Platform comes in $1.4M over budget

Amtrak Depot relocation in jeopardy with shortfall

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORTY MADISON – The city of Fort Madison took another punch in the gut on Tuesday when a construction bid for the railroad platform at the proposed new Amtrak Depot came in $1.4 million over engineer estimates.

The bids were opened today at the Iowa Department of Transportation and the lowest bid was from Iowa Bridge and Culvert and came in at $2.83 million, which according to City Manager David Varley is double what the city was budgeting.

“That’s correct. It’s double what we budgeted and finding another $1.4 million is not gonna be easy,” Varley said.

Varley said engineering estimates from Klingner & Associates were at $1.3 million, but he said he was figuring closer to $1.4 million.

“I don’t know. I thought this would come in a bit high. I mean you’re working with the railroad and they have so many rules and regulations and insurance requirements,” Varley said. “Working next to the tracks also means you can’t work all the time when trains are going by. I realize how difficult it is to work with railroads. I think engineers would be able to see this stuff, too.”

The bid letting is up for discussion at tonight’s City Council meeting. Varley said he just found out about the bid Tuesday afternoon and said it was a shocker.

This is the third major project in the past year that has come in substantially over engineering estimates. Two other projects, the Avenue G sidewalk and curb replacement that was planned with grant money from the waste water treatment rehab project came in way over estimates, as did the old Highway 61 rehab that was supposed to start this fall.

Both of those estimates were from HR Green out of Cedar Rapids and were met with the furrowed brows of Cedar Rapids and were met with the furrowed brows of Cedar Rapids.

Supervisors approve new 28E with mental health region

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A new agreement was approved Monday that will provide for additional voting members to the regional mental health board to help with new state laws providing for children's mental health services.

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed House File 690 into law in May creating a children’s mental health system in the state. The new law, among other things, expanded regional and state boards that will now include children’s behavioral health service oversight.

Southeast Iowa Link, an eight-county regional board overseeing mental health services in southeast Iowa, headed up by Lee County’s Ryanne Wood, will be adding a provider of children’s mental health services.

Wood told supervisors the new agreement will expand the current SEIL board.

“What we have done in the construction (of the amendment) is just address the issues related to the new legislation,” Wood said.

“The new legislation we will be inheriting, we will be adding a provider of children’s mental health services, a representative from the education system, and a parent of a child that uses children’s behavior services or a representative of that family.”

She said children crisis services were always a part of the regions’ services, but now the board officially takes over administration of those programs and as Wood said, “They will be more fully in charge.”

Tuesday at the beach

Above, students and a mascot from Holy Trinity Catholic dressed in beach garb cheer on the Crusaders Tuesday night, while at left, three Fort Madison High School students are trying to hold onto the last vestiges of summer in their swimming gear.

Platform comes in $1.4M over budget
Lady Hounds come together for win over MP

by John Bohnenkamp

Fort Madison – Kent Bailey saw his Fort Madison High School volleyball team down one game, and behind by 11 points in the second.

“I figured, ‘Well, it’s going to take five games to win,’ Bailey said.

But Lampe had 10 kills, Lynk had eight and Guzman had seven.

“(Wiseman) obviously makes us look exceeding well,” Bailey quipped back after bid rejections, “Wiseman was dominating — she also had 18 assists and 11 digs. Nadia Boeding had 19 digs. Gracie Pumphrey had 14 digs and Madison Pirri had 12. Pumphrey had four aces and Jenna Jones had three. Fort Madison moved to 4-10 overall, 1-2 in the Southeast Conference. “We’ve played against a lot of teams that made us look exceeding-ly short,” Bailey quipped about the Bloodhounds’ early schedule. “Tonight was a good win for us.”

Fort Madison’s Anna Lynk (10) and Genevieve Ruble (22) put up a block on Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night in the Hounds’ 3-1 win over the Panthers.

“Thankfully, volleyball is a game of runs, and we made that run to come back,” Bailey said.

Mount Pleasant built an early 5-1 lead in the second game and extended that margin to 18-7 after a kill from Avery Sutter.

But the Bloodhounds had an answer. Trail-ing 19-9, they scored six consecutive points, three on kills from Jillian Wiseman.

“I think we just started playing together,” said Wiseman, who led the Bloodhounds with 21 kills. “And our passing was a lot better.”

“We quit making errors, and stopped beating ourselves,” Bailey said. “And they made a few mistakes too, which helped.”

The Bloodhounds trailed 23-20, then scored the final five points of the game, with Kaylyn Guzman and Reyn-na Lampe each having kills in that run. Fort Madison dominated the third game, leading 22-14, before Mount Pleasant went on a 5-0 run. But the Bloodhounds closed out the game with the final three points, the last two coming on aces from Lauren Bailey.

Mount Pleasant built a 13-9 lead in the fourth game before the Bloodhounds scored eight of the next nine points.

Fort Madison finished the match by scoring the final four points. Wiseman had nine kills in that stretch and Anna Lynk had one. Lynk’s tip on match point fell to the court, and the Bloodhounds celebrated.

