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 bull riding, 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 horse 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.

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 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, 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.

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 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 point,” Randolph said. “We’re coming to a critical point.”

The city leaders are cool to the idea of operation costs were revealed Tuesday night.
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.

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 are continuing to improve the quality of the education our students receive and continue increasing the opportunities our students have to succeed in life.

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 Mohrfield 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 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 classroom 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
IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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Powerball: 17
Power Play: 3

9/6 MID-DAY
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5 7 5

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

Christmas in the heart of Dixie

December 4-10, 2017
Savannah, GA // Asheville, NC // Nashville, TN

Spend a week in some of America’s most beloved and historic southern cities! Enjoy Time in Savannah, Asheville & Nashville when the south becomes a wonderland full of events, shows, parades, and places serving up scrumptious holiday meals!

Tour includes:
• Deluxe Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation
• On-board friendly host
• Hotel Accommodations in the Historic District // 12 Meals
• “A Christmas Tradition” at the Savannah Theater
• Guided trolley tour of downtown Savannah
• Hop-on/hop-off privileges of Savannah Trolley Tours
• Free time in Savannah Historic District / Ellis Square
• Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace Home Tour
• Holly Jolly Trolley Holiday Tour
• Davenport House Tour
• Free time in Market Area & Riverstreet in Savannah
• Tour of the Savannah Bee Company
• Biltmore Estate’s Deerpark Restaurant Dinner
• Candlelight Tour of the Biltmore Estate
• Grand Ole Opry performance at the Ryman

Single $2105 // Double $1900 per person

Next Week’s Numbers

9/13 MID-DAY
5 4 2
9/13 EVENING
6 2 9

9/14 MID-DAY
6 1 2
9/14 EVENING
4 1 7

9/15 MID-DAY
7 2 6
9/15 EVENING
3 7 6

9/16 MID-DAY
8 7 2
9/16 EVENING
2 9 4

9/17 MID-DAY
9 3 0
9/17 EVENING
1 6 0

9/18 MID-DAY
1 7 3
9/18 EVENING
0 9 5

9/19 MID-DAY
0 8 2
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4 6 1

9/20 MID-DAY
5 6 5
9/20 EVENING
2 1 3

9/21 MID-DAY
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Advance Directives/ IPOST
Great River Hospice staff will help participants complete advance directives:

• A short presentation
• Walk to the new “Before I Die…” mural
• Light refreshments

For more information, call 319-768-3350, or visit www.greatriverhospice.org.
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 the guitar students of Jesse Mazzoccoli. Guitar lessons are available on Wednesdays at FMAAA. A hand feed press, available on Wednesdays at FMAAA.

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Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
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Mediapolis - Burlington
Shiffman said the Hounds don’t want to find them- selves in a shootout like last week in the 56-35 win over Central Lee and hopes his team adjusts to the Oska off ense 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 Oska 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 opportune with four interceptions and three fumble recoveries. Shiffman said the Hounds have Redd-Donald, Shay-mour Redd-Donald, and the rest of the secondary have

Sports

Hounds take on pesky Osky

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 Chance 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 with four after two weeks with six. Redd-Donald and senior tailback Alex Gully received regional recognition from area television stations after the performances in week 2.

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 wide-outs and has the only touchdown through the air for Oskaloosa. Senior Jared Kruse leads the Oska 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 Oska offense quickly.

Keosaquin turn 17:31 5K to win the Van Buren Cross-Country Invitational on Tuesday, a full 13 seconds ahead of Winfield-Mt. Union’s Brant Holtkamp 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 solid good 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

HTC, Hellige take 1st at VB Invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  PCC EDITOR

KESOUQUA - 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.

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See PREVIEW, page 9

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Wed., Sept. 13th
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at the Ft. Madison GRRWA Location

Open to all residents of Lee County!
Commercial & Business Fees apply to all businesses who wish to attend

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ELECTRONICS: Residents may recycle one (1) screened electronic for free. Fees apply for each additional screened electronic.

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GRRWA will be accepting bicycles in any condition free of charge. Recycled bicycles will be refurbished and given to kids in need throughout our community!

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GRRWA will be collecting eye glasses for the Lions Club Recycle for Sight program. Drop off your gently used eye glasses to help those in need.

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Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC
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 on over and play. We want to get numbers like Washington and Osk 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


“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 Stieffsmeier 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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Scotts Miracle-Gro Company
Fort Madison, Iowa
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 southeast 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 go 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! Tim Wondra

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- **235 Avenue K - Fort Madison**
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- **339 Avenue K - Fort Madison**
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- **309 Avenue O - Third Floor**
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- **220 Avenue G - Fort Madison**
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- **409 Avenue G - Fort Madison**
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- **220 Avenue K - Third Floor**
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- **48th Street - Keokuk**
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- **Packer**
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- **Pen City Current - Thursday, September 7, 2017 - 13**
**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. 09/06/17 - 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.

**Lee County Sheriff’s report**

09/05/17 - no incidents to report

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

All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

**THU 07 Sep**

A Few Clouds
High– 69.5º F | Low – 54.3º F

**FRI 08 Sep**

Clear Skies
High– 71.3º F | Low – 54.4º F

**SAT 09 Sep**

Light Rain
High– 68.6º F | Low – 53.1º F

**SUN 10 Sep**

Clear Skies
High– 69.3º F | Low – 48.5º F

**MON 11 Sep**

Clear Skies
High– 71.7º F | Low – 57.7º F

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Pen City Current - Thursday, September 7, 2017 - 15
City Council gets varied response to depot relocation

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 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 in 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 5%. 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 are already 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 Amtrak 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 $13,000, 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 BNSE, 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 construct-

ed. 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 mov-
ing 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. That would be there in perpetuity for nothing. They can never-
ever be kicked out of that building. That creates a dilemma because we want them to move and we want them stuck. Now 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 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 operat-
ing 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.

Councilman Tom Andrews said they want in favor of the depot move at first, but now the city is at a “gut-check” time when it comes to tourism.

“‘That’s kind of like we did in 1985 when we built the Fort. That was intend-
ed to be self sustaining and it still isn’t. This is a lot of pressure put 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 in that essence ‘shrinks’ the town. Andrews said, “People want to know where they’re stopping at. And right now they don’t have to move and they don’t have to pay.”

Councilman Chad Candegia said at this point with the agreement the way it is, it may 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.

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