Cruise line to begin docking in FM Aug. 6

American beefs up stops 40% in 2019 with 14 stops

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With American Cruise Lines sealing a deal to dock at Fort Madison on their way up and down the Mississippi River, plans are quickly coming together to welcome the passengers.

A cruising schedule was released Wednesday and city officials, who were expecting to see 10 dockings this year, were surprised to see 14 on the list starting Aug. 6.

What was more surprising was the time of the layovers in town.
Seven of the 14 tours will have six hour ports of call, and the other seven will be in town for 8.5 hours.

City Manager David Varley said both the itinerary changes are good for the hours.

"They've been secret shopping us for a while. They have itineraries set up and are making plans, but not all of the detail have been worked out."

-Jean Peiton, FM Tourism Director

The American Harmony is just one of three boats that will be docking on Fort Madison’s riverfront starting Aug. 6. Cruise officials extended the docking schedule by 40% with 14 ports of call this year. Passengers will have six hour and 8.5 hour stays in Fort Madison.

The America is one of three boats that will be docking at the Fort Madison riverfront when American Cruise Lines begins ports of call here on Aug. 6.

"I think we need to be a little care-..."

INSIDE:
City reminds property owners to keep grass clippings in the yard, man!
See SHIPS, page 9

Woodley, Sheerin splitting principal duties at HTC buildings

Holy Trinity Catholic's new principal duo sat down for interview Thursday about the transitions taking place in the system.
Principal Michael Sheerin, standing is moving to the new elementary school, while newcomer Jason Woodley, seated, will be principal and curriculum director at HTC junior/senior high

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – "This is the greatest show."

The affable HTC Elementary Principal Michael Sheerin compares Holy Trinity Catholic’s transition to split leadership at the HTC High School and brand-new elementary to Hugh Jackman’s P.T. Barnum turning over the reigns of the circus.

Sheerin, who was curriculum director and principal of the HTC system, is now overseeing operations at the newly constructed, $6 million elementary school in West Point, while former Central Lee vocal director and instructional coach, Jason Woodley, took over the duties at HTC’s junior/senior high on July 1.

“This really will be like being retired for me. A lot of people worry about when someone is in charge giving up the reins… I’d give him the reins, the horses, the coach,” Sheerin said with a laugh.

“There’s no problem there and he can pick me up at any point in time along the way for additional help.”

Sheerin, known for his antics and humorous approch to education, said Woodley will be his bald...
OBITUARIES

JOAN C. MOLZHON

Joan C. Molzhon, 79 of Montrose, IA died Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at Ft. Madison Community Hospital in Ft. Madison, IA.

She was born June 19, 1940 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Joseph and Gladys Christy Arnold. Joan was first united in marriage to Emmett Postle. To this union three children were born. They later divorced. On June 21, 1987 she was united in marriage to John Molzhon. He survives.

Other survivors include, one son, Rodney Postle of Keokuk, two daughters, Cynthia Postle of Montrose, IA and Terri Abell (Chuck) of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Lindsay Abell (Charley Young), Kory Postle, Cennedy Postle, one great-grandchild, Haidyn, one sister, Joyce Jacobs of Hamilton, IL and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother in infancy, Kenneth Arnold.

Joan graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1958. She had been employed by Dial Corp for thirty years until her retirement in 2002. Joan loved animals and enjoyed feeding the birds and squirrels in her yard. She also enjoyed spending her days with her beloved dog, Cheyenne. In her younger years, she enjoyed taking camping trips with her family. Joan loved reading all types of books. Most of all, Joan loved spending time with her family. She was especially looking forward to her granddaughter’s upcoming wedding this September.

Alliant enacts appliance cycling due to heat

CEDAR RAPIDS – Alliant Energy’s Iowa energy company is taking proactive steps to reduce costs for customers because of today’s heat.

Energy prices can increase during intensely hot days like today. To reduce the impact of rising energy prices on monthly bills we are activating our voluntary Appliance Cycling program for Thursday and continue to monitor the weather forecast to determine if it is needed for Friday too.

We will remotely control central air conditioners for participating customers in the central and southern zone in Iowa. This applies to electric, residential customers located along and south of Highway 20, extending to the southern border of the state.

Participants will see their central air conditioner cycled in 15-minute intervals from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The blower fan will continue to circulate the cooler air already in the home.

The program reduces peak energy use on the overall energy grid, which lowers costs for customers. The last time we activated the program was July 12, 2018.

Program details: Who does this affect – This is a voluntary program for Alliant Energy’s Iowa residential customers. When does this start and stop – The cycling goes from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., July 18, 2019. How do customers save money – Our program syncs air conditioners across the state to reduce the number running at any one time. This reduces the amount of energy we need to generate or purchase on peak days. The energy cost, or fuel cost, line item on bills reflects the cost of generating and purchasing energy for customers, which changes every month based on actual costs.

Residential customers who have enrolled their central air conditioning unit get a credit on their bill of $8 per month from June through September – even if it doesn’t get warm enough to cycle appliances.
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Lee County Health Department

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Duo looking at sustained growth at HTC

Zac Efron, a statement reflecting the close rapport the two have already developed in just three weeks.

“That's probably the only time I'll be referenced to Zac Efron,” Woodley chuckled.

Woodley grew up in Donnelson and graduated from Central Lee High School. He has a bachelor's degree in Music Education and a master's in educational leadership.

He was an instructor at Central Lee for 13 years and taught for 10 years prior to that in the Grundy Center, West Liberty, and Wapello school districts.

