSF balked at the plans because the depot was too close to a curve in the track which goes against their rules. They asked that the platform be moved 300-400 feet to the west. So city officials had Klingner and Associates, a regional engineering and design firm originally tasked with designing the platform, resubmit plans for the platform with a 400-foot accommodation, Varley said the plans are now working their way back through the comment phase with the rail lines.

“We’re hoping to hear from them in the next two weeks. If not, then we would probably give them another two weeks, but then we might have to look at other options,” he said.

“We have a good contact with Amtrak in Chicago who really has been helpful for us. But recently they brought in a bunch of other people new to the project who are now involved in looking over the plans. Hopefully that will go through fairly quickly.”

He said part of the process is also getting required permits from the Corps of Engineers showing that the platform and depot are out of the Mississippi River flood plain. The city took steps to take the depot building and surrounding property out of the flood plain in 2010 when construction crews lifted the building and rebuilt the foundation.

Varley said he’s optimistic that construction of the platform will be completed this year. He said the Iowa Department of Transportation will be the big player in the project once it is approved by everyone else.

“We’ll have to get some agreements in front of the City Council once we have approval, but then the DOT takes over as they will do most of the bid letting on the project and handling some grants for us,” Varley said.

According to 2010 estimates the platform could cost $1.8 million to build but state and federal grants and contributions from the rail lines could potentially offset a majority of the cost.
weather. On Friday, the Hounds had a comfortable 32-19 first half lead, but a letdown on the defensive end let the score get closer in the final period. "We were up 15-18 at different points in the game but in the second half we just didn't play well defensively," head coach Ryan Wilson said after the game. "In the first half we were good but we just had that letdown."

The Hounds put up 70 points for the second game in a row, slapping 72 on Washington Tuesday. Kaleb Cresswell and CJ Richardson, who are 2nd and 3rd in the Southeast Iowa Conference in scoring led the Hounds again on Friday with 15 and 18 points respectively. Fort Madison had two others in double figures with Treavor Kokjohn with 12 and Logan Rashid with 11. "Logan played really well in the first half and caused a lot of things to happen," Wilson said. "But we got a complete team effort and everyone chipped in. We had some players that didn't score but contributed in other ways. Shance Redd-Donald came off the bench in the first half and gave us a couple of big buckets."

Other scorers for Fort Madison included Austin Rose with 9 points, Redd-Donald with 4 and Landon Bentley with a bucket in the 2nd half. Mt. Pleasant will present a different sort of test for the Hounds on Tuesday as they will face Junior Brady Sartorius who leads the Southeast Conference averaging just under 9 boards and 9 points per game. The Hounds’ Kokjohn leads the conference in rebounds with 10 per game.

"We've gotta be a heck of a lot better. (Mt. Pleasant) put up 86 on Washington tonight. They're a disciplined team that plays smart and takes care of the ball."

League board man

The Bloodhounds’ Treavor Kokjohn pulls down another rebound in action Tuesday. Kokjohn currently leads the Southeast Conference averaging 10 rebounds per game.

Here you go

FMHS’s Elijah Barnes dishes to Treavor Kokjohn (30) on Tuesday.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

01/03/17 - 7:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue P. 01/03/17 - 2:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 01/03/17 - 10:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 01/04/17 - 12:02 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 3000 block of Avenue E. 01/05/17 - 2:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue L. 01/05/17 - 4:03 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 1900 block of Avenue J. 01/05/17 - 7:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1200 block of Avenue H. 01/06/17 - 3:31 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a property damage accident in the 1100 block of Avenue I.

Lee County Sheriff’s report

01/05/17 - 9:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of X23 and 24th Avenue. A Lee County Snow plow driven by Brett Howard Scott, 27, of Fort Madison collided with a vehicle driven by Justin Lee Merke, 22, of Hillsboro. According to reports Scott reported not seeing Merke approaching the intersection and hit the driver side of Merke’s vehicle. The plow portion of the truck causing him to slide and come to rest on the north shoulder facing east. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 01/05/17 - 4:50 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested a 17-year-old juvenile at the sheriff’s office on a charge of 5th-degree theft. The juvenile was released to parents. 01/05/17 - 7:27 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Terron, Nikael, Wilson, 21, of Keokuk at the sheriff’s office on a charge of child endangerment and Possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 01/05/17 - 9:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Haley Dawn Evermon, 24, of Keokuk in the 900 block of Johnson Street Rd., on charges of possession of a controlled substance, child endangerment and failure to appear/contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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Bloodhounds take 1 of 3 at North Scott’s Lancer Duals

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG  
PGC EDITOR

NORTH SCOTT — FM junior standout wrestler Harlan Steffensmeier, currently ranked No. 1 in Class 3A at 138 lbs., won all four of his matches at today’s Lancer Duals in North Scott.

