Amtrak agreements again in front of council

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After being pulled from the City Council agenda two weeks ago, final agreements between the City of Fort Madison and Amtrak regarding the relocation of the rail depot to Riverview Park, could be voted on Tuesday.

Three separate agreements are on the agenda for the City Council’s regular meeting Tuesday night beginning at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Included in the agreements is a platform sublease agreement with Amtrak. This agreement provides for the city constructing the platform and then giving ownership to Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. Amtrak would then lease the platform from BNSF and then sublease it to the city to give the city responsibility for any maintenance and repair. Under the agreement the city would also be responsible for all utilities and insurance coverage.

Amtrak is also contributing $150,000 to the construction of the platform.

The second agreement is between the city and Amtrak where the city agrees to construct depot improvements, which have already been done, and construct a platform as well as installing Amtrak approved signage and a wheelchair enclosure.

The third agreement provides for the city leasing Amtrak 813 square feet of exclusive space in the station for operations including a “common area” to be used by passengers. It would be a 20-year lease with two 10-year options.

See COUNCIL, page 5

HTC sends science, quiz kids to state

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity Catholic had a multiple program state send off on Wednesday. The schools Quiz Bowl team won the Southeast Iowa Superconference championship and headed to the State Quiz Bowl this weekend. The Holy Trinity Science Club also headed to the State Science Fair. Thursday was high school judging, and according to science advisor Ernie Schiller, three of the seven science students who attended the fair placed. On Friday, 16 of 19 Holy Trinity Middle School students received awards. A complete list of the awards will be available Monday.

One of the middle school students, Dalton Boeding, received a special send off from the district. Boeding has received several “Inspir- ing Excellence Awards” and has participate in numerous science fairs.

Holy Trinity Catholic’s Science students participated in this weekend’s State Science Fair with 16 of 19 middle school students receiving awards and three of seven high school students placing.

I don’t want to keep droning on about it this…see what I did there… but this past week was a true adventure. And a lesson in what a good community this is.

This idiot editor went out by himself in the field where, hopefully in 2021, there will be a new elementary school sitting. I have a new toy that I want to use to gather news photography from above. But obviously I need to train more on it.

It’s a small drone that Kris Kringle put under the tree this year. It takes great video and pictures but you have to know what the sam-hell you’re doing with the thing. There are some really seasoned pros with these things around Fort Madison.

I… am not one of those people.

Fort Madison coach Luke Rickelman had some athletes working out on the east slab at the middle school while I was buzzing this thing around in what is probably one of the largest open fields in city limits.

But, needless to say, I got cocky and lost control of this thing at about 400 feet.

There are some really seasoned pros with these things around Fort Madison.

I have a new toy that I want to use to gather news photography from above. But obviously I need to train more on it.

On what ended up being my last practice flight, I pushed my drone to new heights.

Pushes my drone to new heights.

There are some really seasoned pros with these things around Fort Madison.

Ooooooo. Pretty!! I could see the freakin’ river on my phone that I was using to navigate. But then a nervous-
MARY BELLE BERGMEIER

Mary Belle Bergmeier, 92, of Nauvoo, Illinois passed away Saturday, March 30, 2019 at her son, Randy’s, home near Niota, Illinois. She was born on February 12, 1927 in Bentonsport, Iowa the daughter of Calvin and Jennie June Corns. She married Tom Bergmeier. They later divorced.

Mary was a 1945 graduate of the Fort Madison High School. Mary worked for John A. Kraus Company in Nauvoo for 52 years. She was an avid L.A. Dodgers and Kyle Busch fan. Mary enjoyed going on “critter drives” to look at wildlife. Her grandson and great-grandson were the light of her life. She was a member of the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo, where she was active in the Catholic Women’s Club. Survivors include, one son, Randy (Cathy) Bergmeier of Niota, one grandson, Jason (Autumn) Bergmeier, one great-grandson, Drake Bergmeier, two brothers, Wesley Corns of Fort Madison and Charles Corns of Burlington and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Shirley and Barbara and one brother, Henry. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Fr. Tony Trosley as celebrant. Burial will be in the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo. Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo where the family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a Parish Rosary recited at 6:30 p.m. A memorial fund has been established for the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church or School. Please visit Mary’s obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com to leave a condolence.