“It was a pretty big win for us,” Wiseman said. “It was our first home match, and we wanted to play well.”

Wiseman was dominating — she also had 18 assists and two blocks. But Lampe had 10 kills, Lynk had eight and Guzman had seven.

(Wiseman) obviously does so much for us,” Kent Bailey said. “But we had a lot of other contributions tonight.”

Lauren Bailey had 44 assists and 11 digs. Nadia Boeding had 19 digs. Gracie Pumphrey had 14 digs and Madison Pirri had 12. Pumphrey had four aces and Jenna Jones had three. Fort Madison moved to 4-10 overall, 1-2 in the Southeast Conference. “We’ve played against a lot of teams that made us look exceeding-ly short,” Bailey quipped about the Bloodhounds’ early schedule. “Tonight was a good win for us.”

FMHS needs run in 2nd to set momentum in 3-1 conference win

by John Bohnenkamp

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Amtrak depot may get scaled back after bid

DEPOT - Continued from Page 1

brows of several city councilman and Mayor Brad Randolph.

Varley said he understands why the construction bids can come in high as they have on all three proj-ects, but he’s perplexed as to why engineers haven’t been seeing a more accurate picture.

“They haven’t been very accurate. It’s not the same firm and all three had extenuating circumstances.”

He said much of the increased costs of all the proj-ects are centered around the unknowns.

“I understand the the downtown project too, I just don’t know why the engineers didn’t get that. It’s like the railroad project…if I have to jump through those hoops, you’re gonna have to pay me a premium for it.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
09/16/19 – 8:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L. 09/16/19 – 5:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue H. 09/16/19 – 6:33 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Scott Andrew Flore, 50, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office, on a charge of 1st degree theft. He was held in custody at the Lee County Jail. 09/16/19 – 6:51 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jeremy Elijah Boyle, 33, of Keokuk, at the sheriff’s office on a charge of 5th degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/16/19 – 7:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Logan Glenn Fowler, 22, of Vandalia, Mo., in the 900 block of 48th Street on a charge of carrying weapons, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and interference with official acts and driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/16/19 – 8:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Logan Glenn Fowler, 22, of Vandalia, Mo., in the 900 block of 48th Street on a charge of carrying weapons, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and interference with official acts and driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
09/16/19 – 12:23 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Scot Andrew Flore, 50, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office, on a charge of 1st degree theft. He was held in custody at the Lee County Jail.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report 09/16/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.

For the Record/Current-Lee

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Bloodhound Booster Events
The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

Girl Scouts Discovery Night
All girls are invited to join in on a free Discovery night on Sept. 18 at the Fort Madison Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information visit the website at www.girlscoutstoday.org or call 800-798-0833.

North Lee County Relay for Life
The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year's theme is 'idols of strength'.

Volunteer Fair
The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library's Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening
The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Booth performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stuekerjuengen DJing until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Fort Madison Farmer’s Market
The farmer’s market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid’s Day at the market.

Kensington events
The Kensington is offering Senior’s Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat. The Kensington is also offering a free classic movie at the Fox Theatre on Sept 23 at 1 PM. Sabrina staring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart.

Weekly Book Sale
Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday’s at the Public Library.

FMHS Band Classic
The FMHS Band is hosting their Classic (16th Annual) with bands coming from near and far. The scheduled date is this Saturday Sept. 21 at Richmond Stadium. Gates will open at 11 a.m. and the event starts at noon.
**Crusaders stave off Notre Dame in four games**

**HTC girls find heart after dropping first game to win in 4**

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

FORT MADISON — "These girls are better than they think they are," said Holy Trinity Catholic girls volleyball coach Melissa Freesmeier Tuesday night.

Freesmeier was all kinds of fired up after her Crusaders erased a loss in the first game of their match with Burlington Notre Dame and came back to win 3-1.

The normally docile Freesmeier, entering her 27th season as a head coach, was as animated on the sidelines as she’s ever been motivating an HTC squad that lost to New London Thursday in four games.

"You know I’ve told myself I’m going to be calm. These kids need me to be calm… these kids need me to be calm, but I’m not going to be calm anymore. These kids can handle it," Freesmeier said.

"These are some kids with some heart and are some that are competitive but it’s deep down inside them. We’re gonna bring it out and we’re gonna play some volleyball."

The first game was loaded with errors for the Crusaders but they managed to come from three and four points down on several occasions and had tied the score at 20, but the Nikes went on a 3-0 run to be two points away. HTC battled back to 22, but Notre Dame would get the next two points for the win.

In the second game, HTC found themselves down 14-11 and then senior Maille Sheerin came to the service line. With Freesmeier calling spots from behind her clipboard, Sheerin began methodically dissecting the Nike front and back defense moving the ball around and five points later HTC was back in front 16-14.

"She did great," Freesmeier said of Sheerin’s timely service points.

"She was hitting her spots and was on point. We were mixing things up and trying to get them in a daze. We went deep and then short and they weren’t sure where she was going to go, and Maille has such a great serve."