Fort Madison won 1 of 3 duals on the day but came up just short of splitting the duals when the Hounds dropped a 42-40 match with Central Dewitt. Head Coach Ryan Smith, who’s been yelling from the corner seats for just at 20 years, ever since I’ve been here. It’s not as common of a format, but it gives the kids more matches with a chance to get a lot of action and see a lot of talent.

“That’s the only time we do this format each year. up there in North Scott,” Smith said. “But we’ve been doing this for 20 years, ever since I’ve been here. It’s not as common of a format, but it gives the kids more matches rather than a two-and-done.”

Complete boxes on all the duals below.

Ryan, Harlan and Aaron Steffensmeier all recorded wins in action against DeWitt. Ryan, 113 lbs., recorded a 13-1 major decision over Central DeWitt’s Jeff Fuller. Fuller had a quick:38 fall over Eric Schol and Aaron, 145 lbs., followed that with a pin of his own over Theodore Fox at the 2:29 mark.

The Hounds then rebounded with a 2-point win over Davenport West with Ryan, Harlan and Aaron Steffensmeier all recording pins over their opponents. Ryan, 113 lbs., recorded his fall in 34 seconds, Harlan, 138 lbs., at the 1:59 mark and Aaron put his opponent to the mat at 1:59. Dalton Woolever, 132 lbs., recorded a quick pin at 43 seconds for the Hounds.

Smith credited junior Heath Hoenig with helping preserve that win.

“Win of the unseason in the Davenport match was Heath Hoenig our heavyweight. Heath had to stay off his back to preserve that win and even though he didn’t win he fought his heart out and helped seal that victory for us,” Wilson said.

Against 10th rated Dubuque Hempstead, the Hounds recorded three wins when Harlan Steffensmeier, 138 lbs., recorded a major decision over No. 5 ranked Nathan Feldman, 9-2. Aaron Steffensmeier, 145 lbs., pinned Jack Gehl at 3:41 and Lonogo got a 6-1 decision over Steven Blosh at 182 lbs. North Scott, ranked 8th in Class 3A, captured the major decision over Collin Lewis with the 9th ranked in Class 3A at 138 lbs.

Smith said Steffensmeier keeps improving and won against two tough opponents.

“He keeps racking them up. He beat both of those ranked wrestlers and then pinned the other two guys so he’s continuing to roll,” he said. “As a team it was a learning experience. North Scott and Dubuque Hempstead are both top 10 teams and both are good eye openers for our guys kind of like Thurday (against Washington).

When you go head to head with those teams you get a chance to see that other level and what you get a chance to see that other level and what we can get to.”

The Hounds travel to Fairfield on Thursday for a 6:30 p.m. event.

FM 40 vs. Central Dewitt 42
106: Elton Kruse (FOMA) over (CCLN) (Fall 0:11) 113: Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Jeff Fuller (FOMA) (MD 13-1) 120: Tyler Boosman (CCLN) over Nathan Feldman (FOMA) (Fall 0:22) 126: Wyatte Shade (DVPW) over Skylar Schau (FOMA) (Fall 3:35) 132: Dalton Woolever (FOMA) over Benny Lesq (DVPW) (Fall 0:59) 138: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Eric Schol (CCLN) (Fall 0:30) 145: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Theodore Fox (CCLN) (Fall 2:29) 152: Max Coulins (CCLN) over (FOMA) (For.) 160: Kyle Irwin (CCLN) over (FOMA) (For.) 170: Jarrett Settles (FOMA) over (CCLN) (For.) 182: Diego Lozano (CCLN) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 3:05) 195: Reese Westphal (CCLN) over Danen Sattler (FOMA) (Fall 0:28) 220: Nick Smith (CCLN) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (Fall 1:30) 285: Heath Hoenig (FOMA) over (CCLN) (For.)

