Mayor, 2nd ward seat in front of voters

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Voters will go to the polls today to decide who will be city mayor for the next two years as well as who will fill the 2nd Ward council seat.

Incumbent Mayor Brad Randolph is seeking re-election to continue to focus on infrastructure and building on the economic successes Fort Madison has been seeing in the past six years.

He is opposed by Chris Sorentino, an over-the-road truck driver who says people have lost faith in the city’s leadership and wants to bring families back into the process.

Wright says the city is headed in the right direction and he wants to continue to be a part of the solution to the city’s infrastructure.

He’s opposed by Robert Morawitz, an electrician who’s lived in Fort Madison for 31 years and wants to make sure Fort Madison is marketing itself properly and protecting its assets.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations:
- Fort Madison Precinct 1, Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Ave. E
- Fort Madison Precinct 2, McAleer Hall, 415 11th St.
- Fort Madison Precinct 3, Fort Madison Public Library, 1920 Ave. E
- Fort Madison Precinct 4, Rolling Hall, 2210 Ave. H
- Fort Madison Precinct 5, Hillview Village, 1102 48th St.

City chugs along with depot move

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After a decade of planning and about 45 minutes of final discussions, the Fort Madison City Council voted Monday to move ahead with relocating the Amtrak Depot to its original location in Riverview Park.

The council, during a rare Monday meeting, approved, with a 5-0 vote, three agreements that would put the project on the Iowa Department of Transportation’s list of projects for bids.

Councilmen Travis Seidel and Chad Cangas were absent.

City Manager David Varley said IDOT would still need some final agreements from Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak, but they would now have everything they need from the city to proceed with the project.

The project, which had come under scrutiny from several council members when Varley announced an initial annual cost to the city of $50,000, came in better favor when Mayor Brad Randolph and Varley were able to get Amtrak to revisit insurance requirements. The $50,000 came down to $34,000 when an insurance requirement was picked up by the rail service.

Amtrak will also be paying $4,800 a year in rent payments in the new building which creates a net $29,200 annual cost. Varley said the costs could be a bit higher in the first year as the city determines what all will be needed to best fulfill the agreements.

There are three agreements that were approved including a sublease agreement, a landlord agreement, and a construction agreement.

Varley spent 15 minutes outlining the agreements and the history of the project.

There was still some confusion between Randolph and Varley about the actual cost to the city. “David originally was at $50,000 and said a more realistic number would be $34,000,” Randolph said. “So let’s say $35,000 and we’ve negotiated an additional savings of $15,000 on the insurance side. So if our operating costs were closer to $35,000 and we take off the $15,000 because we aren’t paying insurance were now at $20,000 and we take off the rent that leaves us with $15,000 to manage.”

But Varley said the insurance savings was already figured into the lower rate, which took Randolph by surprise. Randolph said that wouldn’t be possible because insurance companies hadn’t been negotiated prior to the lower projections.

See DEPOT, page 10

FM School officials hold new app meets this week

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison school officials will be meeting this week with parents in open meetings at the middle school and high school to talk about the district’s new anonymous reporting app, which will allow students and parents to report anonymously on concerns within the schools of the district.

The Fort Madison Community School District has recently partnered with the Texas-based company, Anderson Software, to provide a seamless and efficient way for students, staff, and community members to offer information to help us identify and address concerns. Anderson Software leads the industry with its secure and anonymous tip acquisition and management solution, called P3 Intel.

The technology is the foundation of P3 Campus, a comprehensive reporting solution designed specifically to identify the needs, behaviors, and issues parents, teachers, and students face in their schools.

See APP, page 3
FM woman nabbed on felony methamphetamine charge

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force arrested a woman in Fort Madison, Iowa woman on a felony drug warrant.

Daphne Kay Akers, 38, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on Nov. 4th in the 1300 block of Avenue M in Fort Madison on a drug charge. Akers is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted, Akers faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.

Akers was involved in the distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. A Fort Madison Police Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle which was operated by Akers and it was discovered that Akers had a drug warrant.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Fort Madison Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Sheriff’s Office 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.
Junior Emily Box (3) gets an attack in passed three blockers against Southeast Warren. Box, along with, moving right, Taylor Boeding (16), Maya Rashid (19), Eryn Anderson (25) and Madison Mohrfeld, and the rest of the Crusaders will be starting state tournament play Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids.

“They’re all just coming together and are playing right now the best we have all year,” she said.

The Crusaders dropped a 16-25 first set to New London on Oct. 26, but then came back and won three straight to advance. It was the first set Holy Trinity had lost since Oct. 5 in a regular season match with the Tigers.

Freesmeier said Starmont has seen some good teams and have athletic girls.

“I use a very athletic team from game film,” she said. “Their three hitters are definitely legit from what I’ve seen. They are small, but we’re small, too, but we’re scrappy and we’re going to be released and be in a position to do things.”

Freesmeier, whose surpassed 25 years of the year, which has led to her status as the best in Class 1A.

“I expect them to do their jobs,” she said.