In the third game, the two squads battled through about six ties with HTC pulling away down the stretch on some Nike errors. It seemed the Nikes lost a bit of their mojo in the fourth game after starting up 2-0.

HTC went on a run and was up 7-2 before Notre Dame could regain their footing, but the Crusaders sensed the win coming and pulled away for a 25-13 win.

Freesmeier said she was happy with the way the girls battled back, not only from the first game loss, but the loss at New London last week.

"Look at game one – errors… errors….errors. But then look at the heart out there. Our kids were on the floor diving for stuff, they weren’t letting anything hit the floor. I got to give our kids credit they came out and did a great job tonight, she said."

"Notre Dame’s gonna win a lot of volleyball games this year and we’re going to have to play them a couple more times so we just gotta be on our game all the time. But that’s fun though, that’s volleyball."

On the night, Sheerin was 25 of 25 with five aces and 16 digs to lead Holy Trinity. Claire Pothitakis was 24 of 32 attacking with 17 kills including a fourth game where she went 12 of 14 with five kills.

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**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

**WED 18 Sep**

Light Rain
High—83.7º F | Low – 70.4º F

**THU 19 Sep**

Moderate Rain
High—84.8º F | Low – 71.7º F

**FRI 20 Sep**

Moderate Rain
High—83.0º F | Low – 69.2º F

**SAT 21 Sep**

Heavy Intensity Rain
High—75.5º F | Low – 69.5º F

**SUN 22 Sep**

Light Rain
High—77.6º F | Low – 67.5º F

OpenWeatherMap
Notre Dame sophomore Katy Stephens powers an attack at HTC’s Kassi Randolph and Avery Hopper in early action Tuesday night. The Crusaders downed the Nikes in four games.

HTC senior Avery Hopper goes up for a kill against Rylie Todd at left, while at right freshman Brooke Mueller gets in an attempt at a kill. The Crusaders came back from a first-game loss to win by a score of 3-1.
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Mental health officials says state has to come up with funds

FUNDING - Continued from Page 1

stated, "will be the boots on the ground for children’s mental health services".

It was a mandate that came without additional funding from the state.

“We were identifying with just the expanded services on the adult side, the financing of the regions would have to be addressed legislatively because there wasn’t enough money," Wood said.

"Then we inherited the children’s behavioral health system. So we know absolutely with these time-lines and mandates that we need additional resources to be able to fund sufficiently.”

Wood said several ideas are floating around including increasing the property tax levy, but she said that idea doesn’t have a lot of support. Other funding options include a lump sum appropriation, or a targeted sales tax contribution that would create funding that could be distributed among all the regions of the state.

"There’s no doubt there was a need for a children’s behavioral health system because as it stands right now, there was nobody administrating this system and that’s why legislators chose to appoint the regions to do that," she said.

"Essentially we're the boots on the ground, and the only boots on the ground, locally throughout the entirety of the state.”

The regions will begin assuming responsibility of administration July 1, 2021. The region will also have the expanded complex needs adult services on their plate beginning that date.

“Supervisor chairman Gary Folluo asked what benefit there was to the county in approving the new agreement. Wood said there wasn’t any benefit, but eventually the region would have to come in line with the new law.

“There’s lots of conversation that this is an unfunded mandate by not expanding our capacity to levy or contributing any additional revenues to assume this responsibility,” Wood said.

“But our community services affiliates and supervisors will be advocating that this needs to be attended to in some shape or fashion if we have to assume these additional responsibilities.”

Lady Hounds go 1-4 at Linn-Mar tourney

BY PCC STAFF

MARION – The Fort Madison High School volleyball team came away with just one win at the Linn Mar tournament near Cedar Rapids on Saturday, but two of the losses went into a tie-breaker.

The Lady Hounds dropped matches to Linn-Mar 12-21, 12-21 and Tipton 5-21, 14-21 before falling to Center Point-Urbania 21-18, 23-25 12-15.

Fort Madison got it’s first win of the day over Summer Fredericksberg also in a tiebreaker, after again taking the first set 21-18, but falling 13-21 in the second set. This time the Hounds came out on the winning side of the 15-12 tiebreaker.

Solon then ended Fort Madison’s day with a 12-15 tiebreaker. Fort Madison again had the momentum after a 21-19 first set win, but lost focus and dropped matches to Center Point-Urbania 21-18, 23-25 12-15.

The Hounds take on Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night in the team’s home opener.

Pen City Current - Wednesday, September 18, 2019
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Lee County Health Department Hospice

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“Lee County Health Department Hospice”

...the most experienced Hospice in Lee County

Our Hospice Services Include:
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- Skilled Nursing Services
- Social Worker Visits
- Music/Massage Therapy
- Homecare Aide Assistance
- Spiritual & Grief Support
- Volunteer Services

We are proud to provide our Hospice Services in Lee, Des Moines, Van Buren & Henry counties in Iowa and Hancock & Henderson counties in Illinois

Touching the Community with Care

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