FM 39 vs. Davenport West 37
106: Elton Kruse (FOMA) over (DVPW) (For.) 113: Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Jake Holthaus (DVPW) (Fall 0:41) 120: Anthony Vance (DVPW) over Nathan Feldman (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 126: Caleb McCabe (NOSC) over Skylar Schau (FOMA) (Fall 1:28) 132: Alex Lauber (FOMA) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 138: Hunter Ford (FOMA) over Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Dec 12-7) 152: Jack Rous Fedor (FOMA) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 1:16) 160: Dillon Gottshall (DUHE) over Elton Kruse (FOMA) (Fall 2:25) 195: Zach Petersen (NOSC) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 0:24) 220: Wyatt Wriedt (NOSC) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (Fall 1:23) 285: Jacen Peterson (DVPW) over Jack Rous Fedor (FOMA) (Fall 0:43)

FM 12 vs Dubuque Hempstead 35
205: Tyler Boosman (FOMA) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (Fall 1:52) 285: Jack Rous Fedor (FOMA) over Heath Hoenig (FOMA) (Fall 1:16) 205: Tyler Boosman (FOMA) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (Fall 1:52) 285: Jacen Peterson (DVPW) over Jack Rous Fedor (FOMA) (Fall 0:24) 113: Hunter Ford (FOMA) over Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Dec 12-7) 126: Caleb McCabe (NOSC) over Nathan Feldman (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 132: Alex Lauber (FOMA) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 138: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Eric Schol (CCLN) (Fall 0:30) 145: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Theodore Fox (CCLN) (Fall 2:29) 152: Max Coulins (CCLN) over (FOMA) (For.) 160: Kyle Irwin (CCLN) over (FOMA) (For.) 170: Jarrett Settles (FOMA) over (CCLN) (For.) 182: Diego Lozano (CCLN) over Clayton Bindlosson (DPWV) (Fall 0:49) 195: Danen Sattler (FOMA) over Cotton Baech (DPWV) (Dec 7-4) 220: Garrett Brooks (DPWV) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (MD 11-0) 285: Jackson Peterson (DPWV) over Heath Hoenig (FOMA) (Dec 5-4)

FM 1 vs North Scott 74
205: Cole Ernst (NOSC) over Heath Hoenig (FOMA) (Dec 2-10) 285: Caleb Breder (NOSC) over Elton Kruse (FOMA) (Fall 1:54) 113: Jacob Schipper (NOSC) over Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Fall 1:47) 126: Ryan Smith (NOSC) over Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Fall 0:24) 145: Caleb McCabe (NOSC) over Skyler Schau (FOMA) (Fall 0:59) 195: Brian Billian (NOSC) over Dalton Woolever (FOMA) (Fall 2:57) 220: Wyatt Wriedt (NOSC) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (Fall 1:16) 285: Jack Rous Fedor (FOMA) over Heath Hoenig (FOMA) (Fall 1:16) 205: Tyler Boosman (FOMA) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (Fall 1:52) 285: Jacen Peterson (DVPW) over Jack Rous Fedor (FOMA) (Fall 0:24) 113: Hunter Ford (FOMA) over Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Dec 12-7) 126: Caleb McCabe (NOSC) over Nathan Feldman (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 132: Alex Lauber (FOMA) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Fall 0:49) 138: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Eric Schol (CCLN) (Fall 0:30) 145: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Theodore Fox (CCLN) (Fall 2:29) 152: Max Coulins (CCLN) over (FOMA) (For.) 160: Kyle Irwin (CCLN) over (FOMA) (For.) 170: Jarrett Settles (FOMA) over (CCLN) (For.) 182: Diego Lozano (CCLN) over Clayton Bindlosson (DPWV) (Fall 0:49) 195: Danen Sattler (FOMA) over Cotton Baech (DPWV) (Dec 7-4) 220: Garrett Brooks (DPWV) over Alex Lauber (FOMA) (MD 11-0) 285: Jackson Peterson (DPWV) over Heath Hoenig (FOMA) (Dec 5-4)

In a grip

FMHS’s Elton Kruse looks for a way to escape during Wednesday’s dual meet with Washington. The ‘Hounds came away from Saturday’s Lancer Duals in North Scott with one dual win.

More art for the MPR

At left, Emma Dravis was honored as an All-State Cheerleader with the ICCA as a senior last year, and at right, Harlan Steffensmeier was honored for his 5th place finish at state wrestling in 2016 among other team accomplishments. The two received the renderings at Thursday’s wrestling meet. The renderings will be placed in the Fort Madison High School Multi-Purpose Room for all students who go through the hallways at FMHS. CONGRATULATIONS EMMA and HARLAN! 

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PGC

STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS .ORG
Cold shooting sinks HTC at Notre Dame

BURLINGTON - It was a bad night to be shooting a basketball wearing a dark blue Holy Trinity jersey Friday night in Burlington.

Holy Trinity was held to under 50 points for only the third time this year as the ball clanked, and banged, and rolled around and occasionally went in as the Nikes downed visiting HTC 54-42 in Southeast Iowa Superconference action.