As for the rest of the team, Freesmeier said they’ve all been rising to each challenge that has come in front of them for the past month. “I expect them to do their jobs, she said.

“Eryn (Anderson) and Taylor (Boeding) have had a great season. Rashid leads the state in assists and has been on that first team with some big kills for us. That will be huge for us if they can stay in control and play their games. Elyse (Potthast) and Maya (Larson) have played as well together and made such a big difference in what we’re doing now. With them on top of our game our hitters are that much better on the front line.”

Freesmeier said the entire team will need to be ready to fulfill their roles for the Crusaders to have success in the tournament. She said the team will be looking to Box and Rashid for big plays and control of the match, but she said she doesn’t think any feature of the team will be able to do it alone.

“When we’re looking to get a kill late with Emily of course we’re gonna try to get that ball to her,” she said.

“They’ve all got their role, they know Emily is the girl they shoot to go to, but they all need to be ready to go when the time comes,” she said.

Rashid has been handling the setting duties for most of the year, which has led to her status as the best in Class 1A.

“Rashid is teaching the girls to control what’s in their power to control. It’s teaching the girls to control what’s in their power to control. That will be huge for us if they can stay in control and play their games. Elyse (Potthast) and Maya (Larson) have played as well together and made such a big difference in what we’re doing now. With them on top of our game our hitters are that much better on the front line.”

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2017 CLASS 1A STATE VOLLEYBALL PAIRINGS

#1 Janesville (34-7)

Wednesday, November 8
6:00 p.m., COURT ONE

#8 East Mills (24-8)

Thursday, November 9
6:00 p.m., COURT ONE

#4 Starmont (30-5)

Wednesday, November 8
8:00 p.m., COURT ONE

#5 Holy Trinity Catholic (37-5)

Thursday, November 9
6:00 p.m., COURT ONE

#3 Grundy Center (36-6)

#3 LeMars Gehlen Catholic (27-6)

Friday, November 10
1A Championship
7:00 p.m.

#4 Starmont (30-5)

#1 Janesville (34-7)

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Visit Santa from 10am - Noon at 262 • 7th St.

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- Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Dawgs & Divas, Team Staffing, Small Business Saturday, North Lee County Historical Society, and Fort Madison Main Street

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

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CREATE SPACE:
Create and indoor space for all your recyclables. Pick up recycling bins at our Ft. Madison or Keokuk facilities. Curb side pick up is available. Check the city websites for details.

TUESDAY
GO PAPERLESS:
Decrease your need for paper products. Eject for paperless statements, digitize shopping lists, documents and more!

WEDNESDAY
GO WASTE FREE:
Make a conscious effort to not use your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end of life solution.

THURSDAY
REUSE:
Instill new life in items you would normally toss out. Such as jars and containers, clothing, paper products and more.

FRIDAY
COMPOSTING:
Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to better build a healthy garden in the Spring.

SATURDAY
PROCUREMENT:
Only purchase what is made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

SUNDAY
ENJOY:
Sit back, relax, and enjoy a healthier, happier, cleaner Earth!

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More than 10 later, city to send agreements to state

DEPOT - Continued from Page 1

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As it stands, the city is looking at paying $35,000 and it was recommended that 60% of the costs comes from city Hotel/Motel tax revenues, with 40% coming from the general fund. That amount would result in $16,200 coming from hotel/motel tax with a credit of the $4,800 in rent revenues from Amtrak and the additional $14,000 annually from the city’s general fund.

Bob Morawitz, who’s running for the 2nd Ward council seat in Tuesday’s election, asked if the funding mechanism was part of any of the agreements, which Varley said was not the case.

“I just wanted to make sure because I’m not in favor of using the hotel/motel tax to pay for this,” he said.

Chris Sorrentino, who’s running for mayor in Tuesday’s election, said the expenses being spent won’t be realized in revenue.

“How do we justify the $20,000 to $30,000 per year it will cost the city to operate that. That’s my biggest thing.”

Councilman Chris Greenwald said with the numbers, it’s bringing people into the community for $4 per day. Greenwald, who owns River City Motors Plus, said if he could spend $4 per person on advertising he’d do it everyday.

Andrews, who had reservations about the program with the original $50,000 annual cost, said the city dumps money into many entities in the city and they do it without a concern for revenue because it’s a service.

“It’s a gamble I’m willing to take now. We’ve got the cost down to a respectable amount. It’s tax dollars and the majority of the town is not going to benefit from it,” Andrews said. “Let’s put this Field of Dreams, I used to call it, to bed and hope to God it works.”

Councilman Brian Wright said it’s a pride issue from what he’s hearing from his constituents.

“I was on the fence like you were, but after talking to people in the ward, they say we’ve come this far and it comes down to having something of history and it’s a pride thing.”

Councilman Kevin Rink said he’s heard Amtrak thought about pulling service in Fort Madison.

“I’ve heard we’re damn lucky Amtrak didn’t pull this $11,000 service out of town,” Rink said. “Would I rather get off where the depot is now or up here where it’s nice and redone...where it should be.”

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Tue</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
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