“Certainly, I'm excited to be here at Holy Trinity and growing up in this area, I've always known that HTC takes great pride in the academics and not only that, but arts and athletics as well,” he said.

Woodley said he'd had interaction with the staff and students at HTC and found them all to be top of the line.

“When this came open, I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to get into administration, but to still stay in the area and work with these students, great staff, and community,”he said.
Great River Regional Waste Authority

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

2019 GREEN ACRES “FUN RAISER” SAT., JULY 20TH, 10AM

- 18 Hole Golf Tournament
- Auction at 6pm – several great items to bid on
- Green Acres Got Talent, Talent Contest - No matter what your talent is, bring it out and show it off! Cash Prizes!
- The Big Raffle* - Grand prize: Custom Yamaha Golf Cart & $500 in Accessories from Powdertown Golf, 1st Prize: $1,000, 2nd Prize: Green Acres Membership, 3rd Prize: $500
- Bags Tournament 7-9pm

*Need not be present to win, but if present, EXTRA $100 to Winner

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
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<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:38 pm</td>
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<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>9:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Lotto America®</td>
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<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
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BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack released the following statement today after the House passed the Raise the Wage Act on a bipartisan vote. This legislation would gradually raise the minimum wage to $15 by 2025 and index future increases to median wage growth to ensure the value does not again erode over time.

This increase would give 33 million workers nationwide a raise, including 131,000 people living in Iowa’s Second Congressional District. Nationwide, there has been no raise in the minimum wage in over a decade, leading to a 17 percent pay cut due to inflation for those living in states like Iowa that are stuck at the current $7.25 wage.

“Having grown up in poverty, I know what it is like to sit around the kitchen table and worry about how the bills are going to get paid. Anyone working 40 hours or more per week should not be living in poverty, which is the case for millions of people across the country who are stuck at the current minimum wage.” Loebsack wrote in a statement Thursday.

“It has been over a decade since the minimum wage has been increased, the longest period in U.S. history, and in order to maintain a basic standard of living, it is imperative that the wage is increased. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create good paying jobs and grow the economy here at home.”

IOWA LOTTERY

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**Saunders/ Bunger**
Attorney At Law
Darwin Bunger
An Association of Sole Practitioners
610 Eighth St., Suite A, Fort Madison, IA 52627
Ph: 319-372-2100/ Fax: 319-372-2200
320 N. 3rd Floor 6, PO Box 223, Burlington, IA 52601
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• Successful completion of the STOP training course is required within 6 months of hire date.

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Interested applicants send resumes and cover letters to brenda.graham@holycatholic-schools.org.
City working with volunteers, businesses on plans

SHIPS - Continued from Page 1

ful there. I’m not sure we want to have a gauntlet of vendors awaiting the passengers when they get off,” he told the commission.

Mayor Brad Randolph said news is good news, but he said the city doesn’t have too many chances to make a good first impression.

“We’re going to be bringing 150-200 people into town 14 times. That’s 2,500 people and we have to have a plan,” he said Wednesday afternoon.

Randolph said he was informed today that the trips will include new visitors, so you won’t have the same people visiting on a return trip back up or down the river.

“I was told just today that these will be all new people on each stop. So the people coming to Fort Madison on those boats will essentially be new people each time,” he said.

He said he was surprised at the length of the stops as well as the intention of the cruise line to promote itinerary’s that keep guests in town.

Peiton said she has been reaching out to area groups like the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, local clubs, the United Way’s Retired Senior Volunteer Program and other groups to help set up welcoming committees and activities for when the boats arrive.

The first arrival is Aug. 6 at 8 a.m. Other 8 a.m. arrivals occur on Aug. 18, Aug. 26, Sept. 8, Sept. 19, Oct. 3, and Oct. 7. All the 8 a.m. arrivals are six hours ports of call. The other seven stops are 9 a.m. arrivals, which are the 8.5 hour stays and those are on Aug. 15, Aug. 28, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Sept. 28, Oct. 12 and Oct.

FMHC Hospice offers grief seminar July 29

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) Home Health & Hospice Care will be offering a “The Edge of Grief: A Summer Reflection” the next session in the hospice bereavement series on Monday, July 29, 2019 from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Business Center Conference Rooms at FMCH.

Grief is difficult to understand. The sharp edge of grief can prick your heart at any time without warning. However, as time passes, and your memories smooth the jagged edges of your pain, you find yourself able to grow stronger from your grief. Focus will be on taking care of yourself as you go through this difficult time. There will be time set aside to discuss coping tools, create an activity and share support.

This is a free seminar. RSVP’s are requested and can be made by calling 319-376-2166.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 19 Jul
Light Rain
High – 87.8º F | Low – 81.1º F

SAT 20 Jul
Light Rain
High – 89.0º F | Low – 78.1º F

SUN 21 Jul
Heavy Intensity Rain
High – 77.3º F | Low – 68.9º F

MON 22 Jul
Clear Skies
High – 72.9º F | Low – 59.7º F

TUE 23 Jul
Clear Skies
High – 75.1º F | Low – 61.3º F

The America is one of three boats that will be docking at the Fort Madison riverfront when American Cruise Lines begins ports of call here on Aug. 6. The other boat will be the Queen of the Mississippi pictured below right.

The Cruise lines will be sending three different ships to the Fort Madison shores including the Queen of the Mississippi, the America and the American Harmony.

Cruise schedules are subject to change due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

Varley said work to prepare the pier for the ships arrival is being done this week by Hall Towing and will be done in plenty of time for the scheduled first docking.