Seniors Conrad Connor and Cory Hopper, numbers 1 and 2 in scoring in the conference at 18.3 and 17.7 points per game were held to just 12 and 9 respectively.

"I just think we were just pressing a little bit tonight. Their defense was really good and sometimes when those first shots don't go down the rims get a little tighter," said Head Coach John Hellige.

"Their defense was really good and sometimes when those first shots don't go down the rims get a little tighter." - John Hellige

HTC boys head coach

Holy Trinity Catholic senior Ali Randolph posts up a Nike defender Friday night in a 59-31 loss on the road. Cold shooting and sporadic rebounding contributed to the defeat.

Lady Crusaders can’t shake poor shooting in loss

BURLINGTON - The cold chill in the air blew right into the gym at Notre Dame in Burlington Friday night and enveloped Holy Trinity's Lady Crusader shooters.

HTC managed only 12 first half points enroute to a 59-31 blowout against the Nikes. The Nikes' senior Johanna Myers almost single-handedly outscored the Holy Trinity team but putting up 29 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference action.

The Nikes' rated No. 9 in Class 1A, jumped all over Holy Trinity going up by as much as 7 in the first quarter and then pulled to an 18-point lead at the end of the first half, while Holy Trinity girls were getting open shots inside and out, but couldn't buy a bucket in the second quarter.

The trend continued through the rest of the game with Myers converting in transition off missed baskets.

"We couldn’t hit nothing," said HTC head coach Tony Johnson after the game. "We played well for a while in the first quarter and then we started missing shots and they got frustrated because we couldn’t get anything to go down."

“Thy beat us to the 50-50 balls and got more rebounds. we just couldn’t hit anything...if we would have hit a couple of the shots early we would have been right back in it. I’ve just never seen a whole team go cold and I had 10 girls that couldn’t buy a bucket.”

The Lady Crusaders didn’t have a single player in double figures. Ali Randolph, who at times pressured Myers into some turnovers off a man-to-man press, led the Holy Trinity team with 9 points. Followed by Ashlyn Haas and Madison Mohrfeld with 5 each, Mya Lawlor and Emily Box each added 4, while Taylor Boeding and Avery Hopper each added two points.

Holy Trinity falls to 4-5 on the season and visits crosstown Fort Madison on Saturday in a 5 p.m. girls varsity game.

"It was just one of those nights. So hopefully tomorrow night at 5 we’ll have it all out of our system,” Johnson said.
**CRUSADERS - Continued from Page 5**

Norse Dame took a quick 11-7 lead going into the second quarter, but the tempo and the transitions in the quarter were telling a quick story of the Crusaders dealing with the proverbial "lid" on the basket.

The Crusaders never did get a lead in the game but had some bursts of momentum in the final six minutes that seemed to hint at a run and a possible comeback. Senior Jack Stinson, who finished with 8 points, was hacked in the act on a strong move inside the lane and seemed to fire up the HTC faithful and Crusaders pulling his team to within 7. He missed the free throw on the play. About two minutes later, Connor did a 10-second Carly Neal routine between four different Nikes and then drove to the lane and was fouled, much to the delight of the visiting fans. If you don't know Carly Neal...YouTube it.

Hellige said the team seemed to react to Stinson's play when they are usually falling in line behind Conrad and Hopper. "He's a big body and he plays really hard and I think the team fed off his energy a little bit," Hellige said.

The loss is the Crusader's third loss in a row and moves the team to 4-5 on the season. The Crusaders had won two straight contests, the Crusaders' third loss in a row and move the team to 4-5 on the season. The Crusaders fell to Central Lee prior to Friday at Notre Dame. The Crusaders fell to the Nikes 54-42. Conrad finished with two 3-pointers and Nick Pothitakis with 3.

In the junior varsity contest, the Crusaders also fell to the Nikes. Brant Holtkamp, Reed Fehseke and Adam Rauenbueler paced the Crusaders with 11, 10 and 8 respectively.

The Crusaders never see big changes are need-ed to get the team back on track. "Basically we're gonna try to sharpen up our offense a bit and get kids in some situations where we can work on some different scenarios." Rounding out the scoring to the Crusaders was Connor Hellweg who had 10 points all in the first half including two 3-pointers and Nick Pothitakis with 3.

Jett Tjaden led the Nikes with 15 points. In the junior varsity contest, the Crusaders also fell to the Nikes. Brant Holtkamp, Reed Fehseke and Adam Rauenbueler paced the Crusaders with 11, 10 and 8 respectively.