THOMAS SHADWELL RUMP

Thomas Shadwell Rump, 87, of Burlington passed from this earth on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 10:02 PM at the Great River Hospice House following a lengthy illness surrounded by his wife and children.

He was born on June 2, 1931 in Ft. Madison to Edward and Valley Shadwell Shadwell. Thomas married Ardith Rich in Mt. Pleasant. After graduating from Ft. Madison High School he attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO and then attended Coe College and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Following college he received his commission as a 2nd Lt. in the Air Force.

After serving in Korea with the 2157th Air Rescue Squadron, he joined the Air Force Reserves. During this time he served as Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He retired from the Air Force after twenty two years with the rank of Major. Tom earned his teaching certificate from Iowa Wesleyan College and substitute taught in the Ft. Madison School District. He worked for Job Training Partnership and taught General Educational Development classes in Ft. Madison and Burlington through Southeastern Community College. He owned and operated “Rumps Young Fashions and Varsity Shop” in downtown Ft. Madison for many years.

He was very active in the Boy Scout Program. Tom was a Scoutmaster and Post Advisor of Troop 29 in Ft. Madison. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow and served on the Tribal Council. He was also the Ft. Madison District Chairman and served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Board of the Southeast Council of Boy Scouts. He was presented with the Pilot Award and the Silver Beaver. Tom served on numerous committees as a member of the Ft. Madison Chamber of Commerce and the United Way Board. He was past president of the Ft. Madison Rotary Club, a member of Holy Family Parish, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, the Reserve Officers of America and the Retired Officers Association. Tom loved playing golf and traveling to the mountains out west.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of forty seven years, Ardith. Rump of Burlington two children Jeffrey (Nicole Panther) Rump of Ft. Madison and RaeAnn (Loren) Menke of West Point; five grandchildren; four nieces; five nephews and one sister in law. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Richard; one niece; three brothers in law and three sisters in law.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home where the family will meet with friends from 5-6:30 PM. Following visitation his body will be cremated. The funeral mass will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 10:30 AM at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church. Burial will take place at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, West Point.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Great River Hospice House or Holy Trinity Catholic Schools and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.
NORBERT G. RICKELMAN

Norbert G. Rickelman, 90, of Ft. Madison passed away at 2:06 AM on Sunday, March 31, 2019 at The Kensington.

He was born on May 21, 1928 in Washington, IA to George and Anna Helling Rickelman. On September 2, 1950 he married Jean Mansheim in Ft. Madison. Norbert was a lifelong farmer and was an Archer oil dealer for over forty five years. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Knights of Columbus, Iowa Pork Producers Assn, Iowa Cattlemen’s Assc, Iowa Corn Growers Assn, Iowa and the Farm Bureau. In his younger years he was a square dance caller for many events and belonged to a square dance and euchre club. A proud steward of the land he loved everything outdoors. He especially enjoyed his black angus cattle, his black Labrador and his favorite cat. His favorite seasons were spring planting and fall harvest. He was very proud of and treasured all of his children and their families and loved family get together.

Norbert and Jean enjoyed traveling to many states visiting relatives and friends, including Hawaii, Arizona, Texas, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, South Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, Washington DC as well as Canada and Mexico. The family would like to thank all the staff at The Kensington, FMCH Hospice especially Carol Reed, RN and the Dream Catchers Group for granting his final wish to tour his farm the day before his passing. Also all his Doctors and Nurses at GRMC and Mansheim Family Practice for their wonderful care over the years.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Rickelman of Ft. Madison; one daughter, Karen (Jim) Koenighain of Cedar Rapids; four sons, Warren (Peggy) Rickelman of Ft. Madison, Richard (Kay) Rickelman of Pulaski, IA, Dan (Lynda) Rickelman of Ft. Madison and Steve (Laura) Rickelman of Pulaski, IA; twelve grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; one sister, Martha Karka of Fairfield, IA; one sister in law, Bernice Rickelman of West Point; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Mary in infancy; one brother, Leonard and two sisters, Evelyn Goldbach and RoseAnne Strunk.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home where the family will meet with friends from 4:30-6:30 PM at the funeral home. A rosary will be recited at 6:30 PM. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Wednesday, April 3, 2019 with Rev. Joseph Plung officiating. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Sacred Heart Church of FMCH Hospice and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

PAMELA JOYCE LEWIS HUNTER

Pamela Joyce Lewis Hunter, 63, of Nauvoo, IL passed away Thursday, March 28, 2019.

She was born on February 29, 1956, in Lemont, IL, the daughter of Shirley Jane Meyers Lewis. She graduated from St. Mary’s High School in Chicago.

On November 28, 1974 Pam was united in marriage to Lewis William Hunter in Lemont, IL. He preceded her in death on June 29, 2017.

Pam owned and operated Pam Hunter’s House Cleaning Service for several years and also did home health care. But her main job was being a mom and her life revolved around her family.

She was of the Baptist faith and attended the First Baptist Church, Faith Family and the Evangelical Free Church all in Keokuk. When wintering in Texas with her husband she attended the First Baptist Church in Harlingen, TX.

Pam had a good eye for antiques and collectables and enjoyed hunting for treasures at thrift shops, garage sales and auctions. She enjoyed watching her favorite TV shows, The Three Stooges, Game of Thrones and Shark Week on the Discovery Channel. She looked forward to watching The Voice each week with her granddaughter.

She is survived by four daughters, Mercianne Hunter Finch, Lauriebeth Hunter (Bob Page) and Jenna-Lyn Shuman (Michaal) all of Keokuk, Beckajoyce Hunter (Warren Veerasingam) of Coralville, one son, Brentlewis Hunter (Katie) of Cedar Rapids, seven grandchildren, McKenna Jade Hunter (Nick) of Parnell, Hunter Michael Finch (Elizabeth Engelbrecht) of Ames, Hailey Anne Finch, Mason Robert Lewis Page, Breanna Bell Page, Alexus Beulah-Rose Shuman and Brady Micheal Shuman all of Keokuk, one brother, Gerald “Sonny” Meyers of Cedar Rapids, her mother-in-law, Lois Schnakenberg of MO, sister-in-law, Shirley Jensen (Rick) of KS, brother-in-law Kevin Hunter (Wendy) of TX and her very best friend since grade school, Connie Wiedlin (Jerry) of Chicago.

Besides her husband, Lewis, she was also preceded in death by her granddaughter, Meechele Kayle Page, one sister, Sherry Ott, one brother, David Meyers and a brother-in-law George Oliver Hunter.

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Saturday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Derek Olsen officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held on Saturday from 11 am – 1 pm at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Family or to the Keokuk Animal Shelter. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current - Monday, April 1, 2019 - 3

Obituaries

Clean Home. Clean Planet.

Do your part during this year’s Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you’re choosing products safe for our planet.

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

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Pen City Current - Monday, April 1, 2019 - 3
ness took over me. You're not supposed to fly them higher than 400 feet, but this model recommends 150 feet. Yeah… I think I broke both of those.

So I looked up into the sky. BIG MISTAKE! This thing looked like a dot of a sparrows against the light blue afternoon sky. "Ohhhhh. Bring it down," I said to myself. There was a slight breeze out of the southwest.

"Uh… well it's yours now," I said, thinking this is getting very expensive now. Buy a new one was starting to sound like a good idea.

"Nope," he said. "I've got another one." He sets his pole on the ground and I look up and see it. They're dead and don't weigh as much. This was my idea, not the mayor's. MINE. So we start strapping up straight dead sticks and went after the thing again. The sticks which we put on top of the poles, started to bend and snapped as we pushed the pole up.

We both laughed a little and finally I convinced the mayor to leave. (I now have a deeper understanding of why we're still moving the depot – this guy doesn't give up easily.) We stopped at his truck for a moment of brain storming. Almost at the same time we said "a bow". He said if someone had a bow… and I jumped in and said, I was just thinking I have a compound bow at home. Ideas started churning.

I told him I would think about that plan and maybe come back in the morning. I thanked him on Bluff Road.

"No!" He said, "I've texted the mayor and said I was headed out with the bow".

"God!" -- "I've taken enough of your time. I'll try again tomorrow."

In the early morning I got up and grabbed a big ball of twine, a utility cutter, and the bow and arrows and headed back to get my drone that I abandoned to the wild of the night.

I texted the mayor and said I was headed out with the bow, arrows, and some twine. He texted back immediately, "use fishing line".

Whatever. This is a compound bow, it can shoot twine too. Doug Hoenig from Hoenig's Tree Service messaged me saying he had some poles, apparently specific to drone hunting, and would stop by. He took a look and headed back to get his poles. 30 minutes later I was on my way to Shopko for fishing line. Apparently my daughter's compound bow wasn't powerful enough to carry twine 70 feet. Whatever.

I don't like fishing line. I don't like Christmas lights. If it tangles, I hate it. I have no patience for that. After about 10 minutes of not getting the line to do what I wanted, Doug Hoenig came over and we went our separate ways. When I got home, I pulled the bow from the closet and set it out for the wild of the woods – and gravity! I had rescued our roaming drone.

To register call (319)372-5225 or #3 John Bennett Drive, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison

April 2 - April 23, 2019

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LCHD office

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Pen City current

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Pen City Current is partnering with Radio Keokuk to drop a wider net over news and sports in Lee County. We’re very excited about the possibilities of this partnership for our readers and our advertisers, but that’s Beside the Point.
Approval of depot agreements could start project

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

extensions available. Rent on the space will be $400 monthly from Amtrak. “If all three of the agreements are approved, the City will be responsible to construct the passenger platform, which will involve some city funds as outlined in the budget,” City Manager David Varley wrote in an agenda memo to council members. “Amtrak will pay the city $400 per month in rent, but the city must take care of snow removal, repairs, etc. for the platform, and the common areas outside the building. This will be an addition to the City’s annual operating budget and an expense that we currently do not have.”

In February, with city officials ready to pull out of the relocation due to insufficient funding available in the city’s budget, the Iowa Department of Transportation came up with potential additional funds to cover the city’s projected shortfall. DOT officials said precedent is there for an additional $400,000 to be allocated from the DOT’s Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund. If approved Tuesday, the platform construction, which has to go through the DOT, could be put into the state’s bid letting process to get the project started. In other action, the council: • will have a 2nd reading of an ordinance amendment Title 3 of the city code defining “Rental Housing Unit” and the processes of nuisance abatement. • will have a 2nd reading of an ordinance amending plumbing fees.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber welcomes newly sworn in Deputy Bryson Hennigar on Tuesday at the North Lee County Courthouse. Hennigar is the second deputy sworn in this year. Deputy Brent Gibb was also sworn in as a member of the sheriff’s department.
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED**

RSVP
United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator.

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant, and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual with an interest in the Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest, and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2068 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less. Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

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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Current-Lee/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 01 Apr
Mostly Sunny
High– 47.9º F | Low – 39.4º F

TUE 02 Apr
Light Rain
High– 48.4º F | Low – 36.3º F

WED 03 Apr
Overcast
High– 53.5º F | Low – 45.9º F

THU 04 Apr
Overcast
High– 56.9º F | Low – 47.8º F

FRI 05 Apr
Scattered Clouds
High– 60.8º F | Low – 56.1º F

OpenWeatherMap

FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST
A beautiful smile helps make a great first impression.
Make sure yours does.

Now accepting new patients.

Do you have time to help stop crime?
Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!

LEARN. GROW. THRIVE.
FREE 4-Year Old Pre-School 2019-2020 Enrollment Open
Call or click for details!

Salute to Small Business Breakfast
The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding its annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast on Thursday, May 9 beginning at 7:30 a.m at Quality Inn & Suites.

Soroptimist Princess Tea Party
The annual Princess Tea Party is set for Saturday, May 11th at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison. Ages 3-5 will attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while 6 and up will attend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration deadline is April 5. For more information email Dr. Lauri Wondra at laurisorop@gmail.com.

Jack Morris Memorial Golf Outing
The annual Fort Madison Chamber Golf outing will be held June 14, 2019. Sponsorships are available. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 319-372-5471 for more details.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Effective Jan. 1, 2019 non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, call Chuck at (319)371.1670 or Lee at (319)371